



Newsletter



Attendance for January

Reception	95%
Y1	94%
Y2	94%
Y3Hazel	94%
Y3Laurel	93%
Y4	93%
Y5	95%
Y6	92%

Well done to reception and Y5 for this month's best attendance

Dates for your diary

14/2—break up at 3.30 for the half-term break.
24/2—return to school
24/2—Y2 Great Fire of London workshop
27/2—Reception eye tests
3/3—Y4 @ Tate Britain
3/3 — Book week
5/3— World Book Day—dress up as a book character
w/b 9/3—Science week
13/3- Zoolab workshops for the whole school
18/3—scooter training for EY/Y1
20/3—Y5 class assembly—**please note the change in date @ 9.00**
3/4—Easter bonnet parade (time to be confirmed)

A message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you believe that we are nearly at the end of this half term? It has gone by so quickly!

The children have continued to work very hard this half term, and Mrs Turnbull and I have really enjoyed looking at the children's work. This week, our school improvement partner visited the school to focus on science. She observed lessons, looked through books and talked to pupils. The feedback was that science is planned and taught well and children show a real enjoyment for science and are able to speak positively about the subject. We are very pleased with our feedback, for one of the aims this year is to develop the wider curriculum.

Many classes have had immersion days this half term as a starting point for their topic. We have also enjoyed having classes over from Pilgrims' Way to take part in the immersion days, and the children have worked so well collaboratively. and we look forward to visiting Pilgrims' Way next term for the summer term immersion days. On the back are photos of the Year 5 immersion day based on Ancient Egypt.

Warm wishes,
Julie Ireland

Attendance and persistent absence

It is really disappointing that attendance has dropped and that our persistent absence has increased this term. Persistent absence is when a child's attendance is less than 90%. One of the main reasons for this is some families taking extended leave over the Christmas holidays which has had a significant negative impact on our attendance figures. Please note that holidays during term times will not be authorised, and we will be issuing penalty notices to families who take holidays during the term—these are £60 per parent per child, so they will soon add up! Please do support us in ensuring that we have attendance figures to be proud of. For any child whose attendance is below 90%, their parents will be asked to attend a panel meeting with a member of the senior management team and school governor. If you would like to know your child's attendance, please do ask. Please also note that good attendance is 96% or over—this means children need to have less than 8 days off over the whole school year in order to have good attendance.

Parents' evening

On Wednesday February 26th, we will be holding Parents' evening. This is the second parents' evening of the year, and gives you an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and review the progress your child has made since the last parents' evening. It also gives you a chance to look through your child's work and celebrate their achievements. We have made some adjustments for this parents' evening—it will be held on one evening and will run from 2.00pm-6.00pm. However, if you are not able to attend on this date, please do contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternative time. I really look forward to seeing you on 26th February.

Message from the PTA

The first PTA meeting was held on Tuesday 21st January. It was an extremely positive get together and the Chair and Secretary were elected. They are Tammy and Cristina respectively and are both mothers of year 1 pupils.

Mrs Glen also agreed to be the link between the PTA and leadership of school.

At this first meeting, it was agreed that the aim of the PTA is to organise and support fundraising activities and to promote community engagement within the school.

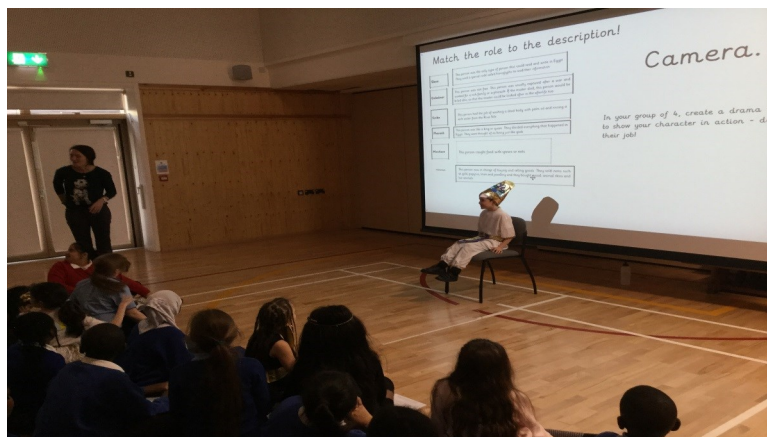
On Friday 14th February we will be holding our first fundraising activity and it will have a Valentine's Day theme.

Please do support us and come along with small cash for your children to spend.

You can now contact us on pta@bellenden.southwark.sch.uk and we really look forward to your input, ideas or

Year 5 Immersion Day

Below are photos of the Year 5 immersion day with pupils from Pilgrims' Way school. The topic they are studying is 'Ancient Egypt.' The children had so much fun!



Packed Lunches

Thank you to those parents who have followed the policy regarding healthy packed lunches. Please can I remind you that children are not allowed to bring in fast food, chips, fizzy drinks, energy drinks, sweets, biscuits or chocolate as part of their packed lunch. We also ask that you do not send in crisps except on a Friday (if you wish.).

Please help us to continue to be a healthy school by adhering to these rules.

Safeguarding

As you would expect, safeguarding your children is our first priority here at Bellenden. We have a safeguarding policy that can be found on our website or, alternatively, you can speak to Emma-Jayne or Susan if you would like to

Please visit our website for more information: www.bellenden.southwark.sch.uk