



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your children have had a good first two weeks of the Autumn 2 term. It has been action-packed in school as always with lots of updates below for you to enjoy.

Belleville has always had a strong focus on continual improvement and it's a good time at the end of the first half term to reflect on how we have already progressed with our specific foci for the year and where we are going to next.

Your child may have told you that they have had visitors to their classrooms this term. We have been able to once again invite trusted colleagues who have/do run excellent schools themselves, and in some cases are serving Ofsted inspectors, along with your local governors and the curriculum directors from the trust to see the school and share their insights into what we are doing well and how we could improve further.

Focus 1: Quality First Education

One of Belleville's strengths, over many years, has been a continual focus on the pursuit of excellence in all areas of the school and for all of the children we serve. We work hard to support our classroom teachers in what to teach, how to teach it well and that this is of a consistently good quality across classes, year groups, subjects and sites.

We want all of our children to feel and to know that they are successful readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, historians, geographers, swimmers, philosophers, designers, gymnasts, artists, dancers, musicians, linguists and able to play and enjoy a range of sports and physical activity. We employ a wide range of specialist teachers and coaches to offer aspirational provision in areas that can be difficult to teach well by one classroom teacher, as it is in most primary schools. This is alongside equipping children as excellent learners for life and developing the schools' CARE values of considerate, articulate, responsible people who know that effort is the key to success.

In 2021/22 we are specifically working on:

- **Curriculum development**

The work to develop a great curriculum is never finished! In 2019/20 we undertook, working with our colleagues in the Trust schools, a full review and re-design of most areas of the curriculum. For parents who have been with the school for a while, you may well have noticed new topics, books and themes that you have not seen before as we developed our focus on how the curriculum develops children as learners, engages them, and is ambitious, relevant and nurturing.

This year, Early Years are working with a new statutory framework which has a welcome emphasis on deep understanding and building children's speaking and listening skills. In subjects from Years 1 - 6, we are continuing to review, refine and adapt the curriculum design and content to make it as effective and enjoyable for your children as possible.

- **Teaching**

Even with the best-laid plans and great resources, teaching 30 children effectively every day is both a science and an art (and sometimes with a little bit of magic woven in). We have always invested heavily in supporting every person who teaches your children to be offering a consistently good provision - especially given the disruption to 'normal' teaching and learning of the last two years due to Covid - this continues to be a high priority.

- **Meeting the needs of all**

We are proud to welcome every child to the Belleville community to benefit from what we are able to offer. We are a diverse community school and our children will have different strengths and needs and at different times. This year we are working to be even more precise and effective in our support both in class and in additional provision for children with their learning and/or social emotional needs. We did find that in general children, given two years of Covid disruption, were finding it harder to focus, be resilient and to manage friendships 'in real life' than previously. We have already found that the use of 'Zones of Regulation' is helping children to manage their feelings and choices better and are pleased to be working with more experts from play therapists, Educational Psychologist, drama therapist and our new NHS wellbeing practitioner.



Focus 2: Professional Development

As we always say on INSET days, the quality of the school cannot be greater than the quality of its staff. A key part of our recruitment is to find those people that share the school's ethos – we look for staff who are eager and willing to learn more and develop their practice to support your children and our community even better.

We have been so impressed by the way all of the staff learned (at speed and often short notice as Covid struck) new techniques and ways to teach, support, encourage and play with your children during the restrictions in school and during lockdowns. As we continue into this year, we are focussing on building and refining the skills and knowledge of all staff further through access to training, courses, peer support, mentoring and coaching.

Focus 3: Communication and Engagement

Communication and engagement is our final core focus for the year – that includes with children, parents and carers, staff, governors, the trust and the wider community.

We are using some of the ways we learned through lockdowns – for example, the recent series of workshops to welcome the classes, reading, zones of regulation and maths over Zoom for parents and carers have been well attended with positive feedback. We have also been working closely with the local governors to make the school website a more useful tool for its users and to make sure it reflects what is happening across your school.

We are excited by the possibilities now that more in-person meetings and events can happen for your children with clubs, trips and visitors (all done in a Covid-secure way) as well as PTA events and activities. We hope to announce some small projects that parents and carers can get involved in soon to help improve the school grounds (no technical skills and only a couple of hours of time required).

We have been holding small tours of prospective parents and carers in person over the last few weeks – more dates are now available so do tell your friends!

In the coming weeks we will be holding a variety of ways for parents and carers to see the school and /or meet with us as headteachers:

- Year 1 tours

As you will not have seen the inside of the school your child now attends since an open day in the autumn of 2019, we will be holding a series of visits during the morning to see the school day – more details to follow

- IF - Wednesday 17th November
- IS - Friday 19th November
- IW - Monday 22nd November
- IB - Tuesday 23rd November
- IG - Friday 26th November

- Parent/Carer forums – Online via Zoom

Meet with us over Zoom for some updates and to ask questions. To be sent the link, please complete the form [click here](#) by Friday 19th November

- Juniors (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) – Tuesday 23rd November, 2pm or 5pm
- Infants (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) – Tuesday 30th November, 2pm or 5pm

We hope this is helpful to you and look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,

Mary-Lyne Latour (Headteacher Infants)

Sarah Atherton (Headteacher Juniors)



Covid Reminders – Help us to Keep Everyone Safe

We have had 10 cases during half term and 14 confirmed cases in the two weeks since the holiday affecting children and staff on both sites – although this is a small number given the size of the school, it is the highest rate we have seen since Covid started. Public Health England sent us a letter which we sent to you on Monday and we will continue to keep them updated and pass on any further advice or actions needed to you.

Please can you continue to:

- Keep your child at home if they are unwell and get a **PCR test** if they may be showing symptoms, however mild (lateral flow home tests are not a sensitive enough to pick up infections early)
- Wear a mask when on the school sites, including the playgrounds (unless exempt)
- Children above 11 and adults test regularly at home using lateral flow tests



Next week is Anti-Bullying week with the theme of 'One Kind Word'.



We are recognising this by celebrating Odd Socks Days on Monday 15th November.

To celebrate children can wear odd socks (socks that don't match) if they would like to.

We want to celebrate our individuality and what makes us all unique.



We are also fundraising for Children in Need on **Friday 19th November**. Our School Council have had a vote and decided to hold a Pyjama Day to raise money.

If your child would like to take part they can wear pyjamas, onesies or dressing gowns on Friday 19th November.

Donations can be brought into school or you can donate using the following link. All and any donations are gratefully received.

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Belleville-Primary-School>

Many thanks,
School Council





COATS NEEDED!

Next week Belleville will be supporting WrapUp London's winter coat collection.

What: Donate your unwanted coats. Men's, women's, children's, baby and dog coats. Coats only, clean and warm. No fur coats

When: Morning drop off, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th November

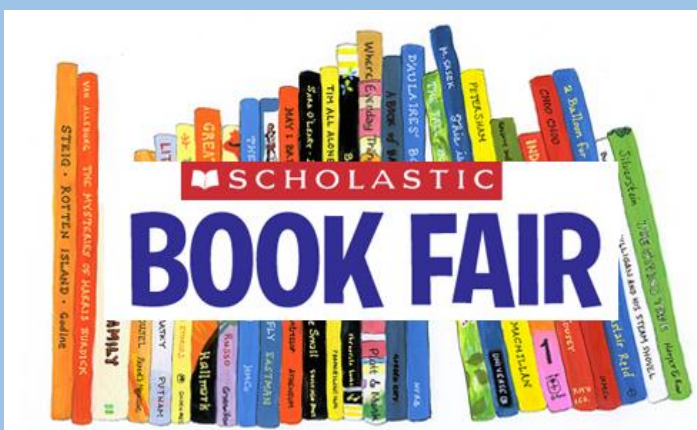
Where: All playgrounds at Webbs and Meteor site

Volunteers needed to help at Meteor site - please contact Anna Biesty via Classlist.

Last November WrapUp London collected 20,907 warm coats which were distributed to over a hundred front line charities, including homelessness organisations, refuges and family centres. They do not sell any of the coats collected, they are distributed to those in need and act as a gateway for an individual to gain access to other services and support given by their charity partners.

More information can be found at - <https://www.handsonlondon.org.uk/wrap-uplondon>

So dig out those coats this weekend, clear a little space in your wardrobes, and bring them to school next week.



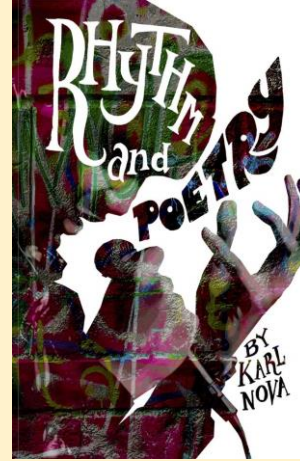
Next week, we will be holding our first Scholastic Book Fair since 2019. As well as encouraging your children's love of reading, Book Fairs raise money for the school which is then spent on refreshing class libraries and the range of literature available to your children.

Many of the titles next week have been specially chosen by us to reflect the school's commitment to high quality, representative, contemporary literature for children. The Book Fair will be after school each day in the foyer at Meteor and in the top playground at Webb's.

Thank you to the parent/carer volunteers for running the stalls!



Karl Nova's Magnificent Return to Belleville



Karl Nova is one of the UK's leading poets and hip-hop artists delivering his work in his own unique, witty and energetic style. Born and raised in London as well as Lagos, Karl seeks to uplift, inform and inspire through his artistic expression. He won the CLIPPA prize 2018 for his debut poetry collection, Rhythm and Poetry, which our Year 6 children have loved reading and he returned for workshops with our children just before half term.

Year 4 Art Masterpieces

What a fabulous display of artwork from Year 4 – great technical skill and individual expression on show and even more impressive that the artists are only 8-9 years old – well done!





Cross-Country Team Selection for Ferdi

Congratulations to Ferdi in Year 6 who has been selected to represent Wandsworth in the London Youth Games after finishing in the top 10 at the borough cross-country event in October (see newsletter 15th October).

He had never run the cross-country distance before but set out with a positive attitude, didn't give up and found a new talent. Well done – we are really proud of you!



Panathlon Success

Belleville attended the Wandsworth School Panathlon competition on 18th October, where children competed in seven events: Boccia, New Age Kurling, Bean bag throw, Table Cricket, Bowling, Basketball Shoot and Athletics target game. All the events were team based where all points scored by each player were added together and at the end made a team total. The atmosphere was electric.

As Belleville moved from event to event, the children were becoming more confident with each skill and event they completed, encouraging each other and enjoying the team games.

As the six teams waited for the results, the children were overjoyed to hear they won second place, proudly accepting their silver medals. It was a great end to a great competition. I was very proud of all the children.

Ms George



Trinity Cup Tournament



On 15th October, our Year 5 and Year 6 girls went to their first football tournament of the year. Eight schools from Wandsworth attended the Trinity Cup Tournament. Ten players went and enjoyed an afternoon of competitive football. For many of the players, this was their first introduction into match play. Their confidence grew with each game, enjoying the team's efforts and positive attitude with their play. Afterwards, the girls shared how much fun they had and how they really enjoyed playing against other girls and being competitive. They are looking forward to more girls' football in the future.

Ms George

Year 4 and 5 Mini-Boccia Tournament at Burntwood School



This is a Paralympic event and the idea of the game is simple. One side has six red balls and the other six blue balls. The aim is to get your balls closer to the white target ball, the 'jack', than your opponent. Our children quickly learnt the tactics and skills required to beat their opponents resulting in both our teams winning overall in their group. Holding their nerves for the final, in what was two very close matches, both of our teams were both relieved and elated to be crowned champions of the day, gratefully receiving their gold medals and certificates. I was immensely proud of all the children and how they enjoyed the day and demonstrated excellent learner values and fantastic sportsmanship too.

Quotes overheard on the journey back: 'This was the best day ever!', 'I've never won a medal before- this is the best!'

Ms Ogunyemi



TERM DATES

Last day of Autumn 2 term: Friday 17th December

Break up at:

Years 1 – 3: 2.15pm

Years 4 – 6: 2.20pm

Reception: 2.25pm

Nursery pm: 2.30pm

Spring Term 2022

Inset Day: Tuesday 4th January – school closed to children
First day of Spring 1 term: Wednesday 5th January
Last day of Spring 1 term: Friday 11th February
Spring half term holiday: Monday 14th February – Friday 18th February
First day of Spring 2 term: Monday 21st February
Last day of Spring 2 term: Friday 1st April

Summer Term 2022

Inset Day: Tuesday 19th April – school closed to children
First day of Summer 1 term: Wednesday 20th April
Bank holiday: Monday 2nd May – school closed to children
Last day of Summer 1 term: Friday 27th May
Spring half term holiday: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June
First day of Summer 2 term: Monday 6th June
Last day of Summer 2 term: **Thursday 21st July**



Any news, something to share or celebrate with the school community?

Please do email us on enquiries@bellevilleschool.org