



Belleville
Primary School

News

Friday 25th February 2022

Points to note:

- World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March – children can dress up as characters from a book and there is a secondhand book sale after school
- School tours for current parents and carers on Thursdays this half term, email enquiries@bellevilleschool.org to book a place

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you all had a restful (if somewhat windy) half term break. Your children have had a flying start to the second half of the spring term - they settled back into their learning very quickly and have started exciting new topics and texts.

We have had a review day this week with Nick Flesher, a school improvement consultant who also works as an Ofsted inspector, who has noted great improvement in the children's focus and the support for meeting children's varied needs over this year as well as a strong curriculum on offer across subjects. We will continue to have a series of these days with Nick and other outside experts as part of our continued pursuit of excellence.

It was a pleasure to show some of you the school in action on Thursday as well as to discuss what is on offer and answer questions. We do encourage as many of you as can make it to join us – details of dates are in this newsletter.

Thank you to the PTA and the volunteers coming to both sites tomorrow morning to work on improvements to the school environment – much appreciated!

With best wishes,

Mary-Lyne Latour (Headteacher Infants) Sarah Atherton (Headteacher Juniors)

Updated Covid Health Advice

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 infection to self-isolate, however if your child(ren) have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is for them to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

The **main symptoms** are a recent onset of a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of/change in sense of smell or taste. If your child has any of these symptoms, you should get a PCR test. You are advised to keep them at home and avoid contact with other people whilst waiting for the test result.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause. Remember – if your child is unwell, for any reason, they should not come to school until they recover.

It is still advised that your child **self-isolates** for 10 days if they have COVID-19. You may choose to give them a Lateral Flow Device test from 5 days after the symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if they did not have symptoms), followed by another test the next day. If **both** these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, the risk that they are still infectious is much lower and they can safely return to their normal routine.

The full guidance is linked [HERE](#) . As we wrote to you on Wednesday, we are in the process of reviewing our risk assessments as the UK Health Security Agency have now published their guidance and will contact you with further details.



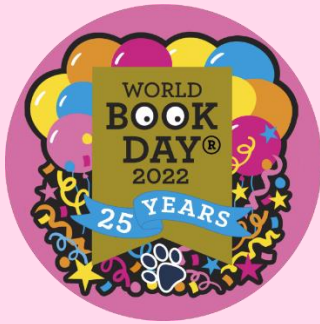
World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

School Improvement Priorities: Curriculum; Communication and Engagement

For World Book Day, children will be able to dress up in a book-themed costume. The children will explore the beautiful 'Change Sings' by Amanda Gorman (see below), reflecting on what changes they would like to see and work towards. Should you wish to, perhaps discuss with your children the concept of change and what changes they would like to see in school, the wider community or, indeed, the world.

During the morning, the Infants will participate in a live Zoom with Catherine Rayner; after lunch, the Juniors will watch a live performance by the brilliant Michael Rosen.

Finally, don't forget to spend your children's book tokens on one of the great range of £1 books: these books include 'Rocket Rules' by Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola (who created 'Look Up' which is studied in Year One), 'The Wizard and Me' by Simon Farnaby (star and co-writer of the television series 'Horrible Histories') and 'Peak Peril' by Sharna Jackson (a short story featuring the characters from the prize-winning High Rise Mystery author.)



"I can hear change humming
In its loudest, proudest song.
I don't fear change coming,
And so I sing along."

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together.

As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes - big or small - in the world, in their communities, and in most importantly, in themselves.

With lyrical text and rhythmic illustrations that build to a dazzling crescendo by No.1 *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Loren Long, *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem* is a triumphant call to action for everyone to use their abilities to make a difference.



Learning about Empathy

School Aim: Have excellent social and emotional skills

In assembly this week, the children have been learning about empathy; what it means and the changes it can make to people's lives.

They learned that:

- Empathy is not kindness
...it's understanding what someone else needs.
- Empathy is not feeling sorry for someone
...it's making an effort to understand what someone is going through.
- Empathy on its own cannot solve our problems
...but it can help us make better decisions.



'Put yourself in someone else's shoes'

Empathy is trying to understand what is going on in other people's lives: what is happening to them, what they are thinking and what they are feeling.

They thought about how to show empathy in their own lives. They also thought about how empathy could change the world – some of their wise ideas are below.

How could empathy change the world?

If we all shared ideas then there wouldn't be any war.

If everyone had a choice the world would be a better place.

If everyone had the same rights then there would be fewer dictators.

People will understand each other better so there will be less fighting.

Preventing wars by understanding how the other people involved feel.

If we had a world where no one was criticised for being different then the world would be much better.

If everyone had a voice then the world would be fairer.

Give people space in order to let them have reflecting time

Make it fair for everyone e.g. not everyone has to do certain things, understand one person's perspective, then that person can help another and so on, encourage others to speak up for themselves and be a part of a group that speaks up.

If someone is bullied and you understand what is happening you can stand up for them.

Help people more, let everyone have a say, understanding other people's needs – be inclusive!

We should think about future generations and how our decisions and actions impact them, for example, climate change.

Understand that not everyone has to agree.

Failure becomes more manageable and less uncomfortable.

Mixed ideas can produce greater results.

Accepting other's insecurities increases our understanding of each other.

It could help some feel like they fit in and makes them feel involved in the world; the world could be for everybody.

It could make other people feel more accepted and make the world a fairer place.

Being empathetic can make people feel better about themselves.

It can help people understand why others are feeling a certain way.

Mental health can improve, people may understand the symptoms more easily and reach out for support. Doing one good ordinary deed or understanding what someone else might need can go a long way. Doing one small thing can lead to others spreading empathy on.



Year 6 Journalist Visit

School Improvement Priorities: Curriculum; Communication and Engagement



Year 6 had a Zoom visit from a sports journalist who works for The Guardian this week.

They had lots of questions about writing tips and techniques for writing a sports report and the importance of editing in preparation for writing their own recount of a fictional race.

'Run, run, as fast as you can!'

School Improvement Priorities: Curriculum; Teaching and Learning; Communication and Engagement

This week in Reception, the children were immersed in their first traditional tale of the half term, 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children became authors re-telling the story, bakers making a delicious gingerbread man, scientists recording predictions and results for what happened to gingerbread men in different liquids and actors performing the story together. The highlight of the week was a trip to the Polka Theatre to watch an adaptation of the story that they compared with the version they learnt in class.





Scientists Observe the Seasons

Year 1 made the most of the sunshine by completing their science lesson outside this week.

Children drew careful observations of the trees as part of their seasonal change lesson.

We discussed the weather, wildlife and plants that we observe during Winter.



PTA: Wanted Gardeners and DIY enthusiasts!

The benefits of play for child development are well known and evidenced. They include improving physical activity and dexterity, developing social skills, stimulating creativity and imagination, supporting intellectual curiosity and self-led learning and helping to foster a love for the natural world and the outdoors.

With that in mind, the PTA are excited to announce phase 2 of the regeneration of the playgrounds at Webb's and Meteor.

We want to make sure that our playgrounds are;

- A place for learning and fun
- Encourage and foster health and wellbeing
- A safe environment for our children



We need your help to make this happen!

Do you have a passion for gardening and the great outdoors?

Can you paint? (a wall or a bench, we're not looking for the next Michelangelo!)

Can you build 'stuff' ? (benches, planters, bug hotels etc)

Can you dig a hole, clear waste or just 'muck in' ?

If the answer to any of these is yes, then please send an email to hello@bellevillepta.org and let us know your availability.

We are planning to be onsite at Webb's and Meteor on the following dates with a view that we will continue to go onsite at regular intervals to continue the development and maintenance of the grounds.

- Saturday 26th February (9am-noon)
- Saturday 5th March (9am - noon)

Please sign up. You don't have to commit to every session, an hour here or there will be enough. Kids are welcome to come along and help too.

Without parent volunteers we won't be able to make this happen!

The PTA



We were very excited this week to attend our first Year 5 and Year 6 netball tournament for the year.

Our team comprised of experienced players who train and play regularly for Wandsworth netball clubs and some players who are new to the sport but have recently joined our after school netball club. We also had a few Year 5 boys who have demonstrated a good understanding of invasion sports in PE.

Both teams got off to a great start winning their first matches to help settle their nerves. All players rotated to new positions each match, and did very well changing from defence to attack and managing to score many great goals throughout the day.

Both teams can be very proud for receiving the most nominations from their competitors to receive a certificate for 'spirit of the games', demonstrating values of teamwork and respect. Although we narrowly missed out on a semi-final and final place for each team, all children should be very proud of their many achievements on the day.

We will continue to organise as many inter-school sport events as possible this year and aim to have as many children take part as we can. We can only take a certain number of children to each event so please be patient if your child has not been chosen so far.



Tours for Current Parents and Carers

School Improvement Priorities: Communication and Engagement



If you would like to come and see the school during the school day, we will be holding small tours on the following dates, all starting at 9am.

Please contact enquiries@bellevilleschool.org if you would like to book a place!

Infants

(Nursery to Year 2)

Meteor:

Thursday 10th March
Thursday 24th March

Webb's Road

Thursday 3rd March
Thursday 17th March
Thursday 31st March

Juniors

(Year 3 to Year 6)

Meteor:

Thursday 3rd March
Thursday 17th March
Thursday 31st March

Webb's Road

Thursday 10th March
Thursday 24th March

Minibus drivers needed!

School Improvement Priorities: Communication and Engagement

We have two fantastic PTA funded minibuses that we would like to use more for school trips and events – could you volunteer to drive?

You don't need to commit to many days or have a special driving licence or a DBS check as a member of staff will always accompany you, just the willingness!

We also offer a test drive session with Mr Gashi before your first trip to familiarise yourself with the bus.

Contact us on enquiries@bellevilleschool.org if you are interested.



TERM DATES 2021-2022

Spring Term 2022

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 – finishing an hour earlier than usual

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
Local Elections: Thursday 5th May – Nursery closed (Nursery used as a Polling station)
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 – finishing an hour earlier than usual



TERM DATES 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Inset Days: Thursday 1st – Friday 2nd September – school closed to children
First day of Autumn 1 term: Monday 5th September
Last day of Autumn 1 term: Friday 21st October
Autumn half term holiday: Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October
First day of Autumn 2 term: Monday 31st October
Last day of Autumn 2 term: Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2023

Inset Day: Tuesday 3rd January – school closed to children
First day of Spring 1 term: Wednesday 4th January
Last day of Spring 1 term: Friday 10th February
Spring half term holiday: Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February
First day of Spring 2 term: Monday 20th February
Last day of Spring 2 term: Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2023

Inset Day: Monday 17th April – school closed to children
First day of Summer 1 term: Tuesday 18th April
Bank holiday: Monday 1st May – school closed to children
Last day of Summer 1 term: Friday 26th May
Spring half term holiday: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Inset Day: Monday 5th June – school closed to children
First day of Summer 2 term: Tuesday 6th June
Last day of Summer 2 term: Friday 21st July

