

December 2019
Issue



Message from the Head

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the first term, I would like to congratulate our children on the way they have conducted themselves. They truly are a credit to us and they work hard day-in-day-out to reach the high expectations we have of them.

I would also like to you say a huge thank you to all of you, who support and challenge us to give your children the best opportunities that we can.

Bellfield is a very special place to be — some of you will have been affiliated with the school for a long time and have had other children pass through our doors. You will have seen lots of change over this time but one thing has remained the same — the commitment of the staff to provide an outstanding education for your children.

I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher of this school and my job is made much easier due to the fantastic team I have around me and the support of the community that we serve.

This time of year is a time of coming together and sharing special moments. I have seen many of these moments over the last couple of weeks — amazing Christmas performances from our EYFS and classes 5 and 6 and many acts of kindness shown by our children.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all staff and governors, in wishing you a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year.

Mr Mills

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Update on Electronic Payments

As you are aware, we will be moving over to a cashless payment system to bring us more up-to-date with other schools in our area.

We were hoping to start with this as soon as we came back from the Christmas break however, there has been a delay in the training of our administration staff. We are working hard with the provider to get this training in place as quickly as possible but it is unlikely, at this stage, that we will be ready to go in January.

Therefore, please ensure that you continue to pay using cash until we are ready to move over to cashless.

Can I also add that before moving you over to the cashless system, all outstanding monies owed to the school, must be cleared.

REMINDER: SCHOOL MEALS INCREASE TO £1.50 IN JANUARY FOR CHILDREN IN NURSERY AND CLASSES 3-6.

Sporting Success

This month, our KS2 girls took part in a Futsal tournament at The Tigers Trust Arena. They worked brilliantly together as a team and showed excellent team spirit and determination. They came away with the 'Fair Play' award, which shows how considerate they were of other teams — well done girls!



Some of our KS2 boys competed in an indoor Kwick Cricket competition against lots of other teams. After the tournament, a teacher from another school praised our children for being so kind and understanding with children from his school, who had not had much experience of the sport. This made Ms Cowap's day and she said that this comment meant more to her than winning the tournament — well done boys!



What's been happening?



December is always a busy month full of excitement in the lead up to Christmas.

EYFS wowed us with a marvelous Christmas nativity. Their confidence shone through and they were truly amazing!

Class 5 went on a local walk to gather information to help them with their geography work. We are keen to get children learning outdoors as there is so much on offer in our local area.

Some of our children visited a local care home to share their Christmas spirit with the elderly. The comments I received back were that they were brilliant ambassadors and made the days of so many people with their kindness and joy.



Class 5 and 6 performed their Christmas production this week and yet again, they were brilliant. The performances at Bellfield are some of the best, if not the best, in the city and we regularly hear comments from our parents/carers telling us this.

Class 1 and 2 invited parents/carers in to help them create their 'This is Me' t-shirts from the designs they had created in class. This culminated in them all wearing them to show off their designs. I must say, I was very impressed with their creations and I am sure it won't be long before we see them on the shelves in top clothing stores.



Class 3 and 4 invited parents/carers in to help them make their fairground rides. Having visited both classes, I could see how engaged the children were (and how messy the classrooms became). They had brilliant fun....and the children enjoyed it too. Thank you so much to all that came to support learning — we often get comments on our parent survey about opportunities to come in and see children learning and we are trying really hard to increase these opportunities.



Behaviour

As you are well aware, Bellfield is a restorative community where we deal with any behavioural challenges by discussing the choices children make and the affect that their actions have on others.

We have recently seen an increase in some disruptive behaviour from a very small minority of our children.

I would like to remind parents/carers that we have very high expectations of behaviour in our school and that anybody choosing not to follow our school rules will be challenged accordingly. Our priority is to help children to make the right choices so that when they leave our school, they are well prepared for the challenges of secondary school and life beyond that. We really need you to support us when we have to put consequences in place — we don't do this lightly but there are times when we have to make a stand. The message of what behaviour is acceptable and what is not comes across much stronger if you and the school work together and give out the same messages.

One thing that we will absolutely not tolerate in school is the use of foul and abusive language, either from parents or children. Anybody found to be using such language on our school site will be dealt with appropriately.

Superstars

Although there have been many superstars this month, the following children have really stood out with their learning and attitude:

Nur — **Henry M** for working really hard on his handwriting to get his name on the writing wall!

Rec — **Winston D** for coming on in leaps and bounds during literacy, particularly his writing!

Class 1 — **Annabelle E-S** for showing enthusiasm in all areas!

Class 2 — **Freya D** for always going above and beyond to support her friends!

Class 3 — **Olivia H** for being an all round superstar and Bellfield Ambassador!

Class 4 — **Wiki B** for always trying her best in every lesson.

Class 5 — **Livia D** for being a superstar all of the time!

Class 6 — **Harriet C** for showing a great attitude to all of her learning!



Attendance Matters

Our attendance target for this year is: **97%**

Our current whole-school attendance for the year is: **95.8%**

As a reminder to parents/carers, as per our policy, **all requests for term-time holidays are unauthorised**, unless they meet one of the three 'exceptional circumstances'. In addition, any holiday equating to 10 or more sessions (5 school days) will be referred to the Local Authority, who may choose to issue a fine to parents.

It is really important that children are in school every day so that they can receive the best of what we offer.

Attendance for December: **95.5%**

Well done to class 2 — our attendance winners for December.

Rec	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
94.2%	97.4%	98%	95.5%	95%	93%	95.7%

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Our aim at Bellfield Primary School is for all children to be confident, enthusiastic and happy individuals who are brave and ambitious in all that they do.

Our restorative approach will enable children to become inclusive team players and problem solvers who treat each other with respect and empathy.

We will provide an engaging curriculum designed to prepare children to be resilient whilst on their journey to becoming successful adults.

Here at Bellfield Primary School, all children will be championed and encouraged to be the best they can be.

www.bellfieldprimary.org.uk



Important Dates

All key dates and events can be found on the 'calendar' tab on our website.

Monday 6th January	- Children return to school
Wednesday 9th January	- KS2 Dodgeball competition (12:30-3:00pm)
Monday 13th January	- New Age Kurling competition (12:30-3:00pm)
Tuesday 14th January	- Y6 boys 5-a-side football tournament (4:00-6:00pm)
Monday 20th January	- Science Week
Thursday 23rd January	- Racket Pack Festival (12:15-3:15pm)
Monday 27th January	- Class 1 and 2 visit to York Museum

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of any benefits and have not already done so, we would urge you to apply for free school meals. Not only does this cover the cost of lunches for your child(ren), for each child in receipt of free school meals, the school receives £1320, which can then be spent on resources.

Please contact the school office for more information.