



Bellfield Primary School

“Believe, Persevere, Succeed”



7th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful summer. It has been lovely to see all the children return to school, the staff are ready for another super year. Children have settled into their new classes; I am extremely proud of them. We had lots of smiles at the gate this morning with children ‘itching’ to get back into a school routine. *(We also had lots of smiling parents!)*

We would like to say a big ‘Hello’ to all our new children in Foundation Stage One and Two. The staff in Foundation Stage have had a super day welcoming all the children and helping them to settle into a new routine and for many a new school. Our new 3 year olds have come in with smiles on their faces, only a few tears which quickly passed once they started to explore the Nursery. It can be a daunting experience starting Nursery and school for the first time, so please remember it may take your child a little longer to settle than others. If you have any concerns please speak to one of the team and they will be happy to help; alternatively you can ring the school and ask to speak with our Well-being staff, Mrs Anscombe and Mrs Lomax, who will be happy to offer support.

We are hoping that the word ‘Covid’ can start to be a more distant memory this year, but we will still be taking some safety measures that are simply good practice and aim to combat any spread of germs. (See below for details)

This year we will be continuing to focus heavily on good attendance and punctuality. It is vital that your child is in school each day and on time. Please read the section on ‘Attendance.’

Covid-19 safety measures in place

As mentioned above, we are hoping to see the back of Covid, but we are very aware that it is still around and threat. Here are the continued measures we will be taking this year to help combat Covid and all winter related ‘bugs’.

- Anyone who has tested positive will need to follow the online government guidance
- We will continue with our enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff areas are cleaned regularly
- Water bottles – children need to bring their own clearly labelled bottles. Children will take these home each day to be washed and refilled with fresh water
- Hand washing and sanitising is encouraged when children come into school or when they have used the toilet
- Windows will left slightly open to ensure good air circulation

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Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is at the top of our agenda again this year. We know that sometimes children are ill and this is unavoidable, but please make every effort to send your child to school.

Please remember, if they arrive after 9am the register will be closed and children will be classed as not in attendance for that session. Children hate being late to school. Imagine attending a party where everyone is already there, chatting, getting on and having a good time and then you arrive alone. It is a horrible feeling to enter a room that is already in full swing and try to catch up with what has been happening – this is how children feel when they are late to school and have to enter the classroom after everyone else. The attendance team will continue to meet on a regular basis and look at children/families that need support. Please do not worry if you are contacted by our attendance team (Miss Parkinson/Mrs Anscombe/Mrs Lomax) – they are here to help you and your child. We will also be continuing to meet with the children in school whose attendance has dropped below 96% - the attendance team meet with this group of pupils half termly to talk to them about the support they need, you may even get invited to attend along with your child. Just a reminder that holidays are NOT authorised and if your child misses 10 or more sessions (1 session = a morning or an afternoon. Therefore 10 sessions is 5 days) then you will be referred to the Local Authority who may issue you with a fine. A holiday request form must be completed and handed to the office beforehand.

Here is a list of common illnesses and the timescale for being absent from school. If in doubt, please ring the school office.

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash	
Cold sores	None	
German measles/rubella	Six days from onset of rash	
Hand, foot and mouth	None	
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds up healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles	Four days from onset of rash	
Ringworm	None	
Threadworm	None	Treatment is recommended for the child and household
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require treatment
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Antibiotic treatment highly recommended
Slapped cheek	None	
Conjunctivitis	None	
Head lice	None	Treatment is highly recommended
Tonsillitis	None	

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Safeguarding

Last year you all helped us to keep the morning and after school pickup/drop off safe by parking away from the school entrances and garages opposite the front gate. I urge you to continue to drive slowly past the school, park only in the designated areas, not pull up outside the gates to drop children off and not park in the garages or on the yellow zigzag lines. We are all responsible as a community to keep the children safe. If you have any concerns about cars, please report this to the school. We will continue to have traffic patrol presence across the year to help us with our quest to keep the roads and paths safe for our children. Thank you.

PE

Just a reminder that PE lessons will start next week for all year groups. You will have been informed by your child's class teacher, via Seesaw, which day this is going to be. Please remember, children need to come dressed in their PE kit on their day. They will remain in their PE clothes for the full day. Whilst the weather is still warm children should be wearing black shorts and a white or yellow t-shirt. KS2 PE will be outdoors this half term so please ensure you send your child in the appropriate PE kit for the weather that day.

Once the weather starts to get colder children need to have plain black jogging bottoms, a plain black hoodie or zipped tracksuit top and a white or yellow t-shirt. (NO bright coloured tracksuits/joggers/hoodies please). Children need to be in trainers on their PE day. If your child struggles to tie shoelaces please aim to send them in trainers with alternative fastenings, the class teachers do not have time to tie 30 pairs of shoelaces during a day! Thank you

Year group	PE Day
Reception	Friday
Year 1 and 2	Thursday
Year 3 and 4	Monday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Thursday

Jewellery

Many children have had their ears pierced over the summer holiday. Please be reminded that we have a strict NO jewellery policy. This is to protect your child from any potential dangers. This also includes no watches/bracelets/necklaces etc. If your child has had their ears pierced, they will need to be removed for school or replaced with the plastic spacers. Plastic spacers can be purchased on your Parent-Pay account and collected from the school office. **There are no exceptions to this, it is in our policy and is for the safety of all children.**

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Express yourself Fridays

Express yourself Friday's will continue this year. For any new parents this is a way that we encourage children to 'express' themselves and show their personalities in different ways. We are very mindful that whilst children are at school they are asked to follow rules/routines and wear a uniform to be the same as everyone else. This can sometimes hinder children in being free to show who they really are. We are keen for our children to express themselves and show their individual personalities. Therefore, the first Friday of every month will be 'Express yourself Friday.' Children come to school dressed, as they like, with a few exceptions. (NO high-heeled shoes/boots, no bellies on show, clothes need to be sensible for them to work in all day) If your child wishes to wear their football kit, come dressed as a fairy/princess/superhero, bright rainbow clothes etc. then they will be able to on the first Friday of each month.

We know that Reception, usually have their PE on a Friday, so on the following dates the children will have an additional daily mile PE session at another point in the week, as we do not want them to miss out on being able to express themselves.

Dates this term for Express Yourself Friday:

Friday 7th October

Friday 4th November

Friday 2nd December

Independence and Resilience

At Bellfield, we feel very strongly about helping our children to become independent and resilient learners. Last year we started on our journey to support children to be more independent and resilient learners but we need to continue developing this ethos across the school.

Our teaching staff were very fortunate on Monday to join the HCAT conference with the guest speaker being Josh Connolly – highly recognised resilience coach. Josh shared his inspired story and talked openly about mental health, resilience and the need for society to be more open, understanding and accepting of others difficulties. He talked about the power and strength in showing your vulnerability and how we need to encourage all children, but especially boys, to be safe in showing their feelings and express themselves. This links perfectly with our continued journey of encouraging and supporting children to be resilient.

By encouraging children to be independent, even with the smallest of tasks, it empowers them to believe in themselves, and challenge themselves further. You could think about challenges at home that would encourage your child to be more independent. (*Getting dressed in a morning without help, packing their school bag, carrying their bag to school, putting their shoes away when they get home, helping you to set the table ready for tea, washing up the pots after tea, bringing their clothes to the washing machine, the list is endless*).

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In the words of Navy Admiral William McRaven:

“If you want to change the world start each day with the simple task of making your bed. Making your bed means you have completed the first task of the day and it will give you a small sense of pride and it will encourage you to do another task and another and by the end of the day that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that the little things in life matter. If you can’t do the little things right, you’ll never be able to do the big things.”

Let’s help our children to feel a sense of pride and accomplishment each day by encouraging them to do small, seemingly mundane, independent tasks. Remember, our school motto is: **Bellfield Primary School: Believe, Persevere, Succeed**. It is our responsibility to support all the children to succeed. Our assembly this afternoon was about believing, persevering and succeeding. I have set the children a challenge to try something new this year and persevere at it so that they finally succeed. Anyone who completes this challenge will be presented with a special star pin badge to wear on their school uniform. The aim is to show children that they can always give something a go and if they stick at it and persevere then they will succeed and have a sense of achievement. Let’s help our children change the world, one step at a time.

Finally, well done to all of our children for coming back to school and working hard. As always, I am very proud of our school community. Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful week, hopefully the weather will remain sunny!

Miss Howard

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