



# Bellfield Primary School

“Believe, Persevere, Succeed”



11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and managed to spend time together as a family. I enjoyed spending time with my family, seeing friends and watching lots of box sets! It was a very relaxing and enjoyable Christmas.

The children returned to school last week with enthusiasm and determination and have already produced some amazing work. They are ready for the challenges to come and have settled back into a routine very quickly.

We have lots of exciting things planned for this term. (See below for all important dates for the term).

This term we will welcome Mr Huscroft (Link Trustee) back to the school. He will be coming to work with our Curriculum Team, looking at books, talking to children and assessing the strengths of the curriculum that we deliver to your children.

## Curriculum

This term the school topic is ‘Rule Britannia.’ Last term pupils focused on learning about different aspects of their own city of Hull and now we move further away and start to look at British History and Geography in the wider world. Each year group will be studying a different period of time from British History.

Year group	Theme
Year 1/2	London’s Burning
Year 3/4	Invaders and Settlers (Saxon Life)
Year 5/6	The Battle of Hastings (Viking Life)

Our Foundation Stage children (Nursery and Reception) will continue to look at different ways to travel. Last term they focused on ‘Going on a Bear Hunt’ and looked at different ways they can move. This term they are venturing into the world of ‘transport’ as they look at different vehicles from the past and present day. Their topic, “Travel Mania”, will allow them to explore a range of vehicles, ways to travel, travel in the past and present. The children are already excited about going to the transport museum as part of their learning journey.

If you would like to know more about what your child is being taught, please refer to our website under the ‘Curriculum’ tab. You will find the Long Term Plan for each cycle (we are currently on Cycle 2) and you will also find a tab for each year group which shows a more in detail overview of the term.

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## Attendance and Punctuality

As you are aware, attendance is at the top of our agenda again this year. The attendance team, Miss Howard, Miss Parkinson, Mrs Anscombe and Mrs Lomax, meet on a fortnightly basis to look at whole school, class and individual pupil attendance. We are passionate about giving pupils the best start to their educational journey and this starts with pupils being at school each day, on time, and ready to learn. We continue to ask for our support with this.

At the end of last term we saw a high number of holiday requests, parents keeping children off school for things such as a headache, not feeling well or children feeling tired. This massively affects pupil knowledge as they miss key learning which is then very difficult for them to catch up on. The more time off pupils have, the harder it is for them to be fully engaged in learning, form secure and trusted relationships and make good progress in all areas of school life.

I am saddened to report that our overall school attendance has dropped to 93% - this is below our target of 96% and we need everyone to help and support.

I am pleased to report that last week it was an absolute pleasure to reward 43 children with a prize and certificate for having 100% attendance for the autumn term. I have challenged the school to see if we can have at least 100 children get 100% attendance for this term! We can only do this with your support.

This term we are rewarding high class attendance on a weekly basis in a slightly different way. The two winning year groups each week will be given 10 minutes time to build up over the term. At the end of the spring term, each class that has built up time will be given their allocation as 'Golden Time' to spend as they wish. (For example: if a class wins the highest attendance 3 times during the term, they will have built up 30 minutes of Golden Time). The more times they win the highest attendance of the week – the more golden time they will receive.

### Here are some key reminders:

- If children 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.
- The attendance team will continue to ring parents to discuss attendance concerns and work together to make improvements
- If you receive a letter to arrange a meeting regarding attendance, please know that this meeting is to support you and your child – we want to work together – please do not ignore the letter, ring the office to make an appointment
- We will also be continuing to meet with the children in school whose attendance has dropped below 96%
- 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.

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## Safeguarding

Please think carefully about where you are parking. I continue to urge parents to follow the guidelines we have set out several times with parking and pulling up outside the school gates. Only this week a parent had to jump in front of their 2 year old to stop them from being met head on with a car pulling into the garages. Our families use the garages as a walk through to get to school. Please consider if you would want your child to be put in danger when you are choosing to park in the garages, drive fast along the roads near the school and pull up directly outside of the school entrances.

After a recent site safety walk, we have made the decision to disable the exit button to leave the school site via the main school gate. You will now be let out of the school gate by the office staff. Please be mindful that at times the office is busy, or the staff may have been called to do first aid, so you may have to wait a short time to exit. We thank you in advance for your patience.

We have had several incidents involving ‘Whatsapp’ groups and other social media messaging platforms, mainly amongst our Upper Key Stage Two pupils. It is worth mentioning again that many social media platforms have age limits in order to help protect and keep children safe. Please see below for an update on age limits. As you will see, all social media platforms that we know our older pupils are using, have a 13 year old age restriction.

Social Media Platform	Age
Whatsapp	16
Twitter	13
Facebook	13
Instagram	13
Snapchat	13

This link has lots of helpful information for parents. <https://www.internetmatters.org>

It is very hard for us to help to resolve issues that occur outside of school, especially those relating to the use of social media, but often we find disagreements, unkind messages and other inappropriate activities fuel disputes in school. We will always aim to support children and families with resolving any issues that occur outside of school, but urge all parents to carefully consider what you are allowed your child/ren to access at home.

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## PE

Just a reminder that now the weather is getting wetter and 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

If your child's class need to change the day for PE, you will be informed via your Seesaw account.

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

## Pierced ears

We have seen an increase in pupils returning to school after the Christmas holiday with pierced ears. Please be reminded that children are NOT permitted to wear any jewellery to school, including fit-bit watches. All earrings MUST be removed. If you wish for your child to wear the fully plastic earring spacers, this is permitted.

We are a no jewellery school to ensure the safety of all children. Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.

## Breakfast club/lunchtime and after school Club

We want to ensure we can provide wrap around care for families who need this support. In order for us to be able to provide these services we need to make sure that parent pay accounts are kept up to date. If you receive a letter regarding your account, please make every effort to clear the account so that your child is able to continue to attend breakfast and after school club.

You may also receive a letter asking you to clear your account for lunchtime, again, please make every effort to keep this up to date. We need to be able to pay for the food and staffing.

If you are experiences difficulties in paying or keeping your account up to date, please ring the school office who will be able to help.

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## Important dates

Date	Event
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Reception Class - Streetlife Museum Visit</b> <i>(Please ensure your donation is paid on parent pay before the visit as this also gives your child permission to be taken out of school)</i>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Year 3 and 4</b> Rock Up – Sports Premium Educational experience
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Express yourself Friday</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Year 1 and 2 - Scrapstore Educational Experience</b> <i>(Please ensure your donation towards this is paid before the session so that it can take place)</i>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Year 3 and 4 - Scrapstore Educational Experience</b> <i>(Please ensure your donation towards this is paid before the session so that it can take place)</i>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Year 5 and 6 - Scrapstore Educational Experience</b> <i>(Please ensure your donation towards this is paid before the session so that it can take place)</i>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Last Day – Half term</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Back to School</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>World Book Day</b> <i>(Further details to follow before half term)</i>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>NO Express yourself Friday – Due to World Book day being the previous day</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parent Consultation Evening</b> <i>(Reception/Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)</i>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Nursery and Reception Mother’s Day Tea Party</b> <i>(More information to follow)</i>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>School Disco Night</b> <i>(Reception/Year 1/Year 2: 3.15pm – 4.15pm Year 3, 4, 5 and 6: 4.15pm – 5.15pm)</i>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Nursery/Reception/Year 1/ Year 2 – Easter Bonnet Parade</b> <b>Year 3/4/5/6 – Decorate an Easter Egg Competition</b> <b>Whole School Church Visit</b>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Last Day of Term</b>

Thank you for your continued support  
Miss Howard

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