



Belleville News

21 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is the last day of what has been a very busy and rewarding term. We would like to say well done to all the children for their hard work and many achievements since September. We are very proud of them. We thank you too, for your ongoing support and entrusting us with your children.

Today's newsletter is a celebration and just some of the many curriculum highlights from the term.

We hope you all have an enjoyable and restful break, and we look forward to seeing the children back at school at the usual time on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Best wishes,

John Budden
Executive Headteacher

Mary-Lyne Latour
Headteacher

Belleville in the Community

Belleville is a school at the centre of our local community, and we work with local organisations and support the work of charities.

This term, we launched this year's InCommon Intergenerational Project by pairing some of our Year 3 children with residents from Queen Elizabeth House to take part in games and activities. They will meet up throughout the year.



We also collected 9 huge sacks of coats for [Wrap Up London](#), and over 100 gift boxes for a local homeless charity, as well as raising over £1,000 for Children in Need and over £1,000 for Save the Children. We were also delighted that the PTA Christmas Fair raised £20,000 for the school! Thank you to all our community.



Dates for your diary:

INSET day - Monday 8 January 2024

First day of Spring 1 term - Tuesday 9 January 2024

Closing date for Reception applications for September 2024 - Monday 15 January, [apply through Wandsworth Council](#). If you are in Nursery and are interested in a place in Reception, you also need to apply through Wandsworth Council.

Open Classrooms at 2.40pm on the following dates:

Reception – Tuesday 23 January, Year 1 - Wednesday 17 January, Year 2 - Friday 19 January, Year 3 - Monday 22 January, Year 4 - Friday 26 January, Year 5 - Monday 15 January and Year 6 - Wednesday 24 January.

Admissions Consultation

We are currently consulting on a minor change to our admissions policy for September 2025, and the consultation document is available on our website. Please [click here for more details](#). The consultation closes on 31 January 2024.



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Our Curriculum

We are proud of our 'highly ambitious curriculum' (Ofsted), and we extend the children's learning with speakers, trips, and resources to bring subjects to life in the classroom. Below are highlights of this term.

English - Year 6 had a visit from [Karl Nova](#), Hip Hop artist and poet, and Year 3 were visited by a librarian from Northcote Library. Our children have enjoyed reading many wonderful books including *On Sudden Hill*, *the Proudest Blue*, *Cloudbusting*, *Chocolate Cake*, *The Lost Thing*, *You Are Awesome* and *The Longest Night of Charlie Noon*, using these texts as a catalyst to write in many different styles.



Maths - Our Singapore-style maths teaching follows the [maths-mastery approach](#) which is at the heart of the National Curriculum. All of Year 3 were given the gift of an analogue wristwatch, kindly funded by Belleville PTA, and some of our Year 6 children entered the Primary Maths Challenge.

Science - From electricity to forces, and materials to space, we develop our children's scientific enquiry skills with hands-on experiences and trips. This term, Year 2 observed micro-habitats on their visit Morden Hall Park and Year 4 were visited by a local dentist.



Humanities - In History, Year 2 observed how the Great Fire of London spread as we set fire to a model of Pudding Lane, Year 3 were invaded by the Roman Army, Year 4 have taken part in Anglo-Saxon day and Year 5 enjoyed a residential trip to Upton Court as part of their topic about Ancient Greece. Year 6 have been studying World War II and have visited the BFI Southbank and taken part in a 1940s day. In Geography, Year 3 have been studying the weather, Year 2 have been learning about the differences between urban and rural environments, and Year 1 have observed the changing seasons.



Nursery and Reception – this term, the focus has been on settling our youngest learners happily into school, helping them to manage emotions and build positive relationships. In Nursery, our children have been learning about 'Ourselves' and 'Celebrations', and in Reception, about 'Our World' and 'Light and Dark'.



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Specialist Subjects

At Belleville, we are fortunate to have specialist subject teachers for art, computing, dance, French, gymnastics, music, and PE. Autumn term highlights from these areas are given below.

Music

We were proud to receive the [Music Mark](#) in recognition of our commitment to provide a high-quality music education to all our children. In Year 4, our children started to learn an instrument this term and play in an ensemble as part of our ongoing instrumental programme with [Wandsworth Music](#). We have also really enjoyed performing for parents and carers at all our Christmas concerts.



Art

To celebrate art and creativity at Belleville, Years 1-6 all contributed to a collaborative artwork. Each child designed a quarter of a circle which were brought together to create circles of colour and pattern. Each year group has also studied the work of different artists; Peter Randall-Page and Yinka Ilori (Year 6), Japanese installation artist, Chiharu Shiota (Year 5), Georgia O'Keeffe and Marc Chagall (Year 3), Joan Miró and Charlie French (Year 2), and Paul Klee and Emma Burleigh (Year 1). Year 4 have been practicing blind and continuous line drawings to improve their hand/eye coordination and studying the artist Michelle Reader to transform single-use plastic into recycled 3D birds.





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Sport and PE

In sport, teams of children in Years 4 to 6 have taken part in competitions, tournaments, and festivals against other local schools. This term's highlights include the annual 1500m race against other Wandsworth schools, football and POP lacrosse tournaments, and opportunities to attend inclusive sport events such as Panathlon and Boccia.

In school PE lessons, Years 5 and 6 have been focusing on invasion games, and our Year 5 classes have also begun their swimming lessons. Years 3 and 4 have continued to build on teamwork skills and fundamental movement skills, and Years 1 and 2 have worked on movement skills such as jumping and throwing, as well as developing teamwork and communication skills. Indoors, all year groups have benefitted from either dance or gymnastics lessons led by our specialist teachers.



French

We teach French in Years 3 to 6, and our children have made an excellent start with French this term, with the focus on spoken French through songs, movement, and interactive activities. We celebrated European Day of Languages in September, and our Year 5 and 6 pupils have recently had the opportunity to participate in the first round of the national [Routes Into Languages Primary Bee](#).

Computing and ICT

We teach [online safety](#) in all year groups from Years 1 to 6, as well as giving children hands-on experience of programming and coding. In Year 1, our children have been learning how to use 'Book Creator', Year 2 have been exploring digital art and using Scratch to recreate a well-known fable, and Year 3 have been learning to code the BBC Micro: bit and create an e-book. Year 4 have been learning programming using Lego Mindstorms and Sleuth IT, Year 5 have been problem solving using Sleuth IT, and Year 6 have been programming spherical robots and understanding networks.



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PSCHE, RE and Worldviews, and Pupil Wellbeing

This half-term in PSCHE, all year groups have been exploring 'Understanding our feelings.' In RE and World Views, Year 1 have been learning about 'Belonging, Years 2 and 5 about Islam, Year 3 about Christianity, Year 4 about approaches to right and wrong, and Year 6 about Humanism. We have also celebrated Black History Month, Diwali, and Anti-Bullying week with Odd Socks Day. At playtime, children have been enjoying playing with their friends in the playgrounds and quiet areas. They have been able to enjoy a wide range of games and climbing equipment, supported by Belleville PTA.



To support children's learning and wellbeing, we have offered parent workshops and webinars on how we teach maths and phonics, the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, Parent Readers, ParentGym, and coffee mornings for parents/carers of children with SEND.

School Houses and Pupil Voice

House System

In September, we introduced a House System to foster and encourage excellent behaviour in line with our [CARE](#) and [Excellent Learner](#) values, as well as encouraging a healthy sense of competition and developing children's leadership and collaborative skills. The five houses are led by Year 6 House Captains and the winning houses for the autumn half-terms were Northcote and Wakehurst.

School Council and Eco-Council

Members of our School Council went to visit the Houses of Parliament to understand more about the House of Lords and the House of Commons and how our democracy works. Our Eco-Council took a trip to the Wandsworth recycling centre to see how our household rubbish is recycled correctly. They have also been awarding Eco stickers to anyone who has been an Eco-Warrior in school!

