

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Belgrave,

After returning to school with some normality after Christmas, things quickly changed and we have had yet another challenging half term with all of our classes having increased Covid cases. I would like to thank you for supporting us when implementing our restricted Covid measures once again and following the guidance communicated. I am happy to announce that our numbers are now significantly reducing and we now hope to be over the worst. I am pleased that no matter how small classes became, staff continued to provide quality, creative learning across school. As always, pupils never fail to amaze me with their adaptability when faced with change.

We are now looking forward to all pupils returning and attendance remaining high as we move into the second half of the spring term. We have been able to reschedule any activities planned during our outbreak and plan to go ahead with all residential visits as it currently stands.

GINGERBREAD MEN SPOTTED IN SCHOOL!



We were alarmed to hear that some gingerbread men entered school on Thursday evening whilst staff and children were at home. Year 1 were extremely intrigued as to how they got in, why there were crumbs left in the classroom and who were they running from. Year 1 have been focusing on traditional tales this half term and their writing is showing great progress, both in content and applying their phonics knowledge.

I have been having regular visits from children to show me their amazing writing!

Pupils have enjoyed baking their own gingerbread men in the oven and thankfully none have run away! Mrs Tiffin has been watching carefully to check on this. The children have been story telling whilst baking as well as using puppets to retell the story. Lots of

mathematical language when weighing quantities too – a very cross curricular mix of activities.



CHINESE NEW YEAR



Reception began their Chinese New Year celebrations yesterday with some brilliant writing by Rose! She used her phonics to sound out and write the words: costume, chopsticks and plate!

Reception are making lanterns, using chopsticks, listening to Chinese music, cooking and making lots of crafts to celebrate the **Year of the Tiger 2022**.



If you are celebrating Chinese New Year then please share some celebratory photographs with us at school by emailing them to admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL



Alice in Year 2 has recently received 'Star of the Week' and a medal to take home for netball. She did some superb passing and footwork! ★

Heather in Year 3 has recently achieved 96% in her Step 2 Piano Exam which gained her a Distinction. She's starting her



Grade 1 preparation next. What a fantastic musical achievement! ★

Isla and Eliza (Year 4) and Autumn (Reception)

took part in a National dance competition in Stoke last month. They did really well and performed a 'colour guard' dance in front of hundreds of spectators. They have a few more competitions this year, included the nation finals in April. Well done girls!



Thomas in Year 1 has achieved his Stage 1 swimming certificate. A very proud achievement – well done Thomas! ★ ★ ★



COVID-19 UPDATE ON GUIDANCE

- Take tests twice weekly if you do not have symptoms to help manage your risk. Testing regularly increases the chances of detecting COVID-19 when you are infectious but are not displaying symptoms, helping to make sure you do not spread COVID-19 by staying at home and self-isolating immediately. Rapid lateral flow testing continues to be available free of charge. You can get tests from pharmacies or online.
- What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19:
The main symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of:
 - new continuous cough and/or
 - high temperature and/or
 - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

If your child develops **any of these symptoms**, then arrangements should be made for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child should remain at home while awaiting the PCR test result. Please note that if your child shows any of these symptoms whilst in school, we will phone you to ask you to pick up your child immediately and book a PCR test.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Please keep school informed of the result of the test by emailing admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

- **Residency in England:** What to do if your child receives a positive PCR test result or has a positive LFD result with no symptoms:

Self isolate for 5 days. If a Lateral Flow Test is negative on Day 5 and 6 (with 24 hours between each test being taken) then your child can return to school.

- What to do if your child is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19:
If your child is a close contact (this includes someone in your household), they should take daily Lateral Flow Tests for the next seven days. As long as these are negative, they can continue to attend school.

Thank you for your continued support and please rest assured that we will continue to monitor the situation carefully and will be guided by the advice from Cheshire West and Chester Public Health.

ENDANGERED DORMICE GET A DEDICATED RAILWAY CROSSING



In a recent assembly we read about a dedicated bridge being built specifically for endangered dormice. We were intrigued to find out that the dormice will soon have their very own tiny railway crossing in a bid to save the endangered species from extinction.

The new 'dormouse bridge' will be the first of its kind when it is built next summer on the Furness line.

Wild hazel dormice have declined by 51 per cent since 2000 and the project aims to tackle that decline by establishing new dormouse

populations in Lancashire- but the selected sites are currently separated by the rail route in Morecambe Bay.

The new mouse-sized climbing frame will connect populations, encouraging them to find food, look for a new mate or find better nesting sites in the Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The £40,000 conservation project- by Network Rail and wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES)-involves fitting a 12-metre long shielded tree-top structure to provide protection from predators on the side of an existing railway overbridge.

Many children were excited to find out more and we are going to revisit the news in the summer term.

Meanwhile, Felix in Year 4 spoke to me about his new pet gerbils and how similar they were to the dormice we read about being protected. We discussed them maybe having a bridge of their own!



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS

We hope you and your children have been alright during this recent COVID outbreak. We wish anyone that is or has been unwell a very speedy recovery and a return to normality as soon as possible.

We would also like to thank the school for their swift response and their great efforts in managing the situation.

Governors have also been supporting the school over the past few weeks with the outbreak.

Governors will be meeting this term to discuss ongoing business-as-usual matters relating to the educational and financial management of the school, which officially converted to academy status and joined The Learning Trust on 1st December 2021.

We wish you all a very enjoyable and productive rest of half-term.

Thank you,
Belgrave's Governing Board



JASS AWARD IN SCHOOL



Year 5 and 6 pupils are given the opportunity to work towards an accreditation of the Junior Award Scheme for Schools (JASS). This is a junior version of The Duke of Edinburgh Award which is offered at secondary schools. JASS has so far been very popular with our pupils.

The children develop life skills including determination, team building, community involvement, problem solving and self-confidence. The award is completed mainly out of school. There are weekly lunchtime clubs where pupils can discuss / work on their files and have support for ideas and evidence needed.

We were delighted to hear that Aoife and Sophia S in Year 6 have been litter picking near school to tidy the local area – filling 3 bags! This activity is used towards gaining their JASS award. Well done girls!



PTA

The PTA have arranged for a dress down day as a pick-me-up after the Covid disruptions recently. All pupils can come in non-uniform on Friday 11th February and the PTA are asking for a £1 donation.

An ice-cream van will be parking on the playground where children can choose an ice cream or ice lolly on the day!

Please email the school office if you do not want your child to have an ice cream or ice lolly:

admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

The PTA would like to collect the donations by cash on the morning of Friday 11th January at the school gates.

Also look out for dates next half term:

- Film Night
- Springo Bingo before the Easter break



AND FINALLY.....

- Please continue to let us know of any achievements made outside school so that we can share them in our newsletters by emailing to admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk
- Please **do not** use Class Dojo to message staff. If you need to get in touch then email the school office: admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk who will contact the appropriate person.
- PCSO Cain Jones has been visiting school at drop off and collection times to monitor parking. Please consider the safety of all our pupils and families if you are driving to school.
- We look forward to welcoming Mrs Scott (parent of Year 1 pupil) as our new Midday Assistant. She will be helping to look after our children during lunchtimes.

Juliette Benton
Headteacher



DIARY DATES

February	
Tue 8 th	Rescheduled Chess tournament at Duddon 3.45pm
Fri 11 th	PTA Dress down day – non-uniform day with a £1 donation (cash collected at gates in the morning) and a surprise treat on the day!
Fri 18 th	Last Day of Half Term
Mon 28 th	Return to School
March	
Thur 3 rd	World Book Day – more information to follow
Tue 8 th	Rescheduled Maths Puzzle Company Day in school
April	
Fri 1 st	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)
Tue 19 th	1 st Day of Term
Tue 19 th	Manchester Theatre Company Shakespeare production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ for KS2 pupils
Wed 20 th	Year 5 Residential Visit to Conway Centre
Thur 21 st	Year 5 Residential Visit to Conway Centre
Fri 22 nd	Year 5 Residential Visit to Conway Centre
Tue 26 th	Year 4 Residential Visit to Tattenhall
Wed 27 th	Year 4 Residential Visit to Tattenhall
May	
Mon 2 nd	Bank Holiday
Tue 3 rd	Return to School
Thur 26 th	Year 3 Residential Visit to Delamere
Fri 27 th	Year 3 Residential Visit to Delamere
Fri 27 th	Last Day of Half Term
June	
Mon 6 th	Inset Day
Tue 7 th	Return to School
July	
Wed 13 th	Year 6 trip to London
Thur 14 th	Year 6 trip to London
Fri 15 th	Year 6 return from London
Thur 21 st	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)
Fri 22 nd	Inset Day