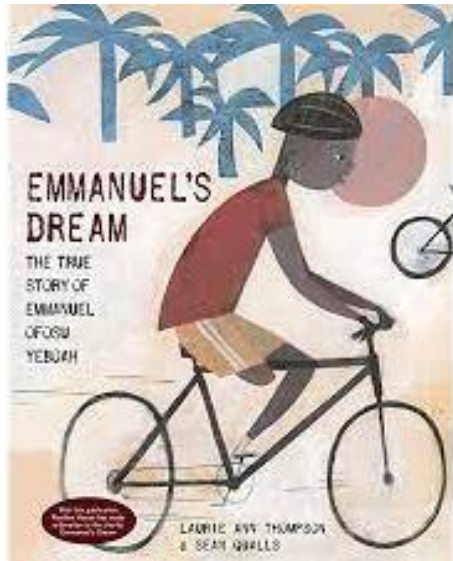


Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Belgrave,



Welcome back to the new academic school year. We all hope you had an enjoyable summer break. It's been a lovely return to school with a buzz of busyness and happiness around the school building and grounds.

It's great to have all pupils back at school and our new Reception pupils who are in full time now. We are excited to start buddying Reception with the older children as soon as possible.

A very warm welcome to any new families starting at Belgrave!

All classes are starting the academic year by focusing on a whole school book 'Emmanuel's Dream' by Ofosu Yeboah (see blurb in italics below). This is an inspiring true story—which links to resilience; one of our three habits of mind (Resilience, Independence and Creativity) known to the children as our Bee-mores.

“Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled.”

“Superb; there is a flow and balance to every page and spread.”

— *The Horn Book*



Classes will also be exploring the life of bees and our motto **Belong, Enjoy, Enthuse, Succeed** as well as having age appropriate discussion around our behavioural expectations (Relationships Policy) which sets out our aims, core values and implementation of behaviour at Belgrave <http://www.belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk/page/behaviour/14737> sanctions and consequences following our three school rules:

Be Safe; Be Kind; Be a Good Listener and Learner

Please familiarise yourself with our Relationships Policy and our expectations for behaviour at Belgrave.

COMMUNICATION

A reminder that it is the monthly newsletter which will provide the information, achievements and diary dates for the forthcoming year. This is in addition to Class Dojo and emails that we use to send letters instead of paper copies. Class Dojo is the first form of communication for messages and notifications from staff. If you need to contact staff at school, please email admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk and Mrs Morgan or Mrs Pilling will arrange for you to be contacted. **Please do not use Class Dojo to message staff as we cannot guarantee that messages will be read.** Celebration assemblies will resume on Friday afternoons for one year group per week and you receive a message if your child is sharing their work during that assembly to give you the opportunity to come and join us. All pupils will share their work over the course of the academic year.

PTA PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



We are thrilled to have had the playground equipment fitted during the summer holidays. The children were delighted to see it installed and excited to spend time exploring it!

A huge thank you to the PTA for their efforts in planning and running events in order to raise enough money to purchase this. Also thank you to the volunteers who worked during the rainy weather on the first Saturday of the summer holidays digging out and flattening the ground so that we did not have the extra cost of paying for this - we would have been unable to go ahead with this extra cost.

Pupils have been given information about not using the

equipment before and after school. Please ensure that any younger siblings are not using the playground equipment before and after school times.



ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL



Six Belgrave pupils took part in a Taekwon-do grading at Queen's Park High School on Sunday 9th July. They performed their techniques and patterns in front of Master Archer (VII dan), the president of Taekwon-do UK. They also showed their sparring ability and self defence skills. Chester Club was praised for its high standards, across the age groups and belts.

There are a few spaces available in September for both the Kubz class (4-7 year olds) and the Junior class (KS2), held at King's School on Monday evenings, 6:10 and 7pm respectively. Any questions ask Matthew and Abigail Shuler's mum, Katharine, who is one of the lead instructors. <http://www.tkd-chester.co.uk/>

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils were really smartly dressed in full school uniform this first week back at school. Please can I remind you that children should not wear nail polish or false nails to school. Jewellery permitted is a watch and stud earrings only. Open toe sandals or boots are not appropriate for school wear. It is not compulsory for uniform to have a Belgrave logo. Please ensure that all items brought into school are clearly labelled.

SCHOOL TIMES

We still have a number of children who are arriving after the gates have been locked.

Reception and Key Stage One pupils: **Gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am.**

Key Stage Two pupils: **Gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.50am.**

Pupils arriving after this time will need to come to the main entrance and will be recorded as late on the register.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Welcome back everyone!

The LGB are meeting on the last week of September.

This first meeting of the year is notably when we plan and schedule our visits to the school, which we use to review the school strategic priorities with subject leaders. We will also welcome our newly elected parent governor.

Please see the poster below of how you can help as a parent / carer. The PTA AGM date will be shared very soon and we hope that many of you will be able to join us. The PTA are looking for parents to fill the roles of secretary and treasurer.

Thank you,
Belgrave Governing Board

HAPPY HIVE BOOKINGS

Happy Hive before and after school clubs – please ensure that all booking requests are made in advance. There are a limited number of places available and places are filling up quickly.

CHESTER CONTEMPORARY

Current Year 6 pupils took part in a number of art workshops last academic year when they were in Year 5 with artist Lucy Dentith (article in July newsletter). The art work will be displayed on The Rows from 22nd September until 1st December 2023 for the Art Trail so please look out for Belgrave work when you are in the city centre!

The visual arts event will feature new and existing work of international and Chester-based contemporary artists, including emerging artists.

AND FINALLY.....

- A warm welcome to Mr Young who has joined the Belgrave team as a Teaching Assistant this academic year.
- Dogs are not permitted on school grounds; this includes all playgrounds. Please ensure that if you are leaving your dog at the school gate, they are not obstructing families passing in and out of school. Gates will be locked 10 minutes after the end of the school day. Please ensure that your children are not climbing on top of the train in the Forest School area.
- School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. Any holidays in term time cannot be authorised. Please report all pupil absences to the **school office** by email or phone by 9.15am.
- Please continue to let us know of any achievements made outside school so that we can share them in our newsletters. Please send them by email 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.
- Please ensure your SchoolMoney account is in credit for the start of the new school year. More information will be sent about transferring to ParentMail soon.

As ever, we really appreciate your support, enthusiasm and partnership.

Juliette Benton
Headteacher



How can I help?

Parents, carers, extended family and close community are all Friends of Belgrave. Many among you will want to know how you can help the school to be an even better environment for all pupils.

Belong

We all belong to the Belgrave community and must work together to ensure all the pupils achieve the best outcomes. There should be no 'them' and 'us'. Any concerns should be raised with a positive and open-minded approach, trusting the good intentions of everyone involved, and keeping the well-being of our students as our top priority.

Participate

Our community is much more fun and cohesive when everyone joins in. Our Parent Teachers Association (PTA) works very hard to organise events that bring everyone together. The pupils love seeing their adults being involved with the school, getting to know their teachers and teaching assistants as well as their friends' families. Teachers will often encourage parents and carers to engage with a piece of homework, be it reading with the kids, or being quizzed on history or even maths. Please join in, don't be shy or afraid to show how much or little you know: simply joining in their learning journey has been proven to bring huge educational benefits!

Volunteer

It takes a lot of time and effort to keep a school community thriving, and we will sometimes ask for volunteers to help us run a PTA event, ferry kids to a sporting competition or even dig out a playground or repaint a wall. If you can help, please do. We also welcome people who can tell a good story, explain what they do at work, or run a craft session. If you think you have something to offer, please reach out and we'll see whether we can use your help.

But please don't over promise, and be clear and honest about what and how much time you can commit, which is essential for our organisers to work their magic.

Organise

Our PTA consists of a formal committee (chairs, secretary and treasurer) elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in early September, and a network of class representatives. Together they organise a busy calendar of fundraising events throughout the year, and will regularly ask for volunteers to pitch in. Remember the PTA cannot do this on their own and rely on parents, carers and families to help run these events as well as participate.

We also have a Local Governing Body (LGB) who sets and monitors the strategic progression of the school. This too consists of volunteers, who serve 4 year terms. New parent governors are elected every year or so, and we welcome parents and carers from all walks of life to put themselves forward for elections and help keep our LGB fresh and representative of the whole school community.

Contribute

It is a sad fact that schools are continuously asked to do more with an increasingly insufficient budget. We rely on the funds raised through PTA events to buy equipment we can no longer afford with our government funding, such as the new years 3-6 playground, or the iPads used in the classrooms. We are a registered charity (Nº 701864) and if you can afford to donate, or buy that cup of sweets, that burger, that beer, that second hand teddy, please do with the assurance your donation will go directly to improve the children's school day as well as their educational outcome.

DIARY DATES

DIARY DATES	
September	
Tues 5 th	Pupils return to school
Fri 8 th	Olympic athlete visiting (See Dojo post)
Fri 15 th	Monster Phonics day – wear a bright coloured t-shirt to school
October	
Fri 6 th	Year 6 trip to Stockpot Air raid Shelters
Sat 14 th	PTA Grounds Day 10.00am – 12.00pm (All welcome)
Fri 20 th	Last day of half term
Mon 30 th	Return to school
November	
Thurs 9 th – Thurs 16 th	Scholastic Book Fair
Tues 14 th	Pupil Learning Reviews
Wed 15 th	Pupil Learning Reviews
Fri 17 th	Children in Need day
December	
Wed 13 th	Christmas dinner
Thurs 14 th	Y1 – 6 trip to Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime at Floral Pavillion, New Brighton
Fri 15 th	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)
January '24	
Tues 2 nd	Inset Day
Wed 3 rd	Pupils return to school
February	
Fri 9 th	Year 1 trip to Chester Zoo
Thurs 15 th	Last Day of Half Term
Fri 16 th	Inset Day
Mon 26 th	Pupils return to school
March	
Thurs 28 th	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)
April	
Mon 15 th	Pupils return to school
Wed 24 th	Year 4 residential visit to Tattenhall (1 night)
May	
Mon 6 th	Bank Holiday – no school
Mon 20 th	Year 3 residential visit to Delamere (1 night)
Wed 22 nd	Year 5 residential visit to Conway Centre (2 nights)
Fri 24 th	Last Day of Half Term
June	
Mon 3 rd	Inset Day
Tue 4 th	Pupils return to school
Mon 10 th	Year 6 residential to London (2 nights)
July	
Tues 23 rd	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)