

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Belgrave,



There has been so much exciting learning across all year groups during September. All clubs are up and running and Year 6 buddies have been proactive in their roles supporting Reception pupils. We have already had Year 2 attend Chester Zoo and Year 6 will be off to Stockport Air Raid Shelters this week.

Governors have met for the first time and we are excited to have started our new language of Mandarin across school.

Please look carefully at new dates that have been added to our diary dates list including PTA events up until Christmas. Our dates have also been confirmed for performances in December for you to keep free.

Huge thanks to Liz Lucas who has now stepped down as Chair of the PTA after 5 years. She has been a brilliant Chair and was delighted to finally have our playground equipment installed during the summer holidays which the PTA have been fundraising for over the last few years. Kat Pudney has now taken over the role as Chair and has written a PTA

update in the section below.

MANDARIN

你们好!

What a fantastic introduction Miss Fitzgerald has delivered with our Mandarin learning this term. Children have been keen to talk about their learning and have learnt basic greetings and numbers (including characters and hand gestures).

Pupils have had a lot of fun exploring chopsticks and designing their own moon cakes! The children have been so enthusiastic and we look forward to following their progress.



ATTENDANCE, SICKNESS AND HOLIDAYS

Children are expected to attend school for the full 190 days of the academic year, unless there is a good reason for

absence. There are two types of absence:

- Authorised absence - where the school approves pupil absence
- Unauthorised absence - where the school does not approve absence

At Belgrave, we aim to achieve an attendance rate of over 95% (meaning children are absent from school no more than 1 day every 4 weeks). To support this, we will provide the following in an effort to maintain and improve attendance:

- A caring and supportive atmosphere where children come first
- Careful registration, making sure mistakes are not made
- If a message has not been received, we will make a phone call home on the first morning that a child is absent from school
- Information for parents about attendance
- Monitoring and support for children whose attendance is below 90%

Any child with attendance below 90% is categorised as a persistent absentee, and are missing more than 1 day of school every 2 weeks on average. Any children whose absence does fall below 90% will receive notification via a letter at the end of a term. All absences must be reported to the school office by 9.15am. If you are unsure about whether your child should attend school, please contact the school office by telephoning 01244 421332 or by email - admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

When a pupil is withdrawn during term time there is disruption to the learning process and this can sometimes result in the pupil falling behind his/her peers. Permission for family holidays in term time can only be granted in exceptional circumstances through a form completed via the school office. The Department for Education guidelines clarify the expectations for headteachers and parents.

The following are not legitimate reasons for taking holiday in term time and will be unauthorised:

- Availability of cheap holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in the school holiday period
- Overlap with the beginning or end of term
- Holidays booked before checking with the school calendar
- Siblings at other schools with different holidays
- Day trips
- Visiting family / friends in other towns or countries

LATENESS - When your child arrives late at school, they miss important events like morning routines and learning activities, teacher instructions, introductions and register / dinner registration. Many children also feel anxious at having to enter school late.

Frequent lateness can add up to a considerable amount of learning being lost. This can seriously disadvantage your child and disrupt the learning of others. Please help your child to be punctual. If a child is late 10 minutes each day it equates to 7 lost teaching days across the year.

A reminder that: Reception and Key Stage One pupils: Gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am. KS2 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.

FIRST AID

Our First Aid system will alert parents by email (not a phone call) if there is a head or facial injury. Not all first aid concerns will be shared with parents, only significant ones. It would not be possible to manage sharing all first aid reports as there are many bumps and scrapes each day. Parents will be contacted by phone if an injury is serious enough for hospital treatment. It is important that you keep us updated with any changes to emergency contacts (minimum of two adults) and up to date phone numbers so that the office can contact you.

YEAR 2 TRIP TO CHESTER ZOO

Year 2 had a busy day at Chester Zoo last week and the drizzly weather didn't stop the excitement and fun! They all had a workshop with Winnie the owl and were lucky enough to see the penguins and lions being fed. All pupils were exceptionally well behaved and were extremely tired on the return journey!



FUNNYBONES WORKSHOPS



On Friday, we welcomed Chapel Archaeology into school to spend a day delivering workshops. We started the day with a whole school assembly listening to the work of the archaeologists. Throughout the remainder of the day there were class workshops involving exciting scientific / historian learning:



- A skeleton pairs and dentition workshop



- A bone growth and joint workshop
- Laying out their own skeleton

The children thoroughly enjoyed their learning during the day and we look forward to welcoming the experts back into school to work with our other year groups later on in the academic year.

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL



Julia in Year 6 was recently part of Theatre train's "We're Gonna Change The World" presentation. She performed in Royal Albert Hall and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done Julia!



Freddie in Year 6 recently competed at the British Championship finals.

He was in under 13s which is a difficult category for him but he has 2 more years to go in this category. Despite this, he did very well gaining bronze in

synchro, came 4th in DMT and came 12th out of 26 in Individual trampolining. Fantastic news!



Verity in Year 2 has been celebrating her completion of 'mini's' and moving to Grade 1 in ballet. She was very excited to share her certificate. Brilliant news Verity!



PTA UPDATE by Kat Pudney

It was lovely to meet lots of new faces at our Reception parent welcome coffee morning last Friday. And to recruit some new members to the PTA! We have lots of events planned for this term! Friday 13th brings the return of our infamous Break the Rules day and we will be holding an Autumn disco on Thurs 19th October.

Fast forwarding to Christmas, if parents are able to donate any raffle prizes for our Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December or know of any local businesses who would like to donate a raffle prize then please do get in touch. We are on the recruitment hunt early for Christmas Fair volunteers. Even if it's just half an hour of your time on the evening of 1st December it would be greatly appreciated. In the meantime, we hope to see lots of you on Sat 14th October for Grounds Day where the PTA will be providing refreshments and some snacks for all your hard work.

GROUNDS DAY

This is a popular family event which helps us to maintain the school grounds and bring some more colour to the areas around school. Please come along with your family on Saturday 14th October between 10am and 12pm, even if you can only spare half an hour – every pair of hands helps!

We would be very grateful for any donations of plants for the pots and shrubs that would be suitable for the woods and pots as well as any bulbs ready to bloom in Spring and bags of compost. These could be dropped off on Friday 12th October if you are unable to attend please. Alternatively, if you would like to make any monetary donations, please send these into the school office.

Please bring your own tools, gardening gloves and paintbrushes. We do own some gardening tools at school but not enough for everyone!

We are delighted that Wendy Amner will be running a children's craft workshop from 10.00am – 11.45am in the Reception workspace and the PTA will be providing much needed refreshments.

There are so many jobs to do. Some examples include:

- Pruning
- Weeding
- Re-laying bark on the paths and play area in the woods
- Planting bulbs around school
- Planting up the pots / new barrel planters
- Filling the skip
- Sweeping and tidying



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

The local governing board met last week. We welcome two new governors, Josiah Mainwaring, elected by parents and carers, and Jamie Farrell, co-opted by the board of trustees. We also thank Churni Jennings, whose term has now ended, for her fantastic contribution to the board, including as Chair. We're now at full complement and have redistributed the linked governors roles accordingly. Please check the school website to meet everyone. Thank you,
Belgrave Governing Board

ECO TEAM

The Eco Team met with Mrs Amner for the first time this week to plan for some events this term including the preparation for Grounds Day on Saturday 14th October. The Eco Team will be making posters for the event and deciding on jobs to be done during the morning. They also have an exciting project to be shared in assembly.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

With the cost of living increasing and changes in circumstances, we are encouraging parents to apply for Free School Meals. All Key Stage One pupils automatically receive a free meal each school day but school can also claim additional funding for any eligible pupil which can help towards equipment and resources (including school trips) for your child.

To see if you qualify, follow this link:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

Please let the school office know if you qualify for Free School Meals. If you require any help with this process then please contact the school office.

HAPPY HIVE BOOKINGS

Unfortunately, we are now having to turn children away who are not booked into the clubs due to staffing ratios. Bookings must be made in advance for before and after school Happy Hive club. We advise to book in the week before if possible to ensure a place.

AND FINALLY.....

- 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.



Juliette Benton
Headteacher

- We will be moving over to ParentMail very soon and more details will follow. Thank you to parents who have already registered.

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

DIARY DATES

DIARY DATES	
October	
Mon 2 nd	Harvest Collection
Tues 3 rd	Rec / Year 1 Phonics / Reading meeting for parents 4.30pm
Tues 3 rd	Year 5 JASS meeting for parents 3.30pm
Thurs 5 th	Bangers and Burgers special menu for school lunch
Fri 6 th	Year 6 trip to Stockpot Air Raid Shelters
Fri 6 th	Year 1-4 Money workshops with Principality
Fri 13 th	PTA Break The Rules Day
Sat 14 th	PTA Grounds Day 10.00am – 12.00pm (All welcome)
Thurs 19 th	PTA Fancy Dress Disco
Fri 20 th	Last day of half term
Mon 30 th	Return to school
Tues 31 st	Pupil Flu Vaccinations
November	
Wed 8 th	Year 3 trip to St Mary's Church
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
Fri 24 th	Tempest Photography – individual photographs
December	
Fri 1 st	PTA Christmas Fair
Tues 5 th	Rec / KS1 Christmas Performance 1.30pm
Tues 5 th	Choir perform at Westminster Park lights switch on 5pm
Wed 6 th	Rec / KS1 Christmas Performance 9.45am
Wed 6 th	KS2 Christmas Performance 5.00pm
Thurs 7 th	KS2 Christmas Performance 9.30am
Wed 13 th	Christmas dinner (wear non-uniform / Christmas clothes)
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 17 th	Year 3 trip to Ness Gardens
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)