

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Belgrave,



Our Christmas festivities are well under way with preparations for KS1 and KS2 performances in school; the Year 4 festive lantern parade was last night; our highly anticipated and exciting PTA Christmas Fair tonight starting at 5pm and the Christmas light switch on at Westminster Park shops next Tuesday. Thank you to Mrs Hancock and our school choir for attending many additional events over the Christmas period. Our amazing choir consisting of 68 junior children is fabulous! We look forward to seeing you at some of our events coming up this month.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity during Children In Need. We had an official 'shout out' on BBC Radio 2 for our brilliant efforts to raise an amazing £855! Thank you for all taking part in the activities and sending coins and cakes into school and thank you to Mrs Clethro who organised the day. The children certainly liked wearing their pyjamas! Well done to Archie and Patrick who won the huge Pudsey Bears in the raffle!

YEAR 3 TRIP TO ST MARY'S CHURCH



Year 3 had a brilliant visit to St Mary's Church in Handbridge.

The children had booklets and investigated the church to find different artefacts. Rev Ric explained about the different robes he wears at different times of the year.

The children found out about what you will find in a Christian church and asked Rev Ric lots of



questions! It was a pleasure to join Year 3 on their visit and have a go at ringing the church bell!

YEAR 5 TRIP TO THE RIVER DEE



Year 5 had a great day out by the River Dee, learning more about the weir originally built by Hugh Lupus in 1093 and sketching the Suspension Bridge and the Old Dee Bridge.

They enjoyed a lovely walk there and back, with everyone representing Belgrave impeccably.



YEAR 4 ROMAN TRIP TO CHESTER



Year 4 enjoyed a day in Chester as part of their topic on Romans. They were all really interested in what they were learning about and asked lots of interesting questions during their time in the Grosvenor museum and on their tour with the Roman soldier.

Pupils were very excited to share their learning back at school and follow up in their subsequent lessons.



YEAR 2 TRIP TO LADY LEVER ART GALLERY



Year 2 had an inspiring visit to The Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight this week. The gallery staff commented on their behaviour saying they were one of the best schools to visit! They experienced what is regarded to be one of the finest art galleries in Europe, housing a large collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings and Victorian masterpieces. We are very proud of you Year 2 – sounds like it was a great trip!



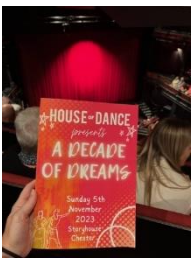
ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL



It's always really interesting to hear of achievements outside school.

Daisy and Iris B (Year 5) took part in the House of Dance 'A Decade of Dreams' show at The Storyhouse in November. Daisy and Iris performed three dances with their dance group. It was a fantastic sold-out show!

Well done to both of you - you were very excited to tell me all about it! 😊



Aurelia in Year 1 was in a show with her House of Dance class at the Storyhouse theatre last month. It sounds like Aurelia really enjoyed performing and is excited to be attending some more shows soon. Well done Aurelia! 😊

Olivia in year 5 has recently achieved a distinction in her Stage 3 Acro dance exam. She does weekly Acro classes and is very happy she has achieved this fantastic result. Well done Olivia – you look really proud! 😊

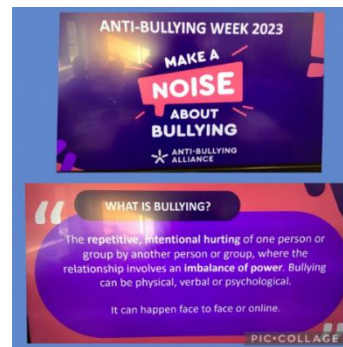


We have the following pupils who have recently completed their grading in Karate. Well done to Lucy, Zara and Naomi in Year 3 and Blake in Year 6. Fantastic news for all of them! 😊



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Each class participated in some work associated with Anti-bullying week 2023 last week. The theme for this year was: Make A Noise about bullying.....Together we can make it stop. Children could talk about what bullying is and how they can play their part in stopping it happening.



CROSS COUNTRY

We were delighted to hear that more children attended the Saturday cross country events in Ellesmere Port in November.

A huge well done to Abigail, Mair and Alice in Year 4; William and Zaan in Year 5 and Matthew in Year 6 who have braved the bad weather to compete in the last two Cheshire West Athletics Club cross country events. A special mention to Zaan who came third in the last event – this is a fantastic result! ☆



AUTHOR VISIT



We were really excited to welcome Rachael Lyndsay into school last month. Following a whole school assembly where she introduced her trolls and new character 'snow Giant', Year 3 had a workshop in class. The children listened intently as Rachael told the class about the different trolls and how they have adventures in her stories. They all especially enjoyed meeting Hildi and Thom who are the main characters in The Warrior Troll book which Year 3 have just finished in class.



NSPCC WORKSHOPS

Thank you to the NSPCC volunteers for our "Speak Out, Stay Safe" workshops last week following a whole school assembly during Anti-bullying week. The children listened carefully and shared their thoughts and ideas with maturity.

FOOTBALL

We have competed in Year 5 and 6 football tournaments in November with pupils playing brilliantly.



They should be very proud of their team ethos and sportsmanship. Great effort all round! Thank you to parents for supporting our teams.



CHRISTMAS POST BOX OPEN ON FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Our Belgrave post box will be open from today, Friday 1st December for any pupils to post Christmas cards. The post box will be in the school entrance.

Please ensure the recipient child's name is clear as well as their year group. The last post will be on Thursday 14th December.

Any cards posted after this date will not be delivered.



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

This month, the governors have started visiting the school to discuss their linked subject with the subject leads. A particularly great visit was our first look at the introduction of Mandarin as a foreign language across all year groups. We found the work done so far "ambitious, fun and practical" and really look forward future developments. Less fun, but equally important work included reviewing the output from our Ofsted visit (congratulations again to everyone on a fantastic result), and discussions around the relaunch by the local authorities of the Moat Park free school presumption process.

Our next governors meeting is on the first week of December.

Thank you,

Belgrave Governing Board

BOOK FAIR

A huge thank you to all of the parent helpers who helped with our book fair last month. We had so many pupils and families visit and purchase books. We now have some money from the book fair to buy some new books for school which our bookworms are busily organising.

If any children purchased a book from our book fair or will read a new one over the Christmas break and would like to send in a book review for our January newsletter, that would be great! Please email them in via

admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

FENCING REPLACEMENT WORKS

We are delighted to finally have our fence/gate replacement works around the perimeter of the Belgrave site start in December 2023, with the aim to be completed by February 2024.

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 absence line** by 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 park considerately and do not use our neighbour's drives to turn around – we have had a complaint from a neighbour in Cowhey Close.

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

From all the staff, pupils and governors at Belgrave School, we wish you a happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous new year 2024!

Juliette Benton
Headteacher



The Learning Trust



As usual the autumn is an extremely busy term, as our school leaders spend time analysing our exam outcomes from the previous academic year, and I'm delighted to report that across all four Trust schools, we were celebrating some outstanding results, allowing our students to access the next stage of their education/career. Thank you to everyone involved in achieving these great results....not least to parents and carers for their support.



For our colleagues at **Belgrave**, this autumn term will be remembered for the visit of Ofsted – the first visit to the school since 2009 and the team were very pleased with the outcome, achieving an Outstanding judgement in two categories, with a Good rating overall.

Extracts from Belgrave's Ofsted report:

"Pupils are proud of their school and they feel safe and happy. They said that their school is 'like a family' where everyone is welcome".

"Pupils' behaviour and conduct are exemplary. They are highly respectful of staff and of one another. Pupils value learning".

"Pupils, respond well to the high expectations that the school has for their achievement....pupils achieve well across the curriculum"

"The school places a strong emphasis on promoting pupils' wider personal development".

"Members of the local governing body are well supported by the Trust. Together, the local governing body and the trustees offer appropriate support and challenge to the school".

It is likely that in the next twelve months, both Christleton and Queens Park High, will be visited by the inspectorate, and I know that they are ready for the experience!

The Learning Trust has overall responsibility for the performance and outcomes of all the schools in the Trust and this year we have introduced a new, collaborative, quality assurance framework. As part of the process, Headteacher's, together with their senior leadership teams, have completed their internal quality assurance processes for the year, reporting outcomes to their Local Governing Boards and to the Trustees. The quality assurance process has many aspects – lesson observations, learning walks, book looks, staff appraisal, student and parent questionnaires and visits by Local Authority School Improvement Partners, as well as officers of the Trust, including our Trust Improvement Director, Lyndsay Watterson and myself. All our schools have updated their Self-Evaluation Forms and their 2023-24 Annual Development Plans, which will dovetail with the Trust's Plan...which can be viewed on our website: [Introduction to The Learning Trust in Chester \(tltrust.co.uk\)](https://tltrust.co.uk). Self-improvement and the desire to collaborate to share best practice is key to the Trusts plans to ensure that all our schools deliver the best provision they can for the children and young people in our care.

It's been a busy time for our site teams as well! I know a lot of parents were concerned about the possibility of RAAC being present in our schools and I am pleased that we were able to give assurances that we are RAAC free. Other work completed across the Trust this term include:

- Phase 4 roofing work completed at QPHS – which means that we have refurbished nearly the entire roof over the last four years.
- New student reception at QPHS, with associate office space
- New classroom built at CIS
- Further improvements to the cladding at CHS have been made – but clearly more needs to be done and we will be seeking additional funding to complete the work.
- Work to improve the safeguarding and security of the Belgrave site will shortly commence, with new fencing and door access.
- Full Planning permission for the extension of CHS was granted in November – with the appointment of contractors, we hope that work will start in January.
- Tenders are also out for a new catering contract for all Trust schools will shortly be issued.

The Trust have also been developing our plans to update the IT infrastructure in all our schools. I can now report that that refurbishment will shortly get underway, with new servers, a new, Trust wide, wi-fi network and a gradual planned migration of many of our software systems to cloud based storage. We hope that this upgrade will enhance connectivity and hence our ability for more collaboration in our IT systems as well as provide students with faster access to learning systems.

As part of this upgrade, we will also be centralising the IT teams across our schools, under a new executive Trust Director of IT leading our school IT staff as a single Trust team.

We hope that these two developments will allow us to have more joined up thinking across the Trust leading to further synergies and a more focused approach to the IT issues facing all schools, such as the planned demise of Windows 10 in 2025, the ever growing cyber security threat, and our plans for utilising the power of IT systems in our teaching and learning approach.

The Trust remains a vibrant entity – we have good people in post and staff turnover is stable, student numbers are up and student outcomes, both academic and in the wider context, are strong and improving – all the key ingredients we need to ensure we can face whatever challenges lie ahead.

On behalf of Trustees, and the Trust central support team, we wish you all a happy Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year.

Best wishes



Darran Jones
CEO

DIARY DATES

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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
Fri 8 th	Choir Sing the Christmas Story at Chester Cathedral
Sat 9 th	Cross Country for KS2 Ellesmere Port Sports Village 10.00am
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
Thurs 14 th	Reception Christmas party
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
Wed 12 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)