

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Belgrave,



I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break – we were very fortunate to have some sunny weather in February so hope you managed to make the most of it. The mornings are getting a bit lighter and the daffodils, crocuses and tulips are blooming in our grounds so Spring does certainly look like it's here! We are looking forward to a half term of exciting learning including trips and preparations for residential visits after Easter.

Please join us at our PTA Bingo event at the end of this half term (more information below).

CHANGES TO READING AT BELGRAVE



Reading influences every aspect of our daily lives. With our reading confidence determined at an early age, effectively teaching this key skill to EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) children can significantly impact their future.

It is universally recognised that children who read for enjoyment develop a rich vocabulary and have increased general knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Being a competent reader also supports children in accessing learning across the whole curriculum. Reading for pleasure can promote better health and wellbeing, aids in building social connections and relationships with others and is associated with a range of factors that help increase the chances of social mobility. Research shows that regularly reading to children plays a crucial part in their learning to read. Reading quality stories to children not only introduces them to a wide range of vocabulary but supports their communication and language skills. The natural conversations that arise when sharing books also develop children's understanding and comprehension skills and can foster a love of reading later in life. Phonics and reading are significantly important to embed a culture where books, vocabulary and reading take top priority. In Reception and Key Stage One short, focused, daily phonics sessions are crucial in developing these reading skills, but supporting children to become independent readers who love reading is undoubtedly our goal.

Children love to listen to stories multiple times. Once the children are familiar with a story, subsequent readings can allow time to explore vocabulary, join in with the story and develop comprehension. After sharing the story, children will have access to the book so they can read, retell and discuss the story with more independence.

We use the **Monster Phonics** programme to teach reading and phonics in our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. Sessions take place daily and are taught by staff trained specifically in the programme. We also use the **Monster Phonics Intervention** catch-up programme for children who have gaps in their phonic knowledge.

Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will bring home at a corresponding **Monster Phonics** book each week which are closely matched to their current phonic knowledge and as such should be fully decodable. The children will have been reading the book during the week in school to aid fluency alongside embedding phonic knowledge. Children will be reading in a group each day for 15-20 minutes. The **Monster Phonics** book they have been reading will be sent home on Friday to read and enjoy over the weekend. These will need to be returned on a Monday for other children to use.

The **Monster Phonics** books will be supplemented with a book from our reading for pleasure range, this is for the children to share with an adult or older sibling. This book will probably not be fully decodable for your child yet so the expectation is not for your child to read this book completely independently. We believe strongly that children will develop a love of reading through experiencing success when reading at home and having quality story time with a wide range of books.



In response to recent research concerning the most effective way to promote reading fluency and enjoyment, instead of small group guided reading sessions in KS2, we will have up to three whole class reading sessions each week, using extracts and articles. There will a task related to this for the children to complete at home. Some children may still read in small groups in addition to the whole class sessions.

- Reading for pleasure – we will have designated sessions during the week when children will be encouraged to ‘Read for Pleasure’. They will be able to choose any of the books we have here in school. These will not be banded and children will be guided to make appropriate choices. They may also bring in books from home to read in these sessions and they will be encouraged to take books home to read also.
- As ever, we will continue to read class books to the children to promote engagement with whole texts and reading enjoyment.

The best way to help your child achieve well in reading, and indeed across the curriculum, is to hear them read and share and discuss a variety of reading materials as often as you can. We urge you to *strive for five* times a week. This is to develop and embed those good reading habits that will help them to be successful in school and beyond. Throughout school, high quality books and other reading resources in the classrooms, along with special events help to inspire and motivate children to read.

When children are given regular opportunities to share their stories with adults at school and home, their language, communication and comprehension skills can naturally develop and bolster their phonics learning.

NETBALL TEAM MAKE IT TO COUNTY FINALS



Belgrave Netball Team took part in a tournament recently at Blacon High School competing against 15 other schools. They won two games and drew one taking them into the semi finals where they won again. This took them into the finals where they won comfortably 5-1 . This means they are now in the county finals.

They were an absolute pleasure to take and played so well as a team, encouraging each other throughout. Well done Team Belgrave! ☺

VISIT TO VICTORIA CHIP SHOP

Before half term, some pupils went to Victoria Chip Shop in Saltney to get some ideas for the chip shop role play area in our Honeypot. They looked at the menus, watched the staff cook the food and saw how they wrapped up the food.



The staff were extremely hospitable and the children learnt a lot from their visit!



RESIDENTIALS

We feel very strongly about providing residential trips for all of our Key Stage Two children.

We currently offer:

Year 3: Delamere for 1 night

Year 4: Tattenhall for 1 night

Year 5: Conway Centre for 2 nights

Year 6: London for 2 nights

Our residential programme ensures that children get a wide variety of opportunities and a fantastic team building opportunity away from home. We endeavour to keep costs to a minimum each year and only increase our prices in line with external providers's prices. We do not make a profit from residential visits or trips. All staff who attend residential visits do it voluntarily.

I personally thank all of the staff for giving up their own time to attend overnight visits with our pupils and for their commitment to our young people and our community which is always above and beyond.

ECO TEAM



Mrs Amner recently organised an Eco Team site visit walk around the school grounds to see what the children thought needed improving from an environmental perspective.

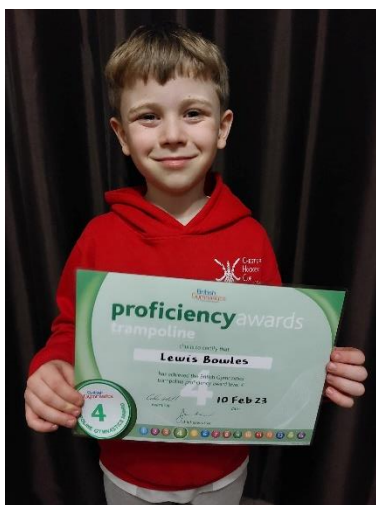
Lots to do! 😊



PUPIL LEARNING REVIEWS

We are pleased to be able to invite you back into school for face to face Pupil Learning Review Meetings on Tuesday 28th March and Wednesday 29th March. This will give you an opportunity to look at your child's books with them before the Teacher-Pupil-Parent meeting afterwards. A letter with more information will follow shortly and all appointments need to be made via School Spider.

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL



Freddie in Year 5 has continued to flourish with his trampolining and has been chosen for his first England squad training camp for DMT (double mini trampoline) age 9-10. This is such a fabulous achievement and we look forward to seeing Freddie in his England strip and hearing how he gets on! 😊

Lewis in Year 4 has been very busy with his achievements outside school last month. Having recently taken up trampolining he already has a badge and certificate!

Lewis has been rehearsing for Chester Gangshow since November and last week was part of 6 fantastic performances at King's School theatre with large audiences most nights. It's lovely to hear how Lewis has enjoyed the singing, remembering his lines and being part of a wonderful event.



Well done to Hamish in Year 4 who was also part of the Chester Gangshow performances alongside Lewis. 😊

We were delighted to hear that Leon in Year 5, Wala in Year 3 and Bruno in Year 1 all received diplomas for their amazing progress at skiing on the slopes last week. Well done to all of you – a tricky sport to master! ☺



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD



Welcome back everyone.

Last year we decided to merge our Curriculum & Ethos and Operational sub-committees back into the full Governing Board, and we now split our meetings across each half-term to cover both.

For our first meeting this term we reviewed and discussed the school finances, the impressive progress made on the adoption of the Monster Phonics framework, as well as wider developments in The Learning Trust. Also of note this month was a Quality of Education meeting with other headteachers of schools in the trust, together with the Board of Trustees, to align best practices and look for synergies.

Our next meeting this term is mid-March.

Once again feel free to contact us via the school office if you are interested

about the role of governor.
Belgrave Governing Board

PTA

PTA Springo Bingo is on **Thursday 30th March 5.00pm – 6.30pm.**
Please join us for this fun event and have a chance to win some Easter prizes!



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.

Juliette Benton
Headteacher



DIARY DATES

DIARY DATES	
March	
Wed 1 st	Parent event in school hall – Your child's journey in Maths at Belgrave 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Thurs 2 nd	World Book Day (more information to follow)
Sat 18 th	Choir to Winsford Academy – North West Singing event TBC
Mon 20 th	Year 6 Dental Survey
Tues 21 st	Year 4 Residential Meeting 4.30pm in Year 4 classroom
Tues 28 th	Pupil Learning Reviews 1.10pm – 5.00pm
Wed 29 th	Pupil Learning Reviews 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Thurs 30 th	Celebration of Music at 2.15pm
Thurs 30 th	PTA Springo Bingo 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Fri 31 st	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)
April	
Mon 17 th	Pupils return to school
Fri 21 st	Challenge Day – Population theme
Mon 24 th	Year 3 Residential Meeting 4.30pm in Year 3 classroom
Tues 25 th	Year 5 Residential Meeting 4.30pm in Year 5 classroom
Wed 26 th	Year 4 residential visit to Tattenhall (1 night)
Thurs 27 th	Year 4 return from residential
May	
Mon 1 st	Bank Holiday – no school
Tue 2 nd	Return to School
Mon 8 th	Additional Bank Holiday His Majesty's Coronation – no school
Mon 22 nd	Year 3 residential visit to Delamere (1 night)
Mon 22 nd	Year 5 residential visit to Conway Centre (2 nights)
Tues 23 rd	Year 3 return from residential
Wed 24 th	Year 5 return from residential
Fri 26 th	Last Day of Half Term
June	
Mon 5 th	Inset Day
Tue 6 th	Pupils return to school
Tue 6 th – Thurs 8 th	Year 5 pupils – Let's Walk
Thurs 8 th	Tempest Class Photographs
Mon 12 th	Year 6 residential to London (2 nights)
Wed 14 th	Year 6 return from residential
W/b 19 th	Interfaith Week
July	
Fri 21 st	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)

