

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Belgrave,



I do hope that you all enjoyed some rest and family time over the festive period. Wishing you a happy and healthy new year from all of us here at Belgrave!

It was lovely to welcome pupils back to school today, refreshed and re-energised ready for new learning this term. Pupils were quickly back into routines and have already started new topics.

We discussed the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in assembly for any children interested in taking part in the world's largest wildlife survey. More information can be found [here](#)



FESTIVE PERFORMANCES

Reception and KS1 performed their nativity with enthusiasm. KS2 sang a wide range of songs alongside telling the story of The Grinch. Thank you to all of the families that attended to share the festivities. Our Belgrave Choir were disappointed that



the Westminster Park light switch on was cancelled but instead got a visit from the Lord Mayor so they could perform their songs. She was very impressed and gave them lovely feedback. We are looking forward to welcoming the Lord Mayor back into school again this month to talk with Year 3.

POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS



Congratulations to our winners of the 'People who can help us' poster competition set by our Mental Health Champions.

There were a high number of amazing entries and it was a really difficult decision.

KS1 winners - Aurelia and Nehir

KS2 winners - Gabriela and Zainab.

A huge thank you to all the children who entered. Mrs Halewood and the champions will be displaying the posters around school.

ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATING TO FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

Parents have a [legal duty](#) to make sure that their child aged five to 16 attends school.

The previous version of the DfE's 'Working together to improve school attendance' guidance was non-statutory, which means schools were expected to follow it though there was no legal duty to do so. The new



version, which came into effect from 19 August 2024, is statutory and schools are required to follow it.

The Education Regulations 2013 came into force on 1 September 2013 and made it clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless 'exceptional circumstances' prevail. Head Teachers are only empowered to approve a leave of absence when it is requested in advance by the parent or carer with whom the child resides and when circumstances of the requested leave are 'exceptional'. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance during term time.

We are now required that should you still choose to take a leave of absence with your child, the Local Authority will be informed as this will constitute an unauthorised absence. A Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) will then be issued in accordance with section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The law stipulates that the current penalties payable by parents are £160 if paid within 28 days reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days **per parent/carer per child**.

You should be aware that the National Framework for Penalty Notices introduced a new national limit of 2 penalty notices that can now be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period. If a second Fixed Penalty Notice is issued to the same parent for the same child, within three years of a first Fixed Penalty Notice, the second Fixed Penalty Notice is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. If an unauthorised leave of absence is taken for a third time (or subsequent times) within 3 years of a first FPN being issued, another tool will need to be considered such as prosecution or other attendance legal interventions.

If a fixed penalty notice is issued to you and is not paid, this could lead to you being prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court. Please see Cheshire West and Chester Council's code of conduct that can be found on the council's webpage:

[Cheshire West School Attendance](#)

Attendance matters!

**Don't underestimate the importance of 100 percent attendance.
Even one day missed can have an effect on learning:**

- 98 % attendance means **four** school days missed
- 95 % attendance means **10** school days missed
- 90 % attendance means **19** school days missed
- 80 % attendance means **38** school days missed

Lateness

- Good attendance doesn't just involve being present in school – it also involves punctuality. You also have a responsibility to ensure that your child arrives to school on time.
- All pupils are expected to be in their classrooms by 8.50am/8.55am. If pupils are not in their classrooms by this time, they receive a late mark – this is an **unauthorised absence**.
- Five minutes late each day means **three school days** missed

Any requests for term time absence (paper forms in the office or download from school website) will be responded to with a formal letter of notification of the above. We will continue to issue letters at the end of each term for attendance and punctuality which is causing concern, and this is reported and monitored to our Cheshire West School Welfare Officer.

Please ensure your child arrives on time for school every day. Doors close at 8.50am for KS2 and 8.55am for Reception and KS1. All absences must be reported to the school office by 9.15am.

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL



Well done to Daisy in Year 3 who was awarded 'Player of the Week' at football last month – fantastic news! ☆

Please continue to let us know of any achievements made outside school so that we can share them in our newsletters each month.

Please send them by email to admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk

INCREASES TO WRAP AROUND CARE PRICES

We will be increasing our Happy Hive wrap around costs with effect from 23rd April 2025 in order to continue to provide the service. The new prices will be as follows:

Happy Hive session	Cost with effect from the Summer term
Morning session 8.00am – 8.45am	£3.70
Morning session 8.30am – 8.45am	£1.60
After school session until final pick up time of 4.15pm	£5.25
After school session until final pick up time of 5.30pm	£11.05
After school session 4.15pm until final pick up time of 5.30pm (following an extra curricular club in school)	£5.80
Additional costs incurred for late pick up at 4.20pm and 5.35pm respectively	£5.25 per 15 minutes

We understand that price increases are never welcome news, and we want to assure you that this decision has been made after careful consideration. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL FROM 17TH - 21ST JANUARY

We have some external computer migration work planned in school from 17th – 21st January 2025. During the migration, there will be an expected period of time where school will not be able to access or send emails through our Belgrave accounts:

- Friday 17th January
- Monday 20th January
- Tuesday 21st January

This means that we will not be able to access any emails sent to admin@belgrave.cheshire.sch.uk during this time.

If we need to contact you we will do so via our ParentMail or our phone system.

Parents will not be able to send emails to school during the migration but you can phone the school office. Please leave a message where necessary and we will contact you as soon as possible. You can still use the Parentmail app for Happy Hive bookings. As always, please do not use Dojo for communicating with school.

Thank you for your patience during these three days whilst our system is upgraded.



PTA

The PTA raised a magnificent £2758.59 at the Christmas Fair. This is a significant amount of money which will go towards our new school library. We have also booked 'Drumz Aloud' workshop for the Spring term for all pupils. This was a hugely popular day last time we took part.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the fair, helped out during the evening and tidied up at the end! It was a really bustling and enjoyable festive event!

Check out the diary dates below for upcoming PTA events this term including Movie Night, Break the Rules Day and Springo Bingo!



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Happy new year 2025! We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas.

We were delighted to be involved in the joint Trust inset day on Monday where over 350 staff, governors and trustees joined together in a collaborative day of workshops, inspiring key speakers and networking meetings. All four schools' staff attended for this conference with clear messages how child centred The Learning Trust is across all schools.

We are meeting at the start of February following visits to school this month. We'll also be in touch soon to ask for parents and carers to join our board as parent governors.

Thank you,

Belgrave Governing Board

PARKING REMINDER

We have been made aware by a neighbour that cars are being parked on the pavement close to school. Please can I remind you that if you are driving to school, you should be parking considerably and not on the zig zag lines; up on the pavement or close to a corner. Our local PCSO has been informed and will be making regular checks. We want a safe community for everyone living and visiting it.

AND FINALLY.....

- An email and Dojo were sent out before Christmas on 18th December 2024 and a further Dojo reminder on 6th January 2025 regarding extra curricular clubs. Apart from Digital Wizards, all clubs will start next week: week beginning 13th January. **Please await further information on new timetables which will be sent out this week.**
- School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. No holidays during term time will be authorised. Please report all pupil absences to the **school office** by email or phone. The school office will follow up any absences not reported by 9.15am.

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

Juliette Benton
Headteacher



DIARY DATES

Confirmed dates are listed below. Please note that some dates may be subject to change.

January 2025	
Mon 6 th	Inset Day (pupils not in school)
Tues 7 th	Pupils return to school
Mon 13 th	Year 5 swimming begins
W/b 20 th	Year 2 visit to Lache Library
Thurs 23 rd	Year 6 trip to Safety Central
Fri 24 th	Year 5 workshop at QPHS
Wed 29 th	Year 3 trip to Liverpool World Museum
February	
Wed 5 th	Reception and KS1 Bedtime Story session 4.15pm – 5.15pm
Tues 11 th	Year 5 watch performance at QPHS
Wed 12 th	PTA Movie night
Fri 14 th	Break The Rules Day
Fri 14 th	Last Day of Half Term
Mon 24 th	Pupils return to school
March	
Tues 11 th	Year 5 trip to Xplore Learning
W/b 17 th	Eco Team local visit
Tues 25 th	Pupil Learning Reviews 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Wed 26 th	Pupil Learning Reviews 1.00pm – 5.00pm
Thurs 27 th	Musical celebration for parents 2.15pm
April	
Thurs 3 rd	PTA Springo Bingo
Fri 4 th	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)
Wed 23 rd	Pupils return to school
Summer term	Year 2 trip to Jodrell Bank - date TBC when bookings become available
Mon 28 th	Year 4 trip to Tattenhall
Wed 30 th	Year 3 trip to Ness Gardens
May	
Mon 5 th	Bank Holiday – no school
Mon 12 th – 15 th	Year 6 KS2 SATs
Wed 21 st	Year 5 residential visit to Conway Centre (2 nights)
Fri 23 rd	Year 5 return from residential
Fri 23 rd	Last Day of Half Term
June	
Mon 2 nd	Inset Day (pupils not in school)
Tue 3 rd	Pupils return to school
Thurs 5 th	Class photographs
Mon 9 th	KS2 Sports Day 1.30pm
Tues 10 th	Reception trip to Imagine That!
Mon 16 th	Rec / KS1 Sports Day 1.30pm
Tues 17 th	Reserve KS2 Sports Day
Thurs 19 th	Reserve Rec / KS1 Sports Day
Thurs 19 th	PTA Summer Social 5-7pm
Fri 20 th	Year 1 trip to Prestatyn beach
Fri 27 th	PTA Break the Rules Day

July	
Wed 9 th	Year 6 residential to London (2 nights)
Thurs 10 th	Wider Opps music performance for Year 4 parents 2.30pm
Fri 11 th	Year 6 return from residential
Mon 14 th	End of year reports sent out
Tues 22 nd	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 2pm (No Happy Hive after school club)