



Bellingham Middle

Newsletter ~ October 2016

Welcome back to the Autumn term

It has been lovely to see our pupils back in school this half term and to welcome all our new starters in school. We are now back in the swing of things and pupils are getting to grips with the challenges of a new year.

KS2

Our new year 5s are settling well into a new school and are a pleasure to have around the place! It's great to see our year 6s looking so much more grown up and mature. Year 6 have come up with some very thoughtful global targets for themselves to meet this year and we are impressed with their desire to help others less fortunate than themselves.

KS3

We have made change to our key stage 3 (years 7 and 8) curriculum this year. We now have a slot for enrichment projects where our pupils are able to make a choice about what project they work on. This will rotate each term. (with different projects each time).

The three projects currently running are:

Healthy Living (involving resilience and learning new sports in addition to those normally offered in school).

Plastics and the Environment—a science based project looking at the different kinds of plastic, design technology and ways to recycle and re-use plastic materials as well as making their own 'bio-plastic'.

Performing Arts—drama. This group are putting on Rockefeller before the end of term. We have invited all our feeder first school pupils to come and watch. This project should allow our pupils to creatively express themselves as well as build confidence and public speaking and acting skills.

Fundraising

Thank you to the parents who were able to come to our first meeting of our BMS Parents Fundraising Group and to the parents who have been in touch to offer their support. We are planning a Beetle Drive in the second half of this term to raise money for the school fund.

We have also had discussions at Pupil Forum and we have agreed that rather than having a different charity for each house we will have one charity per term which all pupils will raise money for. We are also going to split money raised for charity with the School Fund so that our fundraising will also directly benefit our children and their education. The Pupil Forum also requested that we still intend to do the occasional fundraising day for Children in Need.

The charity selected for this term by the pupils is WaterAid.



E-safety advice

Pupil phones are a wonderful thing when you need to be in touch with them or to know that they can call you in an emergency. However, please be aware of e-safety implications of your children having access to the internet using mobile data.

Do you know what your child is looking at online using their phone? Have you had a conversation with them about being safe online?

Please get in touch if you require any advice or look at the online safety section of our website.



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Email: bernie.thompson@northumberland.gov.uk ~ please get in touch!

Sporting Update

New sports clubs have started with high attendance at the after school football training. We also have a table tennis club running at lunchtime.

Our girls have recently taken part in the **#wecanplay** football festival at Wallsend Boys Club. Our girls were just some of the 200 girls participating from the North East area. It was Wallsend Boys Club's first attempt at running this festival so it was great to be part of such a fantastic event and hopefully there will be more in the future.

The idea of the event was to increase girls participation in football in line with girls football week, with the event being based upon fun and enjoyment rather than being results focused.



Communication

As well as regular letters and newsletters you can also find out about what is happening in school by looking on our website. Lots of you have now signed up for ParentMail and Mr Charlton is trialling 'Class Dojo' with his classes. Our aim is to keep you well informed about events in school.

www.bellinghammiddle.northumberland.sch.uk

Dates for your diary

Thurs 20th Oct : year 5 Arts Award workshop with visiting artist Rachael Ramirez.

Fri 21st Oct: Teacher training day, no pupils in school

24th Oct—28th Oct: Half term holiday

Mon 31st Oct: Back to school

Thurs 3rd Nov: School disco 6—8pm

Fri 4th Nov: M&M theatre productions visiting school

Fri 11th Nov: Remembrance Day assembly with Rector Susan

Mon 14th Nov: Pastoral parents evening 3.50—7pm

Fri 2nd Dec: Beetle Drive—all welcome 7pm—8.30pm

Wed 7th Dec: Glitterfest—Christmas crafts afternoon with pupils from our feeder first schools.

Thurs 8th Dec: Christmas performance evening

Thurs 15th Dec: Christmas service at church

Fri 16th Dec: Christmas assembly at 10.30am—parents / carers & family welcome. This is also the last day of term before the holidays.

Attendance

So far this year our overall attendance is at 96.55%. We hope to keep our attendance above national average and to work towards to improving it further. Girls are currently doing slightly better than boys with 96.81% attendance versus 96.35%.

Our best class is year 5 on 97.87% followed by 8A on 96.74%, 8R on 96.37%, year 7 on 95.91% and year 6 on 95.85% - come on year 6 maybe you need to ask year 5 how it's done?!

I would like to remind you that if your child is absent then you will need to ring us to let us know why as soon as possible that morning. As you may already know, we are unable to authorise holidays taken during the school term.

Any pupil falling below 90% is now classed officially as being 'persistently absent' so please contact us if you need support on this.

Please remember...



As the weather gets worse in the autumn and winter months please make sure your child has appropriate footwear and coat. It is fine for children to wear wellies or waterproof shoes on their journey to and from school and change into school shoes on arrival.

Please remember that, as always, we expect our pupils to come to school with the correct equipment, uniform, smiles on their faces and keen to learn!

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