



“Inspiring Learning”

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

A warm welcome back to all our pupils and their families for the spring term at Bellingham Middle. Our two new pupils, Seb (Y7) and Lily (Y5) are settling in well, and everyone has been made an excellent start back after the holidays.

Our enrichment curriculum offer continues this term, with new exciting options for your children in First Aid, Floating Garden Design (STEM), unusual sports and children's yoga/meditation. Years 5 and 6 are busy preparing to sing at the North East KS2 Choir of the Year at Durham Cathedral, with the support of local pianist Julia Kennard who teaches at the Chorister School next door. We are lucky to have this outreach project at no cost and pass our sincere thanks to her for her time and beautiful live accompaniment for the children to experience. Both Newcastle and Northumbria Universities will be visiting school over the next few weeks to work with all year groups, including an English Escape Room experience for younger pupils! We have also had notice yesterday that our busary application to cover the cost of attending Univenture in Newcastle was successful, so some of our older pupils will be visiting the university campus to broaden their horizons about future study options.

Your child may have shared with you that our free toast initiative has started this term. Although we already offer a free breakfast club to all pupils, we are aware that some pupils do not arrive early enough because of travelling long distances to be able to attend. We have therefore decided to also offer one slice of free toast at breaktime for any pupil. Those who want a second slice would still need to pay 20p. Other updates from the canteen include a request that any advance payments of lunch money for the week comes in on **Mondays in a named envelope, which your child should post in the school mail box.** Pay per day children should continue to do so, taking their money directly to the till each lunchtime as normal.

Finally, although we have not had any severe winter weather, in the event of school closures, parents can find out whether school is open or not by ringing Message Line: **0844 445 7463**, charged at a local rate, or listening to BBC Radio Newcastle, or looking at the school or county websites (www.northumberland.gov.uk/alerts).

Kind regards,
Helen Samuels,
Acting Headteacher

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO TOGETHER THIS WEEKEND?

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



19th & 20th January at the Discovery Museum, Newcastle: (Free) Celebrate 250 years of circus in Great Britain through rare memorabilia and original props at this new exhibition. Delve into the drama of the big top and explore the incredible stories behind the spectacle. Suitable for all the family.



19th & 20th January at Bolam Lake, near Belsay: (FREE) Great exercise for everyone and accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs, Bolam Lake Country Park is situated in the heart of the beautiful Northumberland countryside surrounded by historic landscapes and dramatic views. Take a wintry walk around the lake or explore the woodland. Café, toilets and visitors' centre available.



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Attendance this week – 97.4%



Thank you! We really appreciate all your efforts in getting to school on time, ready to start our day promptly.



Did you know?

An attendance rate of 95% is generally considered good; this allows for children to miss 9.5 days across the year.

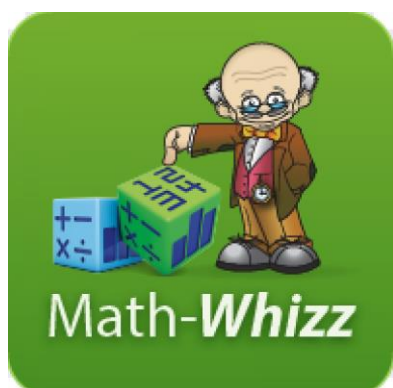
SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

WELL DONE TO OUR HOUSE POINT HEROES OF THE WEEK!

| KESTREL (178) | MERLIN (192) | OSPREY (172) | PEREGRINE (125) |
|---|---|--|--|
| Daniel (Y5) Elena (Y6) Lucy (Y7) Alex (Y8) | Bobby (Y5) Arthur (Y6) Archie (Y7) Olivia (Y8) | Ebony (Y5) Aidan (Y6) Tayah (Y7) Samantha + Philip (Y8) | Sam C (Y5) Emily (Y6) Charlie & Imogen (Y7) Imogen (Y8) |



Reading Champion Report: Our Y5 pupils are now into their second term at BMS, where they visit the Think Tank to immerse themselves in the world of books with Mrs Batey, our school reading champion. This week, Philip, Lily E, Lily B and Grace impressed with their engagement, excellent expression and improved confidence and fluency reading aloud. They are also becoming fabulous text detectives. Great work, Y5 and keep reading every day please!



Maths Whizz KS2 Champions:

Y5: Sam C, Harry, Philip, Shane and James

Y6: Callum, Nina, Angus, Lillie & Lucy C



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Believe in me

Incredible things happen when you believe in children.



PSHCE: Our Y6 pupils shone this week in their charity workshop with Barnardos as they learned more about healthy relationships. Tracy, the course leader, was particularly pleased with the **respect** and **reasoning** shown by the children during debate and problem solving tasks, saying they were ‘a joy to work with’. You may find that your child shows you a special badge, awarded to each pupil who was deemed to have understood well enough to be a peer support to others in need. Well done everyone in Y6!



DANCE: We have been delighted to welcome back Mollie this week to lead KS2 pupils in specialist dance sessions, where they experience various genres of dance from contemporary to ballet, learning new dance movements and terms along the way. Pupils are currently working hard to master a challenging dance routine to a song by George Ezra, actively listening and following instruction to achieve an impressive level of physical coordination and expressive movement.

Children’s Dream Restaurant Television Opportunity:



Lion Television Company (responsible for *Horrible Histories* and *Homes under the Hammer*) has been in touch with our school to invite applications from any interested children for a new television series, which will see teams of children working together to create a themed pop-up restaurant of their design, including menu.

Your child would need to get together with other children to form a team of six; three would cook up their delicious menu whilst three would be responsible for the dining service. Any pupils wishing to apply should see Mrs Samuels for an application pack. **Parental consent must be given.** All instructions are included in the application pack, should your child wish to apply.





MEMOS AND REMINDERS

Careers Fair: Please let Mrs Samuels know if you – or anybody you know - would be willing to talk to small groups of pupils about your job. We are aiming to develop a week of opportunities for children to broaden their horizons and aspirations. To do this, we need the support of our local and wider community, beginning with the talent pool on our doorsteps – you! Thank you to those who have already offered so far...



Bike Helmets: Your child **must** wear a bike helmet as he or she cycles to or from our school. We will let you know if we notice your child without a helmet and have to insist that he or she does not ride until one is worn. Please remind your child to stay safe on our roads by wearing a helmet.

Contacting school if your child is ill: Could all parents please inform us by 9.15 am if your child is not able to attend school due to illness. You can leave a message on the answerphone if the line is busy or email: middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk

Dinner Money: Please pay on the day or weekly from September. It is not possible to put credit on a tab. Whilst we would never see a child go hungry, we cannot afford to subsidise your child's meal. If you require free school meals for your child, then please apply to Northumberland County Council. Call: 01670 623592 or apply online, using the link below. Thank you for your support.

https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free_School_Meals

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Wed 16 th Jan | Y6 Dr Barnardo's Outreach |
| Mon 21 st Jan | KS3 Professional Singer/Songwriter Workshop |
| Mon 28 th Jan | Show Racism the Red Card – Fitness (Bring PE kit) |
| Fri 1 st Feb | Y5 Campus Explorers: Newcastle University Outreach |
| Fri 1 st Feb | Optional Prayer Space – Candlemas |
| Wed 6 th Feb | KS2 North East Choir of the Year Competition – Durham Cathedral: <u>advance warning that 8 a.m. early arrival at school is needed – letter to follow.</u> |
| Thurs 7 th Feb | Y5 Harry Potter Night |
| Fri 8 th Feb | KS2 + Y8 Northumbria University Outreach |
| Thurs 14 th Feb | Valentine's Disco 6.00pm-7.30pm |
| Mon 18 th -Fri 22nd Feb | Half-term week |
| Tues 26 th Feb | KS3 Univenture at Newcastle University |



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