

Belmont Primary School Newsletter

September 2018

Welcome to a new school year. On the first school day of each month our school newsletter will be sent home. (one day early for this month only!) It will contain important information about the month ahead and also future key dates. I hope you find this a useful point of reference. Please do contact me if you have any queries or in my absence speak to Mrs J Campbell, our Vice Principal.

Information Sessions – P1, 2 and 3

Each school year provides different challenges and routines for your child. Every September we hold short information sessions for parents to give an overview of the school year, the work that will be covered, show photos of the children at work and play, highlight the experiences for that year group and offer advice on how to help your child at home. On the Primary 1 evening there will be a demonstration on how to help your child with early reading. On Primary 2 and 3 evenings there will be a demonstration of our linguistic phonics procedures and our P3 evening will also give details of our new reciprocal reading programme. There will be a chance to have a cup of tea with the staff and I do hope to see many of you there. Dates are:

P 1 night: Thursday 13th September at 7.30pm

P 2 night: Thursday 20th September at 7.30pm

P 3 night: Thursday 27th September at 7.30pm

Thank you!

Thank you to last year's PTA and all the parents who supported the various events and activities. Over £12,000 was raised during the school year, which is absolutely fantastic. This is being used to pay for items for an exciting new topic in each year group, items to encourage investigative work in maths and science, to update ICT equipment and to update Maths provision within the school. Due to budget constraints a significant portion will also be used to buy essential resources for our classrooms this year – books and stationery. We couldn't purchase any of these resources without your continued support!

P1 School Day Time Change

Just a reminder that from Monday 10th September all Primary 1 pupils will be in school from 9.00am until 12 noon. From Monday 24th September they will stay for the whole P1 day until 2.15pm.

After School Clubs – P2 and P3

We offer after school clubs in our school through various organisations for Primary 2 and Primary 3 pupils. The current clubs are:

- After school art club on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, from 2.30 -3.30pm
- After school tennis on Tuesday afternoons, with Sumeet Kapur, from 2.30 – 3.30pm
- After school football on Wednesday afternoons, from 2.30- 3.30pm
- Children's Music Academy on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30-3.30pm
- After school tennis on Thursday afternoons, with Stephen Garvin, from 2.30 – 3.30pm

Details of prices and booking information will be sent home on Monday. Spaces are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis. If you are interested, please contact the school office as soon as possible. If your child is not allocated a place, he/she will be on a waiting list for the next sessions of that club.

Interview Dates

Interviews with the class teacher for parents of all pupils will take place as follows:

P1 interviews – week beginning 17th September

P2/3 interviews – week beginning 1st October

Grids of available appointments will be put up in class cloakrooms two weeks prior to appointment dates. Please remember that these appointments are only ten minutes each (15 minutes for Primary 1) and I would ask parents to keep to these times so that other parents are not inconvenienced. More detailed interviews will take place later in the year.

Uniform Information

George from Gull Leisurewear has asked me to pass on his apologies, as he has had delivery delays from his wholesale supplier. He hopes to have outstanding items sent home by the middle of next week. Our uniform shop will be closing at the end of September, due to George's retirement ... details to follow of new suppliers.

PTA

This year we have lost some of our PTA members from our group as their children have moved on to Strandtown, so we would love to see lots of new faces! We usually meet about every 4- 6 weeks for about 1 hour and meetings are very informal and good fun, with all help greatly appreciated. Our first PTA meeting will be on Tuesday 11th September at 7.30pm in the school. This is a wonderful way to get to know parents and to help out with our fundraising and special events throughout the year. If you can spare an hour, or even 15 minutes to come along and say hello, please put the date in your diary and come along – no invitation necessary! As a registered charity, we hold an AGM each year and elect office bearers. Again, all parents are very welcome to attend. The AGM will take place on Wednesday 26th September at 7.30pm

Opera House Pantomime

Many of you have pre –ordered tickets for the Opera House Pantomime on 7th December and paid a deposit last term. Please remember that full payment for these tickets must be made by 14th September... cheques or cash to Belmont PTA please. Ten tickets are still available for purchase so if you are interested, please contact belmontpta_sec@yahoo.com or speak to Mrs Ferguson at the school office.

Healthy Break Buffets

Each year at school we run a healthy break initiative. Dates this year are:
Primary 1: Friday 28th September
(incorporating our Teddy Bears' Picnic)
Primary 2: Thursday 27th September
Primary 3: Wednesday 26th September.
Details will be sent home later in the month.

Parent Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help in our school library for just half an hour before school ends any Friday afternoon. The children use the library every week but they are too young to put books back in the right place, even though they do try! If you are able to help, even once per half term, please speak to Mrs Ferguson at the school office.

Website Update

Remember to look at our school website at www.belmontprimary.org. There will be lots of new photos to see and updated news items.

Wet Lunchtimes

Each year, we ask parents to provide a colouring or puzzle book which would interest your child for wet lunchtimes. Books provided will be clearly marked by the school with your child's name and can remain in school all year. Colouring pencils and crayons are provided. We hope that even wet lunchtimes will be fun!

School Budget

As you will be aware, school budgets are very tight and we are asking for a voluntary contribution of one Pritt stick and one box of tissues per child. Subsequent items will be purchased by the school but by assisting us in this way, we can make considerable savings. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Trim Trail Safety

Please remember that children should not use the Trim Trail without close adult supervision and it is only suitable for children of primary school age. As meetings take place most days after school, we would also ask that playtime is limited to, at the most, ten minutes. The equipment is inspected daily so please pay close attention to any notices- on wet/ damp days the trim trail should not be used at all.

Charity Day

On one of the last days of term we held a charity fun day to raise much needed funds for the Children's Cancer Unit Charity. A total of £2,167.80 was raised – a fantastic amount. Well done and thank you! If you would like to suggest a local charity for us to support this year, please contact me with details via the school website or at omcilroy509@c2kni.net

Future Dates for your Diary

Details for each of the following to follow....

Tuesday 2nd October – Individual school photographs taken

Monday 8th October – School Pantomime – Peter Pan

Thursday 11th October – P2 Owl visit

Saturday 20th October – Harvest Fair

Saturday 8th December – Parents bus trip to Dublin or Dundrum Shopping Centre

Monday 10th December – P1 Christmas classroom visit (pm)

Tuesday 11th December – P3 Christmas classroom visit (pm)

Thursday 13th December – P2 Nativity and classroom visit(pm)