



Belgrave St Bartholomew's Academy

Monthly Newsletter

September/October 2013

Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE visits Belgrave.

We were honoured to have Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE visit us on Monday. She came to launch the first NQT conference for the Teaching School and spoke to over 60 Newly Qualified teachers from across the region. She opened our new training hub and had a tour of the school. The Sentinel and Signal Radio came to report the event.



Parent Questionnaire 2013

As part of our school self review and evaluation, we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to fill in the attached questionnaire. Your views are important to us and we will try and act upon any suggestions or concerns. I would reiterate that if you do have any concerns, please talk to us so that we can try and address them.

Harvest Assembly

We will be holding our Harvest Assembly in school on Friday 4th October at 9am. This year we will be donating the Harvest goods to the Stoke on Trent Food Bank. Please could you send your Harvest donations into school to help us support this worthy charity.

After School Clubs

A lot of children have now signed up for our After School Club programme. Mr Locker has put a wide and varied programme together and we would like as many children to take part as possible. Some clubs still have spaces so if you would like your child to join a club, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Holidays in Term time

The Department of Education has changed the regulations concerning holidays in term time. Parents should not take children out of school because of the effect that absence has on children's educational progress. With the achievement of our pupils of paramount importance and the regulations clear, we will be extremely unlikely to authorise any holiday leave for pupils. The Local Authority may decide to issue a Fixed Penalty Fine and/or prosecute parents under the Education Act 1996 if a holiday is taken during term time.

Tuesday 1st October

We **will be open** for all pupils on the planned teacher strike day.

Communicating Information to Parents

Twitter

This year we really want to utilise the school Twitter feed as much as possible. We want to encourage as many parents as we can to follow our school on Twitter. Once you follow us, you will be able to get up to date news from the school as well as following Tweets from your child's class. We are planning to have 'Tweet Weeks' where your child's year group will hopefully tweet what they have been doing in class as well as Tweeting pictures of their work. In order to get this information though you will need to follow us. Our Twitter feed is @BelgraveAcademy.

Belgrave School App

We would like to remind parents that our school has its own dedicated App which can be found on the Android stores and the Apple store. On the App you will find information about the school including timetables and dinner money fees, as well as latest news from our school and our Twitter feed should soon be visible on it. Simply search for Belgrave Academy in the relevant App stores.

Text alerts

We are now using new software to contact parents by text message. We believe that it is a quick method for us to share information with you. In order for us to do this, it is important for us to have your current mobile numbers. A separate letter is attached to this newsletter regarding this issue. If you would like the school to contact you via text message, could you please fill in the contact sheet and return it to the school as soon as possible. If you do not provide us with a mobile number, we will be unable to contact you about events or closures via text message.

Information Items:

Walk to School Initiative

We have signed up to work with the Local Authority to encourage children to walk to school. The walk to school project has started and we are pleased that many of the children are walking to school or using their bikes to get into school. They will be taking part in activities to change the school as a whole. Badges will be earned by the children if they manage to walk or bike to school on one of the five school days. The school council are attending local authority run workshops to decide on ideas that can be used in school to find out the actual numbers of children (and staff) who walk to school. They will then try and improve this number and the surrounding environment to provide more of a healthy lifestyle for everyone and reduce the number of cars around school. Hopefully with a whole school push the children and staff of Belgrave St Bartholomew's Academy can make a difference to their community and their lifestyles!

DATES FOR DIARY

Harvest Festival	Friday 4th October at 9 am
Individual and Sibling photos	Tuesday 8 th October. If you would like your child's photo taken with younger siblings who are not yet in school then please arrive at school at 8 am.
School Closes for Half Term	Thursday 24th October
School re-opens for pupils	Monday 4 th November

Parents Evening (school closes at 2 pm) Monday 11th November

Advanced Notice – Year 6 SATS exams week beginning 12th May 2014