

Bellan House Newsletter



01 February 2019

Dear Parents

Teaching and Learning

The viruses that have been affecting the children recently have hit our staff this week across both the senior site and Bellan. We are fortunate to have a skilled staff body who step up to support classes when another teacher is absent. In addition to this, we have a very efficient system that means absent staff can provide information about the lessons they had planned and resources to support them. In this way, we are able to continue to deliver a relevant learning experience for the children that maintains the appropriate progression.

Key messages - 'Unity', Behaviour and 'British Values'

As a result of such staff illness, I gave an extra assembly this week and used the opportunity to reinforce the key message of 'Unity'. Through encouraging the idea that all in Bellan are part of a team, I was able to reinforce our values and remind the children that to be part of the team you have to play by the rules. Remembering that our rules are based around respect and valuing others' rights to being safe, happy and free to learn in school, we discussed the recent staff and pupil feedback on the rise of some boisterous play in the playground. The children expressed their feelings and attitudes to this. They agreed, through a democratic vote, that they supported the school sanctions ladder and, as such, children playing in a 'boisterous' manner, that caused upset to others, would be asked to step to the side and watch until such time as they felt they were able to rejoin the play in the acceptable 'Bellan' way. Naturally, they agreed that any deliberate acts to cause hurt or harm would be dealt with in line with our sanctions ladder. The children were reminded of the importance of passing forward any issues that caused them to be upset in school so that they could be resolved satisfactorily.

With this discussion in mind, may I remind you to encourage your children to always report any issues they have in the playground to a member of staff so that it can be managed appropriately and swiftly in school. It is important that they tell you of any upset however, knowing that you are unable to resolve any issues or disputes that happen within school from home and that staff are unable to resolve disputes if we are not informed of them, this is the only way that we can uphold the 'Unity' of the Bellan team, ensuring a true ethos of a happy, safe and productive environment.

Mrs Leach then took the reins on Wednesday and delivered another effective assembly on British values, outlining the many ways these are upheld in our own 'Bellan' values and reflected in the activities within school. Her preparation for the assembly led to her creating a document for the pupils and staff and is [here](#) for your information.

Valentine Cafe

You will have received an email from the school council this week asking for your support with the Valentine Café on 14 February. We do hope that you are able to help the children, which celebrates the value of friendship, by donating any cakes or biscuits for the event. I have been pleased at the way the councillors have been proactive in getting this event off the ground through their organisational skills and teamwork. And as such we are looking forward to another successful event.

Parent Forum

Parent Forum was offered on Wednesday 30 January with the theme '**Communication**'. One parent responded by email saying that they were happy with the levels of communication and found the weekly newsletter useful. No other parents attended the meeting.

Around School

Collaborative working was high on the agenda this week as many classes partook in a number of group activities. The participation in collaborative working encourages the opportunity to develop key skills for the 21st Century. Skills such as; analytical thinking and innovation; creativity, originality and initiative; leadership and social influence; reasoning, problem-solving and ideation along with active learning and the metacognition of learning strategies that we are seeing time and time again in our lessons.



Following on from last week's news, Reception would like to share the performance of their rhyme 'Moose and Hare'. Did you guess which rhyme they had magpied? Mrs Stuckey has been stretching her technological capabilities and created a QR code that will take you to a video of the children's performance - well done, Mrs Stuckey! Even more congratulations to Reception for an excellent performance! (QR code readers can be downloaded from playstore or appstore)

In Year 1 the children wrote some innovative stories based on the popular fairy tale Little Red Riding Hood. They then took these and shared them with Year 3 who gave great feedback to the children. and were impressed by the hard work and high quality writing that the Year 1 children had produced. The children have also been enjoying their 'bonhomme de neige' topic. They have learnt the words for winter clothing and together helped to dress a real life 'Seb snowman' using the new vocabulary. They finished the topic by making and dressing their own bonhomme de neige puppets. All very apt in this cold snap we are experiencing!

It seem appropriate also that the children have been finding out about the Arctic weather in their geography topic this week! As cold as it is here, Year 2 decided that being in the dark all day and freezing temperatures of -20C in winter was not a good alternative.

Following on from Mrs Leach's 'British Values' assembly, Year 3 have been discussing how these values form part of their happy and safe classroom and school environment. Respect, tolerance and following school rules were the main topic of discussion and the children thought about how they can achieve this. Excellent work, Year 3 - no doubt you will become our ambassadors for this important message.

Year 4 meanwhile, spent Wednesday afternoon without pens or paper. With the challenge being to reduce in the number of ways to record information and ideas, they worked together to develop their questioning and memory skills, playing lots of games based on the classification of living things. (Mrs Lentink suspects that some may bring these games home to try and play again.)

The graphic novels, based on Philip Pullman's 'Clockwork', that the children of Year 6 collaborated on producing this week, turned out to be excellent pieces of work. Not only did they produce visually pleasing, entertaining and engaging books, the children also demonstrated the development of skills in the activity that clearly evidenced the key skills for the 21st Century outlined above. The children are also coming to the end of the 'Living Organisms and their Habitats' topic in science. The topic culminated in a visit to the forest school area where again, working collaboratively, they are using the data they collected to create a field guide to Oswestry School.

Geographic skills have been a key focus this week for Year 5 as they have been finding out about the different biomes in the Grand Canyon. They researched the birds, insects, plants and amphibians that live there and their interest in the project has been so enthusiastic that Miss Williams had to be restrained from submitting a request for a class trip to Arizona to carry out some fieldwork studies.

In Performing Arts, the focus of Monday's lessons was anxiety and Yoga. All children from Prepcare to Year 6 talked about worries they have and discussed strategies for coping with worry. Miss Thompson said that the session finished off with some yoga leaving them all feeling a little calmer.

There has been exam success this week for both Keira and Poppy in Year 6 who passed their ABRSM Grade exams on the flute. Mrs Strawbridge was also very proud of the 8 pupils she took on Monday to Moreton for their instrumental exams. They all performed really well and the examiner commented on their excellent manners which made Mrs Strawbridge, and indeed us all, very proud. We await the results with eager anticipation.

Wishing you a slightly warmer weekend,

Mrs Claire Belk
Head of Bellan House
cab@oswestryschool.org.uk

Think of the week:
Can a square be ugly?

[Link to previous newsletters](#)

Dates for your Diary:

05 Feb	Year 1 trip to Whittington Castle
07 Feb	Safer Internet Evening 7pm Old Library at senior school
14 Feb	Valentine's Café
18 Feb	Half Term
25 -26 Feb	LAMDA exams
27 Feb-3 Mar	Oswestry Youth Music Festival
28 Feb	Friends of Oswestry meeting at the Townhouse
4-5 Mar	LAMDA exams
12 Mar	Swimming Gala Years 5-6 PM
13 Mar	Swimming Gala Rec - Year 4 AM
03 Apr	Music Workshop Rec - Year 2
05 Apr	Music Workshop Years 3 & 4
26 Apr	Year 4 Theatre Clwyd Trip

Please check SOC's for details of all Sporting Fixtures

Sports Report:

We had great success on the hockey pitches this week as our U11 girls finished 2nd overall in the Shropshire school's championships. A late second goal by Poppy in the match against Shrewsbury High prep secured our passage through to the Midlands Finals. There were fantastic performances from all those in the team.

The week also brought netball wins for both our U11 and U9 girls against Whittington and Prestfelde, respectively. The U11s had a convincing 10-0 win while the U9s played a close game but came away the victors with a winning score of 7-6.

Lost Property:

- Maggie is missing her leotard
- Polly is missing her PE top and Hat
- Archie is missing a school scarf
- Harry H is missing a white gum shield.
- Luca is missing a gum shield, navy and green swimming trunks and a school tie, all are named

Booking out of hours care:

Lent [Wraparound booking form](#)
Lent [Prep Club Years 5 & 6 booking form](#)

News from the Music Department :

On Monday the children who are taking part individually were given their forms for the times of their classes at this year's Oswestry Music Festival. I will be unable to take your children to their classes at the different venues as I will be busy accompanying many of them and will need to move from venue to venue. If I am accompanying your child, please can I have accompaniments in so that I can prepare. Therefore it is your responsibility to collect your child from school, take them to the competition and return them back to Bellan. You will need to inform their teacher and the Bellan secretary of your plans. When the choir, recorder, woodwind and musical theatre groups are performing, they will be accompanied by staff to and from the venues.

Ensemble group times:

Year 5 Musical Theatre- 27 Feb 6pm Christchurch
Recorder group-1 Mar 10.45am Holy Trinity Church
Instrumental Ensemble & Cellissimo- 1 Mar 11.00am Holy Trinity
Year 6 Choir- 1 March 1pm Holy Trinity Church
Christchurch is the church opposite Oswestry Library.
Holy Trinity is the church on the corner of Roft Street facing Salop Rd opposite the Salop Fish and Chip shop.

A reminder...

Mr Santry, our drum peripatetic teacher will NOT be in school on Wednesday 6 Feb. He will make up the lesson at a later date.

Mrs Strawbridge