



Weekly Bulletin

6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers, Learners, and Staff,

Welcome, Welcome Back to a New Academic Year at Belgrave School!

Welcome to the first edition of our weekly school newsletter for the new academic year! We are delighted to see everyone back and full of energy after the summer break. Over the summer, our school has been bustling with activity, and we are excited to share some of the fantastic projects that have been completed, making our environment even better for learning and growing together.

We are thrilled to introduce the long awaited addition of a catering service – yes the food is free – now that the commercial kitchen is complete and the wonderful Mrs Mandy Hembury, our school cook, is making herself comfortable in it! We have begun by introducing breakfast and breacktime snacks which has grown considerably in popularity over the week. It is designed to help fuel the mornings and make sure our learners start the day off ready. The weekly menu is attached to this email for you to peruse at your leisure with your child/ren. Next week will be week 2. Lunches will start the following week commencing Monday, 23rd September so that will be week 3. The delay is so we can gauge quantities. At the beginning of next week, a form will be emailed to you to complete as to when your child/children would like the school breakfast and lunch. You do not need to sign up for snacks, they will be available for everyone. Special diets are catered for. Learners can continue to bring in their own snacks and packed lunches as normal practice too.

A warm welcome to our new learners, staff, and parents/carers who have joined our school community. We are excited to have you on board and look forward to a wonderful year of learning and collaboration. Please find some interesting information about the new members of staff further in the bulletin.

The Learning Support Mentors will be emailing you and sharing the timetable by the early part of next week. We apologise for the delay, due to staff shortages, we have had to alter aspects of the timetable and we wanted to give you a timetable that was as complete as possible. We have obviously not experienced a Monday yet so there may be the odd change. We continue to recruit.

Attendance is a key factor in our learners' success. Last year, our school attendance averaged 88% and this year we are aiming for higher. Regular attendance is crucial for staying on track with learning and achieving great results. We will be providing briefings regarding attendance later in September.

In this bulletin, you will find the regular items such as contributions from our SEN Lead (formerly SENCO), our Learning Support Mentors and there are a few dates to add to your diaries.

We are all looking forward to a positive and rewarding term!

Warm regards,

D. E Seagrove



From our SEN Lead, Mrs Cormack

Welcome back and it is so lovely to catch up with everyone at the start of the new school term.

Over the summer, one of the things I enjoyed doing was taking our dog, Florrie, for a walk. Florrie, like most greyhounds, is very lazy and spends her days relaxing on beds and sofas around the house!! But at about 4pm she tells us she would like a walk.

Monday last week was International Dog Day and I believe dogs can teach us humans a thing or two. Here are three examples:

- They love unconditionally. A dog does not judge us; they take us for who we are and they are always pleased to see us. Dogs naturally look for the good in people and are usually very affectionate (but always check with the owner before you try to make friends!)
- Dogs live life in the moment. We often live our lives thinking about the past or the future. All Florrie cares about is what she can see in front of her. We can all enjoy life more by focusing on what is happening right now.
- Dogs are adaptable. They have learned to live with us, they can sense our emotions, and they have figured out how to influence us! As we start a new school term, there are many examples of where we need to adapt our behaviour: setting the alarm clock again for example!!!

I hope everyone has had a good first week. Please do reach out if there is anything that I, or

any member of the team, can do to support our learners as we manage the transition into our new school term.

SENDcast

Free SEND Briefing

What will the new government mean for SEND? The team at SENDCast will be delivering a free SEND briefing in September.

Jane Friswell, SEND Consultant and Parent Advocate, is delivering the FREE SEND Briefing and will discuss what the new Government will likely mean for SEND. What changes can we hope for and what will happen with the SENDAP Improvement Plan?

Tuesday 24th September 11.30 a.m. – live session for 1 hour which you can register for [What will the new Government mean for SEND - FREE Briefing \(thesendcast.com\)](http://thesendcast.com). You can watch the live session or watch the recording afterwards.

New staff joining Team Belgrave



Ms Poole

Learning Support Assistant in Year 7

Belgrave School is a really welcoming place.

My favourite activity is anything to do with Lego!

My favourite ice cream flavour in Neapolitan because it looks like lego blocks!



Mr Hall

Learning Support Assistant in Year 7

I have noticed that Belgrave is learner focused, allowing learners to have the flexibility and support they need to thrive.

I am looking forward to supporting the learners and cooperating with staff to further strengthen Belgrave.

I am a very big fan of reading fiction and non-fiction books. My favourite fiction is crime and dystopian. My favourite non-fiction is aviation books, describing what life is like as a pilot.

My favourite flavour of ice cream is chocolate.



Mr McGovern

Learning Support Mentor in Year 9

The most impressive aspect about the school is that it has an adaptive and flexible environment.

My favourite activity is to play football.

My favourite ice cream flavour is raspberry ripple.



Mrs Hembury

School Cook

Belgrave School is a very friendly school.

My favourite activity is gardening.

My favourite ice cream flavour is vanilla.

Mr Doyle

Maths Lead

The school is very friendly, and the staff are very supportive. The learners are well behaved, and the atmosphere is pleasant to be in.

I am looking forward to developing a specific understanding of each learners' EHCP and seeing progress in individuals throughout all year groups.

My favourite flavour is mint choc chip, because why on earth not!



Knee operation

Maria's partial knee operation have been brought forward and she will be away from the office from the 11th September. This will mean that there may be times when we are a little slower to answer the phone.



Emails

We have a new IT Manager who works remotely for all Melrose Schools – Lauren Mansfield. She apologises for issuing the wrong email address to be used by Parents and Carers. I know some of you have tried it and it bounced back – I do apologise. The email will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and will ensure that it reaches the correct member of staff. parentcarer@belgraveschool.com

Please use it to contact any of the staff; we have everything crossed that it works!



The summer holidays.....

During the summer holidays, Belgrave school has been the victim of trespassers and graffiti. It has been reported to the police and we have been told that there was not enough information/evidence to identify the perpetrators. After, the fourth event of breaking into a storage box at the back of school which stores gardening equipment, tiling equipment and other outside tools, further action has been taken. The CCTV cameras which they pulled off the wall have been replaced and have anti-theft cages around, two CCTV cameras have be put on the back of the school (there were no cameras there previously), and along the fence beside the public path towards the park, now has had security mesh attached. It does look rather stark and austere. It will not take long for the brambles and ivy to grow along it. Now that we are back in the school, I suspect these unwanted visitors will find somewhere else to go.

Mindfulness for Bristol Parents of SEND Children



Pause

Soften

Connect

Be

A **FREE** Mindfulness Course for parents and carers living in Bristol, which looks at how to be with the stress and worry that comes from being in the role of a parent or carer of a child with additional needs.

This ten-week course allows us to notice how we habitually react when under stress and how practising mindfulness techniques can help us to regulate our emotions more effectively, including becoming more resilient during stress. With practise, we become more able to pause, soften, connect with our breath and be with difficulties in the moment. As a result, we may find we are able to respond more calmly and skilfully.

Evidence shows that when under stress, parenting skills are found to collapse. With Mindfulness for Parents, it's the parents' own stress and suffering, that is the primary focus of the training rather than the problem behaviour of the child.

Mindfulness for Parents/Carers supports you to:

- Reduce stress
- Reduce harmful intergenerational patterns of stressed-out parenting
- Improve emotional regulation
- Improve family communication and relationships

Online Mindfulness for Bristol Parents of SEND Children:

Day: Tuesdays 9.30am-12 noon

Dates: 24th September – 3rd December 2024 (Term time only)

Via: Online Zoom

Cost: Free

Book: Call Claire-Louise on 07949399633

Contact: mcp.bristol@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mcp.info>



This Week:

Each week, our dedicated Learning Support Mentors will shine a spotlight on their classes achievements and provide a concise synopsis of their week's events.

Key Stage 2 Class In the Key Stage 2 class this week, we have enjoyed some fun getting to know you games and made bookmarks for giving to a friend to use throughout the year. We have also started to think about our class charter and thinking of expectations

that we all would like in our class. Our class novel this term will be Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Year 7 Class welcomes Ms Poole and Mr Hall into their class and are looking forward to working with them both. We are settling into our new classroom and looking forward to some of the new sessions on our timetable such as Wednesdays workshop. In English we have begun to explore the novel *Skellig* written by David Almond. We had a lot of questions about what Skellig was/is and looked at how an author 'hooks' a reader in.

Year 8 Class have enjoyed decorating their class door with a range of photos and the class member's names. They are settling into their room well. Year 8 have particularly enjoyed the breakfast and snacks throughout the week and are look forward to having lunch when they start.

Year 9 Class have shown an impressive work ethic already! They have enjoyed exploring the context of *Jane Eyre* written by Charlotte Bronte through looking at real Victorian artefacts such as cravat pins, books, lace shawl. They welcomed Mr McGovern into their classroom and were very impressed with his height! They look forward to working with him.

Year 10 Class have had a good first week. It has been lovely meeting the learners, and they have enjoyed getting familiar with their new timetables. There are some new lessons on the timetable which we hope we will find exciting.

Year 11 Class After a much needed summer break, we give a warm welcome to the Year 11 class as they embark on their new and exciting journey, where they will be focusing on their GCSEs this year! Over the last few days, they have adapted to the new class dynamic and setting, whilst also being mindful about the vale of being respectful, to not only each other, but to themselves. A highlight of this week was on Thursday where all members of the class contributed towards analysing a poem with Mrs Shattock, displaying a real understanding of the text and the techniques used throughout. A strong start - lets keep it up!

PE

A reminder that Bikeability starts next week and learners will need to bring in their helmets. Cycling will still continue in wet weather, so learners will need to bring waterproofs if the weather is not on our side. I strongly suggest that the primary/Yr7 class bring in their school uniform on the days that are, or due to rain, so they can change after cycling, as their lesson is in the morning and there's nothing worse than sitting in wet clothes!

Can I also please stress the importance of ensuring you send your child into school with a water bottle? This week, we have had many not bringing a water bottle in. Not only is it important to stay hydrated during physical activity, but also during the day.

Miss Parsons

Dates for the diary next term:

- 19/9/2024 Jo Newman from New Mango coming in to meet the Year 11 re. careers
24/9/2024 Square Foods visit The Community Farm, Chew Magna
25/9/2024 Attendance Briefing Teams online
27/9/2024 Macmillan Coffee Morning
9/10/2024 Ashton Gate National Apprenticeship Show
Meet and Greet Learning Support Mentors and Learning Support Assistants
6pm In person
23+24/10/2024 New Mango working 1:1 Year 11s re. careers
28/10 – 1/11/2024 Half term
4/11/2024 Inset Day
5-15/11/2024 Work Experience Fortnight for Year 11s – choice of a week during this time to do work experience
8-29/11/2024 Into Film Festival for Schools
11/11/2024 Anti-bullying Week – Anti-bullying Alliance Theme: Respect
12/11/2024 Odd Socks Day – wear odd socks to show support for the Anti-bullying Week
18/11/2024 Mocks for Year 11 begin
28/11/2024 Parent/Carers Evening for Years 10 and Year 11 Teams online appointments
3/12/2024 Parent/Carers Evening for Key Stage 2 and Years 7, 8, 9 Teams online appointments
16/12/2024 Christmas Lunch for all
17/12/2024 End of term

