

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 2nd May 2025

Term Dates 2024-25

September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024
Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su
1	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
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January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
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27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30
		31	
May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su
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26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
	30		

School Holidays

INSET Days

Tutorial Day

Bank Holidays

This Year's Class Assembly Dates

Class assemblies take place at 9.15 am on Thursday mornings and last for about 15 minutes. Parents and carers are invited to come along and watch their children present their learning from their half termly topic.

Years 1,2 and 3		Years 4,5 and 6	
Thursday 21 st November	1NS	Thursday 28 th November	5FM
Thursday 30 th January	3/4BW	Thursday 6 th February	6LM
Thursday 13 th February	2SD	Thursday 13 th March	6KL
Thursday 20 th March	2LT	Thursday 27 th March	4BG
Thursday 3 rd April	3LS	Thursday 8 th May	5RS
Thursday 15 th May	3NI	Thursday 22 nd May	4GS
Thursday 5 th June	1ST	Thursday 12 th June	6SB
Thursday 19 th June		Thursday 26 th June	5OF
Thursday 3 rd July	1JM		

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term Diary Dates:

07.05.25 – Year 1 to JAGS music festival
09.05.25 – Years 1 and 2 athletics afternoon at JAGS
10.06.25 – Year 4 cricket festival at Ruskin Park
18.06.25 – Year 2 trip to The Barbican
19.06.25 – Year 1 trip to the Science Museum
24.06.25 – New Reception parents' meeting, 9.15am
03.07.25 – Year 6 violin concerts for parents / carers
08.07.25 – Nursery sports day, 9-10am
09.07.25 – Reception and KS1 sports day, Reception am only, KS1 all day
10.07.25 – KS2 sports day, all day
16.07.25 – Year 6 production, 6pm
17.07.25 – Carnival, 2pm
18.07.25 – Year 6 Airthrill trip
19.07.25 – Summer Fair 12-3pm
21.07.25 – Year 6 graduation. 2pm
21.07.25 – Year 6 disco, 5.30 – 7pm
21.07.25 – Class parties (non uniform day except Year 6)
22.07.25 – Last day of term, 2pm finish (no After School Club)

Summer Term Library Visits

Each term every class has the opportunity to visit Grove Vale library. Children spend some time exploring the library, younger children often have a story session and then all children borrow a book to bring back to school with them. Library visits take place between 10.20 and 11.00 am, if you are able to accompany your child's class on their library visit please speak to their class teacher.

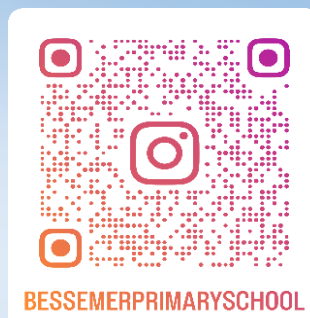
Thursday 24 th April	4GS	Thursday 5 th June	6LM
Friday 25 th April	4BG	Friday 6 th June	6KL
Thursday 1 st May	3/4 BW	Thursday 12 th June	6SB
Friday 2 nd May	5RS	Friday 13 th June	1JM
Thursday 8 th May	5FM	Thursday 19 th June	Moonbeam
Friday 9 th May	5OF	Friday 20 th June	1ST
Thursday 15 th May	3LS	Thursday 26 th June	1NS
Friday 16 th May	2LT	Friday 27 th June	Sunshine
Thursday 22 nd May	2SD	Thursday 3 rd July	Ladybird
Friday 23 rd May	3CB (3NI)	Friday 4 th July	Butterfly

News and Reminders

Instagram

For more updates about what's going on at Bessemer and insights into our creative and practical curriculum, follow us on Instagram!

@[bessemerprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/bessemerprimaryschool)



News and Reminders

House Captains

Every half term we elect new gem house captains from Year 6. This half term's captains are Jacob, Gloria, Virtue and Andrea.

House captains have a number of responsibilities, including adding up the gem totals each week to see which house is in the lead in the termly race towards the house winners' prize.



Comic Relief Update

Thank you to everyone who made a donation on Red Nose Day before the Easter holiday, we raised over £350 for Comic Relief!

Summer Weather

The children have all been thoroughly enjoying the lovely summer weather we have had this week!



Children in Years 3 and 4 have been making the most of the sunshine and getting in a summer mood by taking part in a lunchtime tennis tournament. It's like Wimbledon out there, we just need the strawberries and cream!

While the weather is warm please remember to send your child to school with sun cream on and with a hat and water bottle. Children do not need to bring coats, jumpers or cardigans to school during hot weather; please consider leaving them at home so they don't get lost in school when children take them off. If your child suffers from hay fever, please ensure they have taken their medication before coming to school as hay fever symptoms can be really challenging for children and do affect their ability to concentrate in lessons and enjoy their playtimes. Unless the temperature exceeds 30 degrees please do not send children to school with hand held fans. We have fans in the classrooms which keep them cool and individual fans create a significant distraction in class.

Activities and Workshops

There are a number of new flyers at the end of the newsletter this week detailing activities and workshops available in the local area for children and families. Have a look for more information about:

- Lego coding and robotics sessions at Grove Vale library
- Girls' football
- Free music sessions for children from Reception up
- Family support workshops
- Community fun days
- Sewing workshops
- Sports sessions for teens

As always, there are also flyers signposting inclusion support. Please remember that you can also check the inclusion hub on our website and flyers from past newsletters (which are all on our website) for more information about inclusion and supporting children with additional needs.

Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core values of being *Academically Ambitious* and *Creative and Practical*

This week was Science Week and children across the school attended workshops and assemblies provided by The Royal Institution and Science Wizards as well as taking part in science activities in class. The shows put on by The Royal Institution and Science Wizards were amazing, really bringing science to life for the children and filling them with awe and wonder! Thanks to our science lead Ned for organizing all the fun.



Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core value of being *Academically Ambitious* and *Creative and Practical*

As well as enjoying the fantastic science shows, children were busy taking parts in lots of fun, practical science activities in class:



Exploring melting



Learning about adaptation



Investigating sound



Studying the solar system

Demonstrating our core value of being *Creative and Practical* and *Connected to the Community*

Children in Reception enjoyed a trip to The Unicorn Theatre this week to watch a performance of *Beegu*. Everyone had a great time; as well as the theatre show they saw some sights and picnicked in the park.



Sharing Children's Learning
Demonstrating our core value of being *Creative and Practical*

Children in Year 5 have been working on their *Future Cities* design and technology project. The children work in groups to plan, design, build, evaluate and improve buildings for a potential city on Mars.



Word of the Week

Word of the Week is all about developing children's vocabularies by increasing the number of words they know and use. Making these challenging words part of their vocabulary improves children's speaking and listening, reading and writing skills.

The Word of the Week next week is **obsolete**. Please help your child to find out the meaning of the word and try using it in different ways in sentences.

Try to use the word of the week as much as possible so that it becomes part of your child's vocabulary. Children will receive gems in school for using the word in their speech and writing and for explaining its meaning and origin.

F@B update - music special!

Music Fundraiser: Friday June 20th 8pm.



F@B is delighted to announce that five-time Grammy Award winner and Bessemer dad, Bill Laurance will be performing at St Faith's Church.

Bill will be performing exclusive new materials with Menelek Claffey on Bass and Oscar Ogden on drums.

Tickets are on sale now to Bessemer parents before they go out more widely.

Special offer: For £5 off enter Promo code BESSEMER. This discount applies for the first 40 tickets then the price rises to £30 plus booking fee.

If you would like to volunteer (complimentary ticket) please get in touch (Alan: 07899 043150)

Booking link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bill-laurance-on-piano-featuring-exclusive-new-material-tickets-1307029342949?aff=oddtcreator>

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Discord

What is Discord? What should parents and carers know about this communication platform? Read the article below for information, including how parents and carers can try to make it safer to use.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-discord-on-how-your-kids-can-use-it-safely/>



[Discord parents and carers guide | Internet Matters](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-discord-on-how-your-kids-can-use-it-safely/)

To help ease parents' fears about Discord safety, Internet Matters sheds light on the social gaming platform and how it can be used safely.
www.internetmatters.org





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
Sunshine	Dollie	Mabel	Zella		
Moonbeam	Dhvisha	Jesse	Frank		
1JM	Leo T	Roman	Isaac	Phoenix	Felix
1NS	Louie	Lev	Violet	Elijah	
1ST	Arlo	Nasir	Atreen	Raymond	
2SD	Leila	Georgios	Ben	Jeremiah	Troy
2LT	Hamilton	Leon	Eimi	Nathan	
3LS	Nathan	Sarai	Nathaniel	Bella	
3CB	Rimas	Jose	Santi	Dylan	
3/4BW	Juno	Maya	Martha	Melody	Y3 – Ramsay Y4 - Azahier
4BG	Idris	Alex	Vidak	Marco	
4GS	Elliott	Temi	Alessandro	Nikolas	
5RS	All of 5RS	Lucie	Elijah	Malachi	Sharon
5OF	All of 5OF	Ali	Khaliyah	Eve	
5FM	Rene Stiven	Mariatu	Cruize	Harry	
6LM	Toferati	Owen	Bryan	Carter	Kitty
6SB	Sami	Eve	Olive	Akila	
6KL	Martha	Jonathan	Gabriel	Johanna	

Timestable Rockstars Easter Competition Winners:



1ST



House Winners

Sapphires!



Have a great weekend!

Elizabeth

Sign Up for Lego League!



A free eight-session programme of Lego coding and robotics challenges for 6-9-year-olds

4-5pm Thursdays, starting 15th May

Does your child love Lego? Are they interested in coding, robotics and STEM? If so, they will love our new Lego League Challenge!

Grove Vale Library is hosting a Lego League this summer, where children will collaborate to solve challenges using our brand-new Lego robotics kits! Spaces are limited and are first-come first-served. Children must be able to attend as many sessions as possible. **Sign-up essential.**

Register now
at:

[forms.office.com
/e/4s4ES6Qyvn](https://forms.office.com/e/4s4ES6Qyvn)

...or scan:



Southwark
Council





PE & SCHOOL SPORTS NETWORK

FREE GIRLS FOOTBALL

EVERY MONDAY (17:00-18:00)

@BURGESS PARK ASTRO TURF



OPEN TO ALL
GIRLS AGED 5-11
YEARS OLD

OPEN TO ALL
GIRLS AGED 12-14
YEARS OLD



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER





SOUNDSTEPS
MUSIC SCHOOL



Free Children Piano/Keyboard Taster Available Now

- Weekly 1 hour lessons available Monday to Sunday for children aged 5-13
- Children learn to read, write and play music in every lesson. we also provide keyboard at every lesson
- Termly Exams and certificate along with opportunities to sit at internationally recognised exams and perform at live events



Contacts us Now by Email, Phone, Whats App or via our Website/QR Code to Book Your "FREE TASTER SESSION"



e:office@soundstepsmusic.co.uk t:07926 371583

www.soundstepsmusic.co.uk



FREE TASTER SESSION AVAILABLE ACROSS THE FOLLOWING AREAS AND ONLINE



London Borough Centres

Limited
Spaces
Available
For Next
Term

Kent Centres



Contacts us Now by Email, Phone, Whats App or
via our Website/QR Code to Book Your “FREE
TASTER SESSION”



e:office@soundstepsmusic.co.uk t:07926 371583

www.soundstepsmusic.co.uk

FUND RAISING EVENT

TUESDAY 27TH- THURSDAY 29TH
MAY 2025

Activities include:

Bouncy Castle, games,
arts & crafts, food, stalls and lots more

Venue :

The Green community centre
Nunhead SE 15 3QQ

For more details
please do get in contact with us on;

02035369609
07394662602

**DONATE WHEN YOU
SHOP ONLINE!**

COMPLETELY FREE!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

MY CHILD & ME

**A 10 WEEK
INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP
FOR BLACK AND MINORITY FAMILIES**



DATES:

**THURSDAY 1ST MAY –
10TH JULY, 2025**

TIME: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

VENUE:

**THE LEWINGTON CENTRE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
9, EUGENIA ROTHERHITHE SE16 2RU**

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER

02035369609, 07394662602

**Admin@parentskills2go.com
parentskills2go.org**

Parent feedback

**“This program taught me
that I am not alone...”**

**crèche
will be
provided**

Supported by

**Impact
on Urban
Health**



MY CHILD & ME

INTERGENERATIONAL WORKSHOP (ONLINE)

- Do you find out that your children or grandchildren don't understand you or your generation?
- Do you want to understand why mental health affects us and our children in the United Kingdom?

Join us on line for interactive sessions



EVERY FRIDAY
MAY 16TH 13TH JUNE 2025
TIME: 10:00AM-11:30AM

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
02035369609, 07394662602
✉ **Admin@parentskills2go.com**
🌐 **parentskills2go.org**

Supported by

Impact
on Urban
Health





SEWING SKILLS

**10 WEEKS DRESSMAKING COURSE
FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS**

FREE SEWING MENDING STATION

(SUPPORT ON HOW TO MEND CLOTHES)

- ★ **BASIC /BEGINNERS
SEWING CLASS STARTS**
TIME: 12:30PM - 2:30PM
- ★ **INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS
SEWING CLASS STARTS**
TIME: 10:00AM - 12:00NOON
- ★ **VENUE:**
**THE LEWINGTON CENTRE
COMMUNITY CENTRE**
9 EUGENIA ROAD
ROTHERHITE SE16 2RU

**STARTS
MAY
9TH
2025**

COST FREE

**£20
BEGINNERS**

**£30
INTERMEDIATE**



FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
02035369609, 07394662602
Admin@parentskills2go.com
parentskills2go.org

LEWISHAM
**WARM
WELCOMES**

Southwark
Council

Supported by
**Impact
on Urban
Health**

**crèche
will be
provided**



Parent
Skills^{2Go}



PRESENTS

NOT JUST
SPORTS!

FREE 12+ SPORT SESSIONS
KICK, EAT & TALK

TUESDAYS | 4 - 7 PM
STARTS 24TH JUNE 2025
LEYTON SQUARE SE15 6TR



Scan me
to register:





FamilyZone Southwark

A fun, safe space for
families to come together.





A fun, safe space for families to come together.






Family Zone workshops offer an opportunity for all family members to learn more about **mental health** through psycho education, games and creative activities and to diminish the **shame** and **stigma** attached to mental illness.

Trained staff from the **Mental Health Foundation** will deliver these workshops alongside our partner, **London Borough of Southwark**.

The next groups will run from

June 2025 – July 2025



-  Our group will consist of **8 weekly workshops** after school from **4-6pm**.
-  They are a fusion of **online** and **in person**, 4 in person and 4 online. Every family will be **offered a tablet** to help access the online sessions
-  Parents are invited to attend a **peer support** group in person or online.
-  Food is provided at every workshop.
-  For more information contact Joanna Alcide-Edwards joanna.alcide-edwards@southwark.gov.uk Stavroula Marifi Stavroula.Marifi@southwark.gov.uk or Nadine Rose nrose@mentalhealth.org.uk

AUTISM SUPPORT TEAM NEWSLETTER

April 2025



Welcome to this newsletter from Southwark's Autism Support Team.

This newsletter is going to focus Autism and Girls.

Did you know? It is estimated that ratio of autistic males to females is 3:1, though this ratio has been getting closer and closer over recent years. So are less girls Autistic? Or are less girls diagnosed as Autistic?

The honest answer is that we don't know! What we do know is that Autism was historically thought of as a 'predominantly male condition' and that most of the historical research about Autism was based on Autistic boys. Therefore, a lot of what we know about Autism is based on how Autism presents in boys.

In this newsletter, we'll explore how Autistic girls might present differently and how best to support them.

WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

April is World Autism Acceptance Month. We have been celebrating by sharing resources with schools, presenting assemblies and raising awareness in the Southwark Tooley St office. We also hosted a coffee morning at Crampton Primary School, where parents were able to connect with a range of local services available to them.

What are you doing to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Month? We'd love to hear all about it. Email us at

AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk

To be added to our newsletter mailing list or to contact the team with a question/request for a forthcoming newsletter please contact us on:

AutismSupportTeam@southwark.gov.uk

Autism and Girls

Masking

Masking is when an Autistic person suppresses behaviour or adapts their behaviour to appear neurotypical, or to fit in with the perceived 'norm'. It might help an Autistic person to feel safe or accepted by others.

While all Autistic people may mask, it is particularly common in girls.

What might masking look like?

- Suppressing emotions, especially anxiety
- Suppressing behaviours (e.g. stimming)
- Hiding special interests
- Ignoring sensory needs
- Imitating other people's facial expressions
- Forcing eye contact
- Mimicking other people's behaviour
- Using social scripts or social routines
- Pretending to follow a conversation or to understand something
- Different presentation in different settings (e.g. at home vs at school)

Masking can be emotionally exhausting and hinder an individual from developing a sense of identity. Often girls mask all day at school and then come home and 'explode' all of their emotions from the day. Speak to your child's school if this is happening, as the school may be able to support by, for example:

- Giving the child time and space away from sensory and social demands that may be exhausting for them.
- Provide times for the child to express their emotions with a trusted adult.
- Helping them to learn about Autism and develop a positive sense of Autistic identity.

See ideas on the following page for how you can support your Autistic girls at home.

THIS MONTH'S THEME:
AUTISM & GIRLS

Different presentations of Autism

In the table below there are some examples of how Autism may present differently for different people, and girls in particular. Remember that every Autistic person is different and no two people are the same!

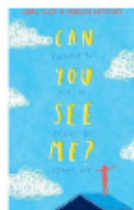
Traditional understanding of Autism (based on research of Autistic boys)	Other possible presentations of Autism, including many girls
Few friendships and lack of engagement with peers.	One or two close friendships, often with elements of control or rigidity e.g. wanting to be the only friend.
Special interest in objects (trains, planes, rockets, sometimes dinosaurs) – often seen as unusual interests for their age.	Special interest in people (e.g. celebrities) pop culture (TV shows, books) and animals (e.g. horses, unicorns) – often seen as more 'mainstream' interests.
Lesser tendency to show internalising disorders (e.g. anxiety, depression, eating disorders) and greater tendencies towards significantly repetitive behaviours	Greater tendency to show internalising disorders (e.g. anxiety, depression, eating disorders) and lesser tendencies towards significantly repetitive behaviours
Emotional regulation difficulties which may then lead to challenging behaviour.	Hiding emotional regulation difficulties, which may then present later (e.g. 'exploding' when they get home from school)
Somewhat obvious stimming e.g. hand flapping, pacing, jumping	Stimming may be more subtle, e.g. tapping a finger on the chair.

How to support Autistic girls at home

- Set clear routines, rules and boundaries.
- Prepare them ahead of any changes to routine or unexpected events.
- Give them time and space to themselves, especially after a busy school day. It may be best to ask them about their school day after they've had some quiet time, rather than immediately after school.
- Openly discuss emotions and how to regulate emotions in safe and healthy ways.
- Support them to understand their Autistic identity. This [colour wheel](#) is a great resource you could use to explore what Autism means to them.
- Find opportunities for them to connect with other Autistic people. It's important that they have other people they can relate to.
- Read books and watch films/TV shows with Autistic characters.
- Ask them what they think would support them best.

Additional resources

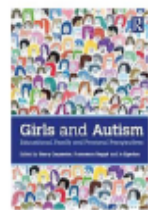
<https://autisticgirlsnetwork.org/>
<https://www.autismawareness.com.au/understanding-autism/women-girls>
<https://www.authenticalllyemily.uk/>
<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/what-is-autism/autistic-women-and-girls>



YA fiction book, written by an Autistic girl and her mother, based on her own experiences growing up Autistic.



Useful guidebook for supporting Autistic girls and gender diverse youth.



Collection of papers about Girls and Autism, including perspectives from students at Limpfield Grange.