

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 11th October 2024

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
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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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23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30			30 31
January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 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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23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31		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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23 24 25 26 27 28 29	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
30 31	30		31

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	6MS
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		Thursday 12 th June	6SB
Thursday 19 th June	1ST	Thursday 26 th June	5OF
Thursday 3 rd July	1JM		

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

14 - 18.10.24 – Year 2 Bikeability course
 18.10.24 – F@B AGM, 9am
 18.10.24 – Firefighters visiting Early Years
 19.10.24 – F@B family fun run, 2pm
 21 - 22.10.24 Year 3 Bikeability course
 22.10.24 – Nursery reading workshop for parents, 9.15am
 23 - 24.10.24 – Year 4 Bikeability course
 23.10.24 – Reception maths workshop for parents, 9.15am
 25.10.24 – Girls in Sport Festival (selected pupils)
 25.10.24 – Break up for half term
 31.10.24 – Secondary school application deadline
 04.11.24 – Children return to school
 05.11.24 – Year 1 Celebration Day for parents, 9.15am
 04 - 08.11.24 – Year 5 Bikeability course
 11 - 15.11.24 – Year 6 Bikeability course
 13.11.24 – Early Years Celebration Day for parents, 9.15am
 14.11.24 – Year 3/4 maths workshop for parents, 9.15am
 14.11.24 – Year 5 trip to Victorian Docks
 26.11.24 – Online safety workshop for parents and carers, 5-6pm
 03.12.24 - Year 5/6 reading workshop for parents, 9.15am – change of date
 03.12.24 – Year 5 A Christmas Carol workshop in school
 14.12.24 – Winter fair, 12-3pm
 17.12.24 – Year 3/4 carol concert at St Faith's, 5.30pm
 18.12.24 – Year 5/6 carol concert at St Faith's, 5.30pm
 18.12.24 – Children's Christmas lunch
 19.12.24 – Class parties
 20.12.24 – Last day of term, 2pm finish

Autumn 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. If you are able to accompany your child's class on their library visit please speak to their class teacher.

Date	10:20- 11am	Date	10.20-11am
Thurs 19 th September	6LM	Thurs 24 th October	3LS
Fri 20 th September	6MB	Fri 25 th October	2LT
Thurs 26 th September	6SB	Thurs 7 th November	2SD
Fri 27 th September	5RS	Fri 8 th November	1JM
Thurs 3 rd October	5FM	Thurs 14 th November	1NS
Fri 3 th October	5OF	Fri 15 th November	1ST
Thurs 10 th October	4GS	Thurs 21 st November	Moonbeam
Fri 11 th October	4BG	Fri 22 nd November	Rainbow
Thurs 17 th October	3/4BW	Thurs 28 th November	Sunshine
Fri 18 th October	3NI	Fri 29 th November	Ladybird
		Thurs 5 th December	Butterfly

News and Reminders

Early Years Playground

This week we were very excited to open our new and improved Early Years outside area! We invited Alan Foster, the chair of F@B to come along and cut the ribbon and then all of the Early Years children, with their parents and carers, had their first chance to try out the new equipment. F@B's funding has provided a new climbing frame and trim trail, the pirate ship and the new structure covering the sandpit and mud kitchen as well as lots of repairs to the existing equipment. Our improved playground provides lots of wonderful opportunities for children to meet their development goals in several areas of the Early Years curriculum and it has been wonderful watching the children explore and play this week. We are so grateful to F@B and our Bessemer community for the fundraising which has made this possible. Thank you everyone!



News and Reminders

Black History Month

The theme for BHM 2024 is 'Reclaiming Narratives' which aims to tell the untold stories and histories of Black people in the UK. This year's theme was chosen to:

- Honour Our Heroes
- Embrace Our Stories
- Empower and Educate

In school this month, each class is completing a project based on a range of people from Black British history. In addition to this, we will be watching the 'Big Live Assembly' in school on Tuesday 15th October.

There is a poster at the end of the newsletter detailing a home learning competition for Black History Month.

There are lots of Black History Month events going on in Southwark, find out more here:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage>

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/article/listings/region/southwark/black-history-month-means-southwark-exhibition/>

<https://communitysouthwark.org/its-2022-black-history-month/>

World Mental Health Day

While Children's Mental Health Week takes place in February, Thursday was World Mental Health Day so we held assemblies to think about ways of supporting our mental health needs and being kind to ourselves. In line with our core value of being *Self Aware and Supportive* children's mental and emotional wellbeing is a priority all year round, so this was really an opportunity to remind ourselves of what we already know. Children were able to suggest lots of great ways that they take care of their mental health, such as getting enough sleep, exercising, playing with friends and talking to people if they are feeling worried. Children were also reminded that they can use The Colour Monsters (Early Years and Year 1) and the Zones of Regulation (Years 2-6) in their classrooms to let people know when they might need some support with their wellbeing or mental health. The assemblies ended with a relaxing meditation session for everyone:



If you need any mental health support there are many resources available through Southwark:

https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-advice-and-support/taking-care-of-your-mind?chapter=5&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI85ui_ISGiQMVZTkGAB2x-zhREAAYiAAEgIIQfD_BwE

News and Reminders

School Council

The School Council representatives for this year have been elected and their first meeting was held last week. In their meeting, they discussed Golden Time choices and playground equipment. They created surveys to complete with their classes asking their peers for opinions about activities for their Golden Time and what new playground equipment they would like. In our next school council meeting they are going to analyse the data and then report their findings back to year group leaders.



Harvest

For Harvest we are collecting for our local food bank at The Albrighton. School council members have made posters sharing the details – please see the end of the newsletter.

Secondary School Applications

Don't forget that the deadline for applying for your child's place at secondary school is 31st October. Every child in Year 6 needs to have had an application submitted by this date. If you need any help with the application process please come and ask at the school office and a member of staff will be happy to help.

Bessemer Festive Card Project Fundraiser

Although the winter holiday may still seem a long way off, it is fast approaching!

This year, Bessemer has decided once again to team up with 'My Card Project' to give children the opportunity to make their own festive card designs, which we know has been very popular in the past. As well as the traditional card, the children's designs can also be purchased on mugs, t-shirts and calendars, amongst other great gift ideas! *Plus, every purchase raises funds for the school too!*

In order to participate, please support your child to complete their design at home (see [top tips](#)) on A4 card or paper. Then follow the steps for uploading and ordering your choice of products (which can be found on the letter previously emailed, the leaflet at the end of this newsletter, or by visiting <https://mycardproject.com/>)

The deadline for completing your online orders is 30th October 2024, in order for the company to be able to produce your finished products in time for Christmas.



School Snacks

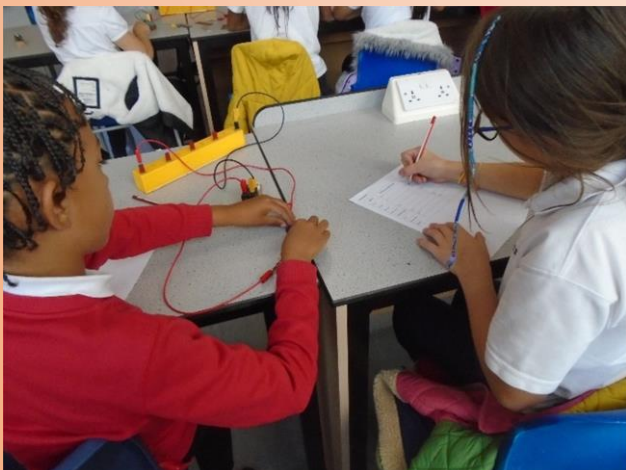
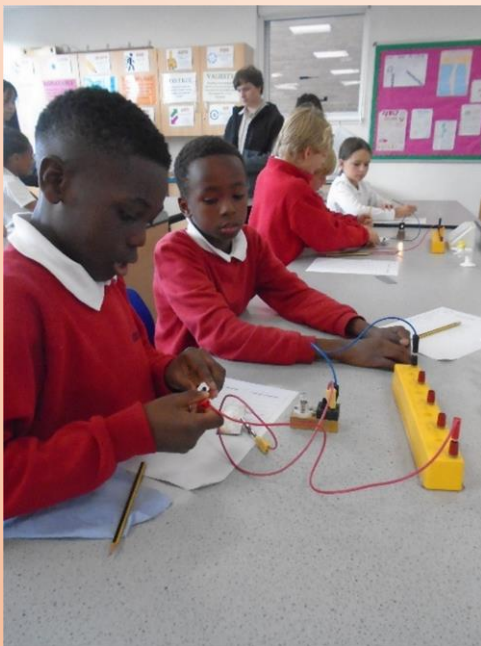
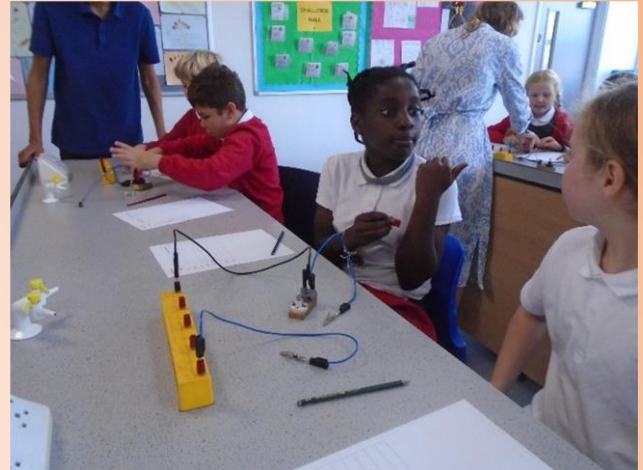
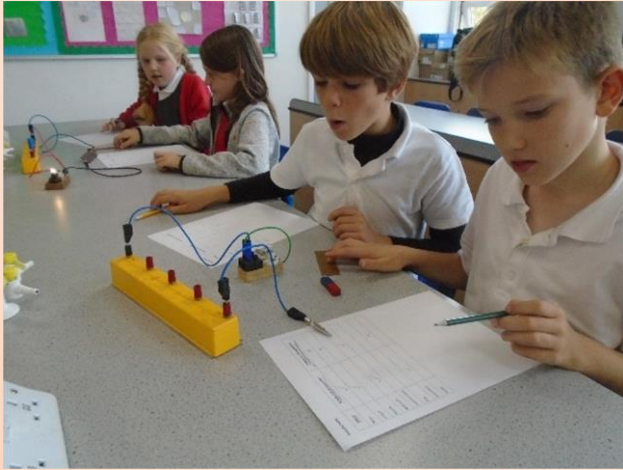
Children in Key Stage 2 are allowed to bring a small snack to eat mid-morning. This snack should be either fruit or vegetables, with the only exception to this being plain rice cakes or breadsticks. Children bringing other snacks will not be allowed to eat them in school. The reasons that we limit snack choices are:

- We are a healthy school
- We don't want to have inequalities reflected in pupils' snacks
- We want snack time to be simple and not take too much time out of teaching

Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core values of being *Academically Ambitious, Creative and Practical* and *Connected to the Community*

We have developed strong links with some of the secondary schools in our local area as a way of offering our children opportunities that we cannot provide ourselves. Children in Year 5 are having all of their science lessons in the laboratories at Alney's this half term. This week they explored whether metals which conduct electricity are also magnetic.



Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core value of being *Creative and Practical*

Selected children from Year 3 took part in a football tournament this week, playing in the semi finals and finals with one Bessemer team coming away as the winners!



It was the Year 1 children's turn for balance bike training this week:



Sharing Children's Learning

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

As part of our focus on reading for pleasure, children across the school enjoy termly visits to Grove Vale Library where they get to explore the library and borrow books to bring back to school. 5OF had their first visit last week:



Children in Nursery have been offered free sports sessions from Playball this half term and they had a great time taking part in their first session this week:



Word of the Week

The Word of the Week next week is **imply**. Please help your child to find out the meaning of the word and try using it in different ways in sentences. You could also research the origins of the word and see if you can think of any related words with the same origin.

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

We have two events next week - we hope you can join us!

Friday 18th October: F@B Annual General Meeting

9am in the school dining hall (meet us outside the school office after drop off)

F@B volunteers come from every year group - working with Bessemer families and the school to bring our school community together around a whole range of projects, activities and events and raising much needed funds for the school.

Come along to meet other parents, share your ideas, ask questions and get involved. We will share updates on funds raised and plans for the coming year. We're always keen to welcome more parents on board! 😊

Bessemer Fun Run: Saturday 19th October at 2pm

Lace up your trainers and bring your family for a fun-filled run at the JAGs sports field 🏃🏃

Entry is free for kids and £3.50 per adult. If you can get sponsorship from family and friends that is hugely appreciated! Sign up for the run here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLFG9pHxX0DZA04nKg0y_fhhhcLElfgtQFrb94iJWfohbgGA/viewform?usp=pp_url

Pay entry fees and add sponsorship donations here: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/bessemer-fun-run-2024>

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Looking after you child's mental health when they are online:

Following on from **World Mental Health Day** on Thursday, here's some advice from [Barnardos.org](https://www.barnardos.org) on how to help, support and encourage children to stay safe, happy and healthy online:

- Aim to have open and honest conversations with children about online content – both the good and the bad. Educate them on how to use the internet safely and what they should do if they see anything that concerns them. Talking candidly could help to encourage children to reach out to you should they see anything upsetting or disturbing, so you can help and support them afterwards.
- Set boundaries on what counts as appropriate internet use. Ofcom found that 97% of UK households with children at home had internet access. It's unrealistic to think that they won't spend any time online, especially when their peers will be doing so. Talk to your children about what you both think is fair and realistic in terms of what sites or apps they can use, how much time they spend online and then back this all up with parental controls – [Childnet outline the basics here](#).
- Consider having family rules about time online and use of technology which apply to everyone in the home – not just the children. It could be as simple as 'no phones during dinner', but if rules can be applied equally across a household then it may encourage your children to follow them.
- Try to minimise use of smart devices at night possibly by putting phones or tablets out of reach or in another room, to stop late-night scrolling. Sleep is a crucial time for children, as it's a period of brain development and growth. [The Sleep Foundation](#) says that without enough sleep, children can face difficulties with memory, attention and problem-solving as well as behaviour and emotional regulation, which could affect academic performance. Many of us know how appealing it is to browse social media. This appeal is even greater for children and young people when friendships are such a vital part of their lives.
- Look out for warning signs that a child may be being targeted or groomed online. These include spending more time online, using their phone secretly, seeming upset or angry when they come offline, getting a lot of calls or messages or talking about gifts or money they have received online. If this happens, try to talk to them about it.
- If you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with a child in your care online, you can report to [Child Exploitation and Online Protection](#), which is part of the National Crime Agency, to be fully investigated.





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
Rainbow	Reception children will start to receive certificates later in the term when they have settled in fully.				
Sunshine					
Moonbeam					
1JM	Nickell	Inoa	Felix	Angus	
1NS	Lev	Ava	Florence	Amir	
1ST	Hila	James	Arlo	Samuel	Sienna
2SD	Eleanore	Troy	Yousef	Mylah Monae	
2LT	Teddy	Ted	Sorrel	Ruona	
3LS	Phoebe	Amina	Sebastian	Manon	Albie
3NI	Olivia	Jules	Henry	Ferhot	
3/4BW	Ben	Melody	Shafi	Elham	
4BG	Marco	Vidak	Micah	Felix	Leila
4GS	Henry	Charlotte	Oscar	Temi	
5RS	Esme	Freddie	Leo	Fran Florence	Stella
5OF	Uriel	Sammy	Runaah	Adam	
5FM	Isabella	Amelia	Radin	Winnie	Elliot
6LM	Izzy	Rehana	Poppy	Bryan	Elisa
6SB	Kelvin	Alice	Azariah	Valentina	
6MS	Janessa	Stephen	Ezekiel	Tiger	Ali

Individual Timestable Rockstars

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Alaia	Mason	Eliana	Juno	Aishah	Lucy

Timestable Rockstars Winning Classes

Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
1ST	3NI	5FM

**House
Winners**

Diamonds!



Have a great weekend!

Elizabeth



Black History Month Competition 2024











The theme for BHM 2024 is '**Reclaiming Narratives**' which aims to tell the untold stories and histories of Black people in the UK. This year's theme was chosen to:

- Honour Our Heroes
- Embrace Our Stories
- Empower and Educate

In school this month, each class is completing a project based on a range of people from black British history. In addition to this, we will be watching the 'Big Live Assembly' in school on Tuesday 15th October.

As we are focusing on oracy and speaking skills at Bessemer, as a home learning task, we would like you to prepare a speech on a significant person (or event) in British Black History. You can select anyone or a significant event but may want to take inspiration from the individuals below:

			
Olaudah Equiano	Sam King	Sarah Forbes Bonetta	Steve McQueen
			
Olive Morris	Una Marson	Ladipo Solanke	Walter Tull

Your speech could include relevant information about your chosen individual such as:

Introduction: Their full name, age date of birth, occupation(s): do and did they have a family? Where do/did they live?

Main: What are they famous for? What have they famous for? What have achieved in their life? Have they hit any obstacles in life?

Conclusion: Why did you pick this person? Why are they significant within Black History? What have they achieved?

Google Classroom for all pupils will be up and running again later in October - This will be the best platform to submit your videos and speeches. However if you would like to present what you find out in a different way, such as a poster, poster-board, booklet or power-point, this will also be welcomed!

The following websites might also help:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/articles/zjwf8xs#zq66yw>

As we are already a little way through October the due date for submissions will be **after half term on Monday 4th November**. Please submit on Google Classroom or send to Laura McPherson via the office. Entries will be reviewed and the best projects will receive a prize and will be shared in assembly.

HARVEST FESTIVAL!

WE NEED DONATIONS OF PASTA, RICE
TUNA, SWEETCORN, BAKED BEANS,
TINNED FOOD AND TOILETRIES TO
THE LOCAL FOODBANK!

PLEASE DONATE TO THE COLLECTION
BOX IN THE OFFICE BY 25TH OCTOBER
2024

WE NEED LONG LIFE FOOD!



PLEASE
DONATE,
THANK YOU!



The harvest festival

Donations of cans, jars, pasta,
deodorant, rice, tuna, sweet corn,
baked beans and

Bottles and long-lasting food to the
local food bank.

Please donate to the office to the
Collection box by the 25th October



THANKYOU !!!

Bessemer Festive Card Project Reminder

THE STEPS...



1. Visit mycardproject.com/order and enter the code:

MCPBP3

or use the camera on your phone to follow the QR link below.



2. You will be asked to either upload a photo of the drawing from your camera phone or scan it in. Find somewhere well lit and follow the website instructions for the best results.

3. Follow the website instructions to place your order for Christmas cards, mugs, calendars and much more. **You do not need to return the artwork.**

4. We'll get started! And your orders will be delivered to the school for your child to bring home no later than the first week of December!



The deadline for completing your online orders is 30th October 2024, in order for the company to be able to produce your finished products in time for Christmas.



Online Safety

workshop

for parents and carers

Top Hall

Tuesday November 26th

5pm-6pm

All Welcome!

SPORTS FOCUS COACHING

October Camp



Nerf Guns, Football, Floor is Lava, Halloween Arts & Crafts, Tennis

Locations: Bessemer Primary School, Dylways

Ages: Reception - Year 6

Monday, 28th October - Friday, 1st November



Times & Prices:

9:00 - 12:00 £20

12:00 - 15:00 £20

9:00 - 15:00 £30

Early drop off 8:30 additional £3

Late pick up 17:00 additional £5



Fancy Dress Competition, Dodge Ball, Cricket, Athletics, Cooking & More!

Spaces are limited

To book

www.sportsfocusuk.co.uk

For further info

Email: bookings@sportsfocusuk.co.uk

or Call: 07946 007937



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