

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th October 2023

Term Dates 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
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	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 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	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					26	27	28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August 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	2	3	4	5					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30	31		

School Holidays	INSET Days	Tutorial Day	Bank Holidays
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2023-24 Class Assembly Dates

19/10/23	1AM	16/11/23	5FM
23/11/23	3/4CB	30/11/23	4BC
7/12/23		25/1/24	2JW
1/2/24	6AC	8/2/24	6LM
7/3/24	2LT	14/3/24	1NS
21/3/24	6SB	28/3/24	3KL
2/5/24	5RS	9/5/24	2LS
16/5/24	3NI	23/5/24	5OF
20/6/24		27/6/24	4YH

Class assemblies are on Thursdays at 9.15 and last for approximately 15 minutes. Parents and carers are invited to come along and find out more about their children's learning across the curriculum.

Dates for your Diary

This Term's Events

- 20.10.23 – Last day of half term
30.10.23 – Children return to school
31.10.23 – Deadline for secondary school applications
01.11.23 – Year 2 English workshop for parents and carers
02.11.23 – Years 5 and 6 maths workshop for parents and carers, 9.15am
07.11.23 – Year 1 celebration day, 9.10 – 10.10am (parents/carers of half of each class to attend on each day)
08.11.23 – Year 1 celebration day, 9.10 – 10.10am (parents/carers of half of each class to attend on each day)
09.11.23 – Years 3 and 4 maths workshop for parents and carers, 9.15am
16.11.23 – Reception maths workshop for parents and carers, 9.15am
13.12.23 – Years 3 and 4 Second World War workshop in school
13.12.23 – Years 3 and 4 carol concert
14.12.23 – Years 5 and 6 carol concert
16.12.23 – Winter fair
19.12.23 – Class parties
20.12.23 – Last day of term
- 23.01.23 – Final Young Voices rehearsal, parents invited
29.01.24 – Year 5 Young Voices concert at The O2

Autumn Term Library Visits

	10:00- 10:40	11:00 – 11:40
Thurs 28th Sept	2JW	6AC
Fri 29th Sept	1AM	5FM
Thurs 5th Oct	1NS	5OF
Fri 6th Oct	3NI	4BC
Thurs 12th Oct	3/4CB	3KL
Fri 13th Oct	2LT	5RS
Thurs 19th Oct	4YH	6LM
Fri 20th Oct	2LS	6SB

Rescheduled Activity Clubs

Club	Cancelled session	Additional session
Time Travellers	9.10.23	4.12.23
Book Club	17.10.23	5.12.23
KS2 Gymnastics	17.10.23	5.12.23
KS1 Gymnastics	18.10.23	6.12.23
Mini Athletics	19.10.23	7.12.23
Coding, KS1, Years 3/4 and Years 5/6	21.9.23	7.12.23

News and Reminders

Harvest Collection

One of our core values at Bessemer is *Connected to the Community*. It is really important to us to play an active role in our local community; as well as having our amazing Bessemer community around us, we benefit from support and resources in our wider community too, for example volunteer readers from local secondary schools, visits from community police officers and local library trips to name but a few. In return, we try hard to support our community. At the moment we are celebrating Harvest Festival by collecting food for our local foodbank. On Tuesday 31st October our school council children will be going to the food bank to help to sort the donations. While the deadline for donating items was today, we will continue to accept donations on Monday 30th October as we would like to have as much as possible to take with us. Please help us to support our community by sending in any non-perishable items that you can.

TimesTable Rockstars

A few minutes a day on Timestable Rockstars is a great way for children to improve their recall of multiplication and division facts, which will develop their confidence and ability in many areas of maths. Please see the attached poster for details of a Timestable Rockstars competition and encourage your child to take part over half term.

Spellings

We have been asked for clarification around the changes to our teaching of spellings. The reason for the change in approach is that we did not feel our teaching of spelling was as effective as teaching in other areas and we wanted to improve results. We have started to use *Pathways to Spelling* which includes lots of fun and creative ways to teach spelling patterns. Spelling lessons are taught three times a week from Year 2, when children are secure in phonics. The spelling words being taught in the lessons are sent home each week and we encourage children to practise them during the week. There is then a collaborative 'test' in Friday's lesson, during which children work together to remember the spelling patterns and spell the words correctly. While children are no longer tested individually on spellings we do encourage children to do their best to learn them. The collaborative test is beneficial as children learn from each other while discussing spelling rules and it is more supportive for children than an individual test. So far everyone is really enjoying the new approach.

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Parent Group

The ASC parent group continues to take place fortnightly and is held on Tuesdays. Please see below for the remaining dates.

- Tuesday 31st October
- Tuesday 11th November
- Tuesday 28th November
- Tuesday 12th December

The group is run by one of our Wellbeing Practitioners (Lisa) and offers parents and carers an open, non-judgmental space to discuss their child's diagnosis and any related challenges. It provides a supportive environment for parents and carers to work together to overcome these challenges by sharing strategies and problem-solving techniques. Please email lknight@keyworth.southwark.sch.uk for more details.

Parenting Support

School holidays can be a challenging time for families. If you feel in need of some support please try the following resources:

- Families Under Pressure <https://maudsleycharity.org/familiesunderpressure/>

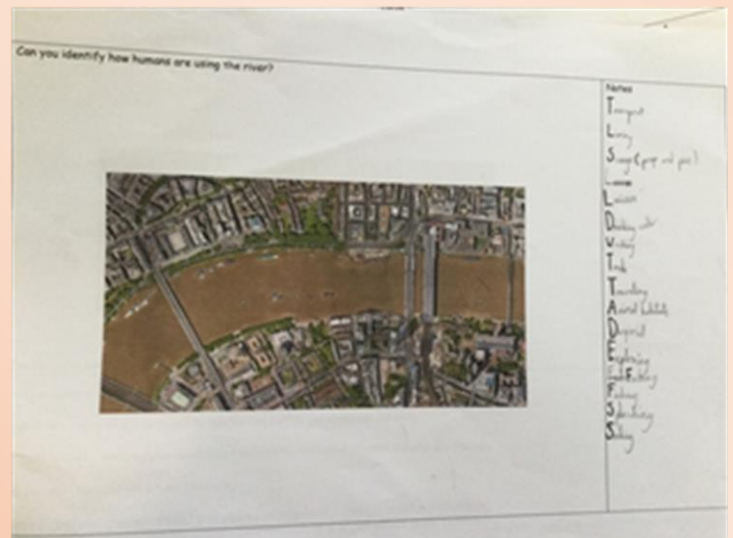
Eight Short films offering parenting tips, launched by Kings College London and the Maudsley Hospital.

- The National Parenting Support Service

Family Lives offer parents a 24-hour free helpline number on: (P) 0808 800 2222, alternatively, (E) askus@familylives.org.uk for support.

Sharing Children's Learning

As part of their topic *Rivers* children in Years 3 and 4 went on a trip to explore the river Thames this week. They explored human and physical features that they found along the river and investigated the question *Can you identify ways in which humans benefit from a river?*



Word of the Week

The Word of the Week for the week after half term is **cajole**. 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 for using the word in their speech and writing and for explaining its meaning and origin.

This half term's words of the week have been:

Inspire

embellish

impromptu

emulate

accurate

defy

F@B Update

Fun run news: Last Saturday 130 Bessemer pupils and their parents turned out for a sunny fun run around the JAGS sports field. There were medals for everyone taking part and trophies for winning runners who whizzed around the 1km, 3km and 5km races. A huge well done to everyone!

The event has raised an amazing £1100 for Bessemer 😊

We also wanted to say a big thank you to our sponsors: JAGS and the Copper Beech cafe. For anyone interested there is a JAGS Holiday Kids Club running next week (23-27 October). A wide variety of classes and activities are available for kids aged 4-14: <https://jagssportsclub.co.uk/jags-kids/#holiday-kids-club>

Online shopping raises money for Bessemer! Did you know you can support Bessemer whenever you shop online through easyfundraising?

It's quick and easy to set up. The simplest thing of all is to get their app on your phone as it then automatically pops up a donation message every time you go to a participating retailer.

This October (if you use the link below to sign up) they will also donate an extra £5 to double the donations from your shopping. Free money!

We've already raised over £5,000 for the school this way and we're keen to raise lots more. Please help if you can. Thank you! 🙏😊

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=124494&invite=yet58h&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_campaign=refCROtest

Pop-Up Book Shop! Come and get a free book on Friday 3rd November! The pop-up book shop will be in the lobby outside the bottom hall straight after school.

Online Safety Tip of the Week

A guide for using AI with children and young people:

In this guide to AI, learn about the different AI tools like ChatGPT that are currently available. Then, explore how to support learning, creativity and even bedtime using AI at home.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Parent-guide-using-artificial-intelligence-Internet-Matters-May-2023.pdf>





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
1AM	Teddy	Vladka	Blessing	Sadie	Teo
1NS	Arabella	Georgios	Jolyon	Vincent	Lyra
2JW	Dougie	Ava	Kenza	Jerome	
2LS	Rimas	Jules	Sebastian	Maya	Louie
2LT	Harris	Taylan	Haddy	Isobel	
3KL	Mikey	Elliott	Eustache	Koji	
3NI	3NI	Ben	Seren	Martha	Marco
3/4CB	Nikolas	Ismay	Daniel	Elena	
4YH	Holly	Arthur	Aishah	Isobel	Uriel
4BC	Whole class	Cavalli	Khaliyah	Holly	
5OF	Hannah	Florence	Edward	Kelvin	Lucy
5RS	Whole class	Florence	Francesco	Rehana	
5FM	Finn	Fayo	Paul	Ezekiel	
6SB	Dexter	Tani	Hasiba	Toren	
6LM	Curtis	Alex	Victoria	Lenny	Emma
6AC	Sophie	Tate	Joe	Yusuf	

Individual Timestable Rockstars (for this half term)

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Yousef	Emma	Leo	Olivia	Janessa	Pearl

Timestable Rockstars Winning Classes (for this half term)

Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
2LS	3KL	5FM

House
Winners

Diamonds!



Have a great half term break!

Elizabeth

BESSEMER



OCTOBER HALF TERM TOP OF THE ROCKS

21 OCTOBER - 29 OCTOBER 2023

*** ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE ***

**PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL ***

ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES *

