

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 25th 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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January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
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May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	August 2025
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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

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
06.11.24 – Year 5 and 6 trip to The Science Museum and Royal Albert Hall
04 - 08.11.24 – Year 5 Bikeability course
08.11.24 – Pre-loved toy sale after school – F@B
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 – Nursery trip to Sainsbury's
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


Moving to Instagram

We have decided that we will no longer be using X (previously Twitter) as a platform to share our news and photos as we do not think the values associated with it are compatible with our core values of being respectful and progressive. From today we will be using Instagram instead, please follow us at [@bessemmerprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/bessemmerprimaryschool). Over the coming weeks we will begin using this platform to share up-to date news along with photos and videos of the exciting learning that we do inside and outside the classroom.

Please look out for an email from the office at the beginning of next half term, asking that you contact us in writing if you do not want your child's image to be shared on the new school Instagram account, so we can update our permissions information.

Inclusion Support

National Autistic Society coffee mornings



For parents & carers of autistic children on:

Friday 8th November
9:30am
Carnegie Library
Herne Hill, SE24 0AG

And the first Friday of every month
FREE of charge
Open to parents/carers of autistic people
of all ages in Lambeth & neighbouring
boroughs

Our topic this month: **EHCPs**
Yuk-King Wong and Henrietta Rooney share their experiences and top tips about EHCPs: including the pros & cons of having an EHCP, how to navigate the process of getting an EHCP and being clued up on what support your child is legally entitled to.



Please also see the information on supporting children with ASD and ADHD at the end of this newsletter and check the flyers at the end of the newsletter each week for further inclusion support, as well as looking at the inclusion hub on the website <https://www.thegemfederation.co.uk/bessemmer-primary/learning-hub/our-curriculum/send/>

Half Term Activities

Free Dynamos Cricket Camp: There is a half term cricket camp being held at Southwark Park offering free places for 8-11 year olds.

Date and location: October half term 28th - 31st October 2024 at the Southwark Park, Hawkstone Road, London SE16 2UA

Session Time: 10am 12.30pm

Sign up Link <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/BookCourse/e51e1ce0-7dbf-474b-9f65-a7361cfe03b8>

Voucher code: WBVOM – when registering enter the voucher code to convert the £40 cost to no cost.

Gymnastics: Our gymnastics club leader, coach Stephanie is running gymnastics sessions at Harris Girls during half term – see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details.

Girls' Football: There are flyers at the end of the newsletter detailing football camps provided by Girls United, who provide football training for KS2 girls at Bessemer.

The Big Draw – Free Activity: We will be taking part in Big Draw activities in school next half term, why not get involved early by attending a free online art workshop - see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Sharing Children's Learning

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

This year we are focusing on developing oracy across the school. Our main aims are to develop children's speaking and listening, including their public speaking skills and to use oracy to further develop children's writing, through lots of drama-based activities and oral rehearsal of writing. We have introduced this focus to the children through our performance poetry project which we launched for National Poetry Day. Classes and groups throughout the school spent time reading and reciting poetry in class and then selected groups performed their poems in assembly this week, along with our school improvement partner, David Bromfield, who came along to perform a poem of his own! Everyone did an amazing job and we will be sharing the videos of the performances on Google Classroom after half term.



Sharing Children's Learning

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

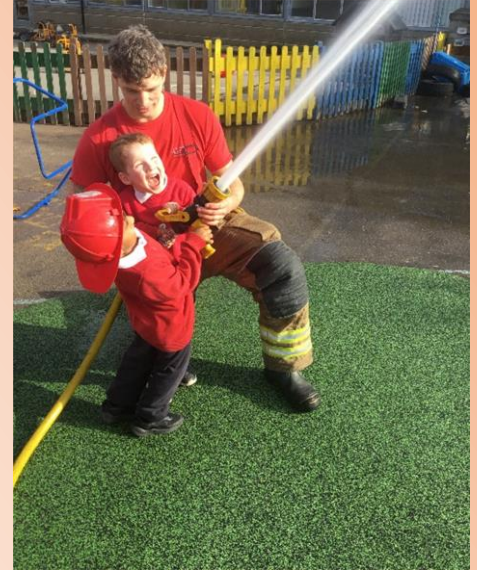
Children in Year 1 had an RE immersion day during which the children were learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. They learnt about some of the key customs of Diwali before completing different workshops. This including making story books to retell the story of Rama and Sita, making Diya (or Diva) lamps and learning about the art of designing Rangolis using different techniques.



Sharing Children's Learning

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

Children in Early Years have been learning about *People Who Help Us* this half term. They have had lots of visitors from our Bessemer community and the wider community to help them to understand the jobs people do. Here are some pictures from their sessions with firefighters and a midwife:

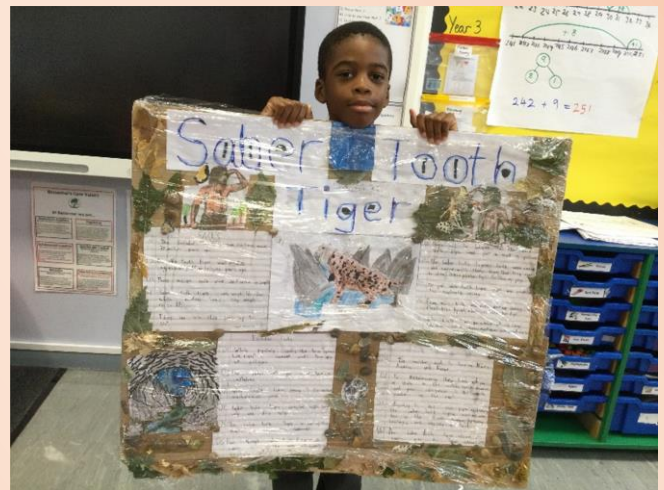
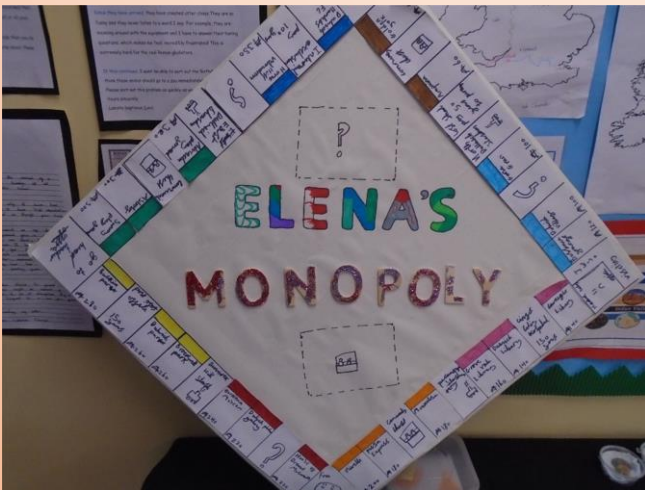


Sharing Children's Learning
Demonstrating our core value of being *Creative and Practical*

Children in Years 3 and 4 had their Bikeability sessions this week:



And finally, some more examples of the fantastic topic homework children have been bringing in to share. You should have received your child's Knowledge Organiser and homework for their new topic today, with lots of suggestions of activities to complete over half term if you would like to get a head start on next half term's topic – we look forward to seeing more great home learning next half term!



Word of the Week

Word of the Week is intended to increase the number of words in children's vocabularies and expose them to words which they may not already know. We encourage children to use these new words as much as possible when speaking so that they become embedded in their vocabularies. Having a broad vocabulary leads to improved progress in reading, writing and other areas of the curriculum. Here are this half term's Words of the Week to practise using over the holiday:

wise courteous amiable adventurous vibrant imply sincere

Challenge your child to see how many of the words they can use in a sentence, see who can make the most new words by adding prefixes and suffixes or test each other on the definition of each word. You could also make up your own crosswords or word searches for family members and friends to complete.

F@B Update

Fun run report

Well done to all the brilliant runners at the Bessemer fun run last week. We had a great turnout and it was a beautiful sunny afternoon. The children each got a medal to keep and thanks to some generous sponsors we have been able to raise hundreds of pounds for Bessemer!

🧸 Preloved Toy Sale - Friday 8 November

After school in the year 5/6 playground

There's a new F@B event being planned and we would LOVE to involve as many families as possible ... please join us if you can!

Bessemer children can make some extra pocket money by selling their good quality unwanted toys (and it could be a great way to clear out spares and toys that are no longer played with over half term... 😊).

Children can set up a pitch by themselves or with a friend - laying out their toys on a picnic blanket or rug and we will ask for a donation to F@B for each pitch (minimum £3).

Please message Clare on 07712187999 to register for a pitch or find out more.

We will need lots of customers too! So please mark the date in your calendar 😊

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Roblox Parent Guide

What is Roblox? What should parents and carers know about this popular website for children?

Roblox is a really popular game creator system where games are made by 'amateur' game creators and shared to the community to be played and enjoyed by children worldwide, often online together, either on a phone or tablet app, or a web browser.

Internet matters have put together a useful parent guide with information about age ratings, in game purchases, how to set parental controls and how to monitor your child's account.

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/?gad=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMIu573xdTogQMVMbZoCR3Y-A7PEAAAYASAAEgJQLPD_BwE





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	Benjamin	Nickell	Leo T	Rex	
1NS	Elijah	Celeste	Louie	Hadley	Arlo
1ST	Maya	Aaia	Rudy	Violet	
2SD	Arabella	Ella	Georgios	Benjamin	
2LT	Sadie	Nathan	Larry	Teresa	Leon
3LS	Harris	Margot	Bella	Nathaniel	
3NI	Nyeela	Maceo	Rimas	Callum	
3/4BW	Malaki	Ava	Ramsay	Azaheir	Helene
4BG	Seren	Valentina	Wolfe	Makai	
4GS	Nikolas	Faye	Salome	Wilfred	Elliott
5RS	Rose	Lucien	Cavalli	Elijah	
5OF	Tobias	Olivia	Sam	Adeola	Johnny
5FM	Holly	Callum	Ramadan	Arthur	
6LM	Camai	Isaac	Fox	Emily W	Owen
6SB	Ozgur	Alexis	Amelia	Sophie	
6MS	Martha	Fayo Ruby	Bill	Violet	

Individual Timestable Rockstars

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Maya	Ella	Malachi C	Agnes W	Lucien	Faiza

Timestable Rockstars Winning Classes

Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
2SD	4GS	6SB

House
Winners

Emeralds!



Have a great half term break!

Elizabeth

Helping Your Child with ADHD & ASD: Sleep and Focus Support

Sleep Support Options

Children with ADHD and ASC often struggle with sleep. Lack of sleep can affect their behaviour, focus, and emotional regulation. To help improve their sleep, here are some natural remedies and calming aids you can explore:

Sweet Dreams Sleep Stickers

A blend of natural sleep oils that can be applied to help children relax and fall asleep. Stick one onto your child's skin before bed.

<https://amzn.eu/d/54hSriL>

Kids Sleep Gummies

A chewable, melatonin-free sleep supplement that includes ingredients like magnesium, L-Theanine, and Vitamin B12 to naturally promote relaxation. Give one gummy about 30 minutes before bedtime.

<https://amzn.eu/d/27jl3IW>

Natures Aid Bedtime Sleep Drops

Mini drops formulated with natural ingredients for children 3 months to 5 years to encourage restful sleep. Add drops to a drink or administer directly.

<https://amzn.eu/d/6LKUfse>

Child's Farm Lavender Pillow Mist

A gentle lavender mist suitable for sensitive skin. The calming scent of lavender can help create a soothing bedtime atmosphere. Spray lightly onto pillows and bed linen before sleep.

<https://amzn.eu/d/1dvJjk9>

BuzzPatch Focus Stickers

Natural patches designed to enhance focus and concentration without chemicals or drugs. Great for kids and adults alike. Place the sticker on your child's clothing during homework or focused activities.

<https://amzn.eu/d/2r0cuwt>

Magnesium Supplement

Magnesium can help regulate mood, reduce hyperactivity, and improve sleep. It's also known to ease anxiety, which can be beneficial for children with ASC and ADHD. Natural sources can be found in leafy greens, nuts and seeds.

Potassium Supplement

Potassium supports brain function, muscle control, and helps maintain proper nervous system health. Natural sources can be found in Bananas, oranges and potatoes.

Cod Liver Oil (Omega-3 Fatty Acids)

Omega-3s are crucial for brain development and function. Research suggests that they can improve attention, focus, and reduce hyperactivity in children with ADHD. Available in liquid or capsule form.

Vitamin B12

B12 supports nerve and brain health, which is especially important for children with neurodevelopmental disorders like ASC. Found in animal products like meat, eggs, dairy, or as a supplement.

General Tips for Managing ADHD & ASC

Establish a Consistent Routine: Regularity helps reduce anxiety and gives structure to children who may find unpredictability stressful.

Encourage Physical Activity: Exercise helps burn off excess energy and improves focus and mood.

Consider Sensory Needs: Children with ASC or ADHD may be sensitive to light, sound, or touch. Finding the right sensory tools (weighted blankets, noise-cancelling headphones) can help them feel more comfortable and focused.

Dietary Adjustments: Reducing sugar and processed foods while increasing intake of whole foods can improve focus and energy levels.

Financial Support for Families of Children with Additional Needs in the UK

If you have a child with additional needs, there are several forms of financial assistance available to help cover the costs of care, equipment, or everyday living. Below is an overview of two key sources of support: Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and the Family Fund.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit for children under 16 who have a disability or health condition. It helps with the extra costs of looking after a child who needs more care or supervision than a child of the same age without a disability.

Eligibility Criteria -

To qualify for DLA, your child must:

- Be under 16 years of age.
- Have had their condition for at least 3 months and expect it to last for at least another 6 months.
- Need more help or supervision than other children their age.

How to Apply -

You can apply for DLA for your child through:

Online Application: You can start the claim online at the UK Government website.

Paper Form: Download and complete the DLA claim form from the UK Government website.

DLA Helpline: 0800 121 4600

Family Fund

The Family Fund is a UK-wide charity providing financial grants to families raising a disabled or seriously ill child under 18. The grants help with a variety of items, services, or activities that can improve the quality of life for your child and family, such as equipment, clothing, travel costs, or sensory toys.

Eligibility Criteria -

To be eligible for a Family Fund grant, your child must:

- Be under 18 years old.
- Have a disability, additional needs, or a serious illness.
- Receive a high level of DLA (Care or Mobility) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP), or have a complex medical or learning condition.
- The family must meet certain financial conditions (i.e., low income or receiving benefits).

How to Apply

Online Application: Apply through the Family Fund's official website.

Phone Application: Call the Family Fund helpline if you need assistance with the application.

Family Fund: 01904 550 055



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 as focusing on oracy and speaking skills at Bessemer, **as a home learning task**, we would like to we would like you 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.

BESSEMER



OCTOBER HALF TERM

26 OCTOBER - 03 NOVEMBER 2024

*** 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 *



Gymnastics with Coach Stephanie
HEADS, HEARTS & HANDSTANDS

WEDNESDAY
30TH OCT

HALLOWEEN FLIP CAMP



**Wednesday 30th
October**
4:45pm-
6:15pm



**Harris Girls Academy East
Dulwich**
Homestall Rd
SE22 0NR



£16
Per Person

THE ACTIVITIES

An afternoon of Spooky
FLIP-TASTIC Gymnastics
Fun!

Hang like a Bat, Float Like a
Ghost, Fly like a Witch and
Roll like a Pumpkin through
this special Halloween
themed workshop with
Coach Stephanie

AGES 5-12

Gym safe
Fancy Dress
Welcome

Tricks,
Treats
&
Prizes

REGISTER NOW

Message: 07931 398 549

Booking **ESSENTIAL**

British Gymnastics Level 3 qualified Coach. Enhanced DBS. First Aid Trained



Free online art activity!

More Big Draw activities at:

<https://thebigdraw.org/events?s=ART+PLAY+LONDON>

HALF-TERM IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...



ART REBEL ART CLUB IS BACK!

Tuesday 29 October, 3:00PM (GMT) | Free | Zoom

Join us for a **fun, FREE online art adventure** this half-term, led by art historian & award-winning author Ben Street! In this interactive workshop, young art rebels will explore weird and wonderful works of art, learning to see them in fun and exciting new ways.

Perfect for **ages 5-11**, but rebels of all ages are welcome - just bring your **curiosity, a pen, and some paper**. And for **older art rebels**, don't miss our **[Art Rebel Art Club \(Teens and Adults\)](#)** session on **4th November!**

I WANT TO BE AN ART REBEL!



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

Ofsted Registered

Children's Vouchers Accepted

 Sportsfocuscoaching...  Sports Focus Coaching Limited

OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMPS

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS ON AND OFF THE PITCH IN A FUN AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.



GRIFFIN SPORTS GROUND
 SE21 7AL

31ST OCTOBER & 1ST NOVEMBER
 0900 - 1500

SIGN UP & PLAY!



girlsunitedfa.org/londoncamps

GIRLS UNITED

OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMPS

INDIVIDUAL TECHNIQUE FOOTBALL CLINICS WORKSHOPS GAME-RELATED PRACTICE

AGES 5 TO 14 ALL LEVELS OF FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE WELCOME




Free & discounted memberships available

girlsunitedfa.org/communitypricing