

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Dates for your Diary

Friday 2nd February 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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2024 Class Assembly Dates

		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

05.02.24 – Year 2 local area visit
07.02.24 – Reception Unicorn Theatre trip
07.02.24 – Year 5 London Eye trip
08.02.24 – Last day of half term for children
09.02.24 – Tutorial Day (school closed to children)
19.02.24 – Children return to school
WB 19.02.24 - Bikeability for EYs and KS1
WB 26.02.24 - Bikeability for Years 3 and 4
28.02.24 – Zoolab visit for Nursery and Years 1 and 2
WB 04.03.24 – Bikeability for Years 5 and 6
07.03.24 – World Book Day
07.03.24 – Early Years Celebration Day
28.03.24 – Last day of term
15.04.24 – Inset day
16.04.24 – Children return to school

Spring Term Library Visits

(Please note changes as requested by the library)

	10:20- 11	11:15 - 11:55
Thurs 11 th Jan	3KL	6AC
Fri 12 th Jan	1AM	6LM
Thurs 18 th Jan	1NS	6SB
Fri 19 th Jan	3NI	4BC
Thurs 25 th Jan	2JW	
Fri 26 th Jan	2LT	
Thurs 1 st Feb	2LS	
Fri 2 nd Feb	3/4CB	
Thurs 22 nd Feb	5RS	
Fri 23 rd Feb	5FM	
Thurs 29 th Feb	5OF	
Fri 1 st March	4VG	
Thurs 7 th March	Rainbow	
Fri 8 th March	Moonbeam	
Thursday 14 th March	Sunshine	

News and Reminders

Tutorial Day

Please remember that next Friday is tutorial day and school is closed to children. If you have not yet made an appointment to see your child's teacher please do so on Parentmail or contact the school office.

Number Day

Children had a great time today dressing up in number related outfits and completing maths puzzles. Look out for the photos in next week's newsletter. We have raised well over £200 for the NSPCC so far, thank you for your generous donations! If you would still like to donate there is a collection bucket in the office.

Trading Cards

We lifted the ban on trading cards in school for a number of reasons and we still feel that there are many benefits to allowing children to bring them in to school. They provide additional social opportunities for children, they are good for developing maths skills such as problem solving and strategic thinking and school is one of the only places that most children get the chance to swap and play with cards with their friends.

However, following some issues in school since the ban was lifted we will be making some changes to the rules around them. From Monday children will not be allowed to bring their card folders or large tins into school, they will only be allowed to bring in a small number of cards (their 'spares' for trading) that can fit in their pocket or can be stored in their classroom tray if they have one. As well as making it less likely that cards will go missing, this will also partially address the issues of inequality raised by some children having greater access to cards than others. There will be specific trading zones in each playground and cards will only be allowed to be used in these areas. This will allow adults on duty to provide better supervision and address any problems that arise.

Scratch Competition



Children enjoy using the program *Scratch* to create their own animations and games. In school, children use the program from Year 1, to develop skills in programming and continue using it throughout their time at Bessemer, learning more about how to use the more advanced blocks in their own projects.

The wonderful thing about Scratch and Scratch Junior (for younger children) is the app is free to download to use at home to create your own projects. There is also a fantastic online version, where the Scratch community can share, play and comment on each other's projects in a positive and constructive way.

If you haven't yet checked out this resource, then please consider it. It can be a great way to engage with your child about things they enjoy doing and find out what they have been learning in school.

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

On Monday you will receive a letter about a Scratch competition that we are running in school with our computing ambassadors, so you might want to get practising!

Please see the Online Safety Tip of the Week for information about how Scratch ensures online safety.

KS2 Girls' Art Competition

Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details of an art competition for girls aged 8-14, taking place in celebration of International Women's Day. The deadline for entries is 7th February, so start getting creative!

Sharing Children's Learning

Children in Year 1 enjoyed an interactive experience called *Ready, Steady, Lift off!* at The Unicorn theatre this week. The children had a great time making and wearing their rocket costumes and they got a lot of admiring looks as they walked back to school wearing them!



Sharing Children's Learning

Children in year 5 had an unforgettable experience at their Young Voices concert at The O2 this week, joining around 9000 other children to perform the songs they have been learning in their music lessons this year.



Some KS2 children took part in a PSSRN bowling competition this week. They had a great time and demonstrated brilliant teamwork.



We have seen more fantastic home learning this week, here are some pieces from the *Romans* topic:



Word of the Week

This week's word of the week was **comprehend** (meaning *to understand*, e.g. *I could not comprehend what he was talking about.*). Well done to everyone who worked it out from the clues!

Please work with your child to decipher the clues below in order to work out next week's word of the week. If your child can guess the word of the week and tell their teacher on Monday they will get a gem. The word will be revealed in assemblies on Tuesday this week so that children can then use it throughout the rest of the week and will be shared on the newsletter on Friday, along with the next set of clues.

The clues for next week's word:

Where to find it - find me under p

What it means - to move stealthily as though looking for prey (verb)

When to use it - The cat _____(ed) the garden, looking for mice.

There's another bird in this word!

Good luck!

F@B Update

The nature garden is back in action!

You might have seen tree surgeons hard at work in the Nature Garden last week. It has now been made safe and usable for the children again (after the storms earlier this month). So outdoor learning and play can take place once again.

This was funded by F@B after the school asked us if we dedicate some funds for its repair. We were delighted to help 😊

Nature garden parties:

Bessemer families can also book the nature garden for a party - contact fab@friendsatbessemer.co.uk for more details.

Coming up after half term...

You can expect more ice cream Fridays as the days get lighter (and less chilly!). Plus we will be celebrating **World Book Day** with a pop up book swap-shop giving every child a book on 7/8 March and we will have a fun Easter **egg hunt** on 15 March.

We're also inviting Bessemer parents to 2 **meet and greet** sessions: Friday 23 February 9-10am at school and Monday 26 February at the Cherry Tree pub 7-10pm. We hope you can join us!

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Scratch

If you want to find out more about Scratch – such as how Scratch works to keep their online community a positive and safe place for children - [please visit this fantastic parent and guardian information blog](#) which can answer any questions you may have about it:

<https://medium.com/scratchteam-blog/a-parents-and-guardians-guide-to-scratch-3f0b96e35fc3>





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
Rainbow	Samuel	George	Olivia		
Sunshine	Inoa	Angus	Cormac		
Moonbeam	Marlow	Lev	Joe		
1AM	Teresa	Mason	Larry	Nathan	
1NS	Benjamin	Leila	Jago	Lola	Jeremiah
2JW	Nyeela	Athena	Ferhot	Ava	Ramsay
2LS	Humaira	Imaan	Rayha	Manon	
2LT	Malachi	Evie	Harris	Isobel	
3KL	Agnes W	Micah	Isaiah	Faye	Grace
3NI	Marco	Seren	Maia	Mattias	
3/4CB	Elena	Idris	Nikolas	Daniel	
4BC	Malachi	Adam	Rose	Eve	
4VG	Holly	Isobel	Runnah	Aubrey	
5RS	Hameed	Emily	Michael	Virtue	Jacob
5OF	Edward	Emily	Bailey	Mahnaz	
5FM	Frankie	Aimenya	Ali	Martha	
6LM	Amani	Olesia	Naomi Rose	Alex	
6SB	Dexter	Polly	Hillary	Tom	Summer
6AC	Tofunmi	Sophie	Tate	Una	

Individual Timestable Rockstars

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Leon	Ibrahim	Grace	Fran	Alexis	Eddie

Timestable Rockstars Winning Classes

Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
2LS	3NI	5OF

House Winners	Emeralds!
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Have a great weekend!

Elizabeth

Aunt Joy on International Women's Day



To celebrate International Women's Day, on 8th March, Aunt Joy will be releasing the collaboration series "Girls Like Us" to highlight the incredible talent of creative young girls around the world.

<https://auntjoygallery.com/pages/girls-like-us>

<https://auntjoygallery.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/auntjoygallery/>

CALLING ALL GIRLS!! (8-14 yrs old) ENTER BY 7th FEBUARY.

To celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th March, and to highlight the incredible talent of creative young **girls around the world...** Aunt Joy's "Girls Like Us" series is BACK!!

Aunt Joy is driven to make more space for women in art, and to pave a smoother path for the younger generation of female creatives.

Studies show that, between the ages of 8-14, young girls' confidence levels drop by 30% ([source](#)).

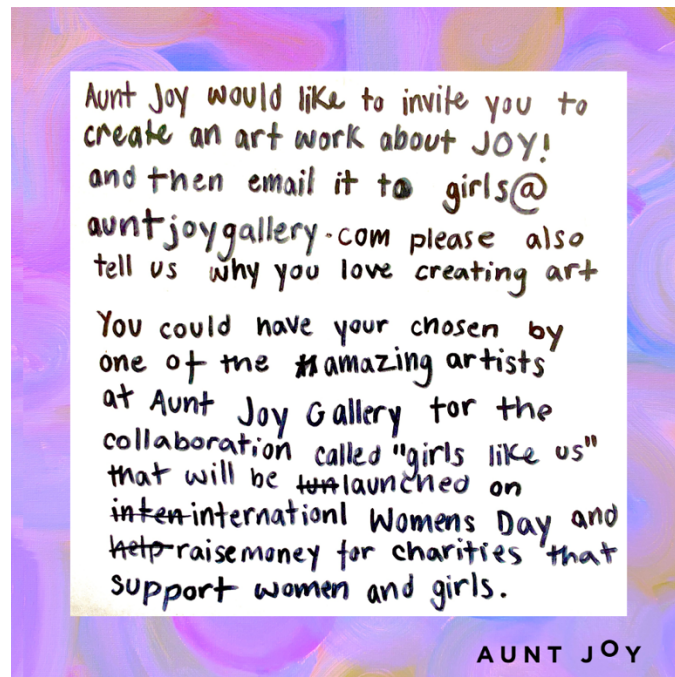
The "Girls Like Us" collaboration series will be launched on International Women's Day, 8th March on auntjoygallery.com and available to purchase, with 50% of sales going to the charities we support including UN Women, Warchild, Sistah Space, A Bloody Good Period & Refuge.

HOW TO ENTER

Aunt Joy would like to invite girls between the ages of 8-14 to create an artwork based on JOY. Think about: How does joy make you feel? What makes you feel joy? Your artwork can be created in any way you desire.

Email a clear photograph, of the artwork only to girls@auntjoygallery.com by MIDNIGHT GMT 7th February (files no bigger than 25mb).

Include: Name, age and answer to the following question: Why do you love creating art?



The 'Girls Like Us' series will include a collection of limited edition prints and original paintings, all created by featured Aunt Joy artists, with the selected pieces of young girls' artwork at the core. An exciting collaboration we can't wait to launch. The selected young artists will receive one of the artworks that their art is featured in, from the collaborating artist.

In a still overwhelmingly a male dominated industry, the art world still has some way to go achieve anything close to equal representation for their female counterparts. According to a study conducted by the National Museum of Women in the Arts only **13.7% of living artists represented by galleries in Europe and North America are women** ([source](#)) However in the UK, **73% of students on postgraduate art and design courses are women** according to a study by Dr Kate McMillan for the Freedom Foundation ([source](#)).

Aunt Joy is an online gallery, exhibiting exciting contemporary art created by women, supporting women-centred charities.

Artwork credit: Eve 14, Lola 11, Winnie 9.
