

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming Events for the Autumn Term

- 14.12.24 – Winter fair, 12-3pm
- 16.12.24 – Year 1 and 2 carols, 3pm
- 17.12.24 – Year 3 and 4 carol concert at St Faith's, 5.30pm
- 18.12.24 – Nursery carols, 3pm
- 18.12.24 – Year 5 and 6 carol concert at St Faith's, 5.30pm
- 18.12.24 – Children's Christmas lunch and Christmas dress up (Christmas jumpers or accessories)
- 19.12.24 – Class parties (children can wear their party clothes all day)
- 20.12.24 – Last day of term, 2pm finish, no After School Club

Please see the Christmas events page of the newsletter for more details about all the events taking place next week.

07.01.25 – Children return to school

The next round of booking for spring term activity clubs opens at 4pm on Monday 16th December. In this round of booking you can book as many clubs as you would like. If you had already booked two after school activity clubs in the first round then one of those bookings will have been cancelled, so please check and rebook if spaces are still available. This round of bookings will stay open over the holiday.

Spring 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.

	10.20-11.00		10.20-11.00
Thurs 9 th Jan	6LM	Thurs 27 th Feb	3LS
Fri 10 th Jan	6MS	Fri 28 th Feb	2LT
Thurs 16 th Jan	6SB	Thurs 6 th March	2SD
Fri 17 th Jan	5RS	Fri 7 th March	1JM
Thurs 23 rd Jan	5FM	Thurs 13 th March	1NS
Fri 24 th Jan	5OF	Fri 14 th March	1ST
Thurs 30 th Jan	4GS	Thurs 20 th March	Moonbeam
Fri 31 st Jan	4BG	Fri 21 st March	Sunshine
Thurs 6 th Feb	3/4BW	Thurs 27 th March	Ladybird
Fri 7 th Feb	3NI	Fri 28 th March	Butterfly

News and Reminders

Saying Goodbye

After an incredible achievement of more than 33 years of teaching at Bessemer the time has come to say an emotional goodbye to Mandy Starnes. There are parents of current Bessemer children who remember being taught by Mandy, so quite literally generations of children have benefited from her teaching over the years. We are so grateful to Mandy for all she has done at Bessemer and wish her the very best of luck in all she does next! While we will miss Mandy enormously we are also very pleased to be welcoming back Kate Lewis to take over Mandy's class in January.

We are also very sorry to be saying goodbye to Amy Mcguigan who is leaving us to move out of London. Amy has been with us for 10 years, first as a teaching assistant and more recently as a very much-loved teacher. We are very sorry to be losing Amy, but understand the pull of a new life in the country! This is something of a staggered move, so I am happy to reassure you that we get to keep Colin for a few more months before he heads north to join the family!

Finally, not really goodbye, but Jaime Long is taking a sabbatical for the next two terms to return home to Birmingham. Jaime is an invaluable part of the Gem Federation leadership team and will be sorely missed, although she will continue to work remotely one day a week, so you may receive a letter from her from time to time. Hurry back Jaime!

House Winners

All of the children in Sapphires enjoyed a trip to the cinema this week to watch *Despicable Me 4* as a reward for being the house that collected the most gems this term. Well done Sapphires! Now it's time to start collecting again and see which house will win in the spring term!



Lunchtime Hockey

Children in Years 5 and 6 have been enjoying taking part in a lunchtime hockey tournament organized by Fiona over the last few weeks. The children are still playing knock out stages at the moment but are looking forward to an exciting final next week!



Jack's Football Match Report

Bessemer's football teams have continued their fine form. Both teams secured wins despite less-than-ideal weather conditions. The girls produced their most assured performance to date with a controlled 2-0 win over Michael Faraday. Meanwhile the boys were the victors of a seven-goal thriller, winning 4-3 against Harris East Dulwich. Our table topping teams have laid down a marker during the early part of this season and both teams can be very proud of their dominate displays.



News and Reminders

Inclusion Update

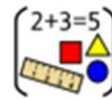
We are a proudly inclusive school and we celebrate and respect differences, as reflected in our core values. Lori Knight is introducing a new, monthly Neurodiversity section to our newsletters. Each month she will share information about Neurodiversity, a specific focus for the month and activities you can choose to complete at home. Here is the first installment!

What is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity is the idea that brain differences are normal and should be respected. These differences can include how we think, learn, behave, and communicate. Neuro diverse individuals might experience the world differently than those who are "neurotypical," and that's okay!

Common Examples of Neurodiversity:

- Autism Spectrum Condition
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Dyslexia
- Developmental Coordination Condition
- Dyscalculia
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Developmental Language Condition



It is important to understand that being neuro diverse does not mean things are impossible - it simply means children and adults may approach tasks or challenges differently. When we support and advocate for neuro diverse individuals, we empower them to thrive!

How You Can Help

Each month, we will introduce a new topic focusing on a different need related to neurodiversity. We ask you to:

- **Discuss neurodiversity with your children at home** using the prompts provided.
- **Encourage empathy and understanding of others** who may learn or think differently.
- **Take part in fun activities linked to each month's topic and bring them into school to share.** There will be opportunities for children to earn rewards like gems, certificates, and opportunities to have their work displayed around the school.

Why It Matters

When children and adults learn to celebrate neurodiversity, they grow up to be compassionate, respectful, and empowered individuals. Encouraging them to advocate for themselves and their peers helps create a more supportive and understanding society for the future.

Activity 1



Research a Famous Neurodiverse Person. Examples include: Albert Einstein, Temple Grandin, Simone Biles, Greta Thunberg.

Find out how their neurodiversity contributed to their success. Create a Poster, PowerPoint or Drawing to show what you have learnt.

Pieces of work should be brought into school when we return on **Tuesday 7th January 2024** and handed to the class teacher.

Thank you for your support and engagement in this important initiative. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to the school. Contact: lknight@gemfed.co.uk

Next Week's Christmas Events

When?	Who?	Where?	What?
14.12.24 from 12-3pm	Everyone	school	Please come and support our amazing F@B at the Winter Fair.
16.12.24 at 3pm Doors open at 2.50pm	Years 1 and 2	The top hall	Parents and carers please come and watch KS1 children sing some festive favourites! Children should wear their normal school uniform but can bring a festive hat or other accessory to wear.
17.12.24 at 5.30pm Doors open at 5.15pm	Years 3 and 4	St Faith's	Parents and carers, please come to our annual carol concerts – children are picked up from school and taken to the concert by parents or carers, we do not take any children from school. Children can only leave after the concert with an adult. Children can wear their festive outfits and accessories. Time to practice the actions to The Twelve Days of Christmas everyone!
18.12.24 at 5.30pm Doors open at 5.15pm	Years 5 and 6		
18.12.24 at 3pm	Nursery	The top hall	Parents and carers please come and watch Nursery children sing some festive favourites! Children can wear festive clothes or accessories all day.
18.12.24	Everyone	school	Children have their Christmas lunch in school. If your child usually has packed lunch and you want them to have Christmas lunch please let the office know next week. Children can wear festive jumpers, outfits or accessories all day.
19.12.24 at 3pm	Little Stars	Little Stars	The second Little Stars sing along has been rescheduled to take place after the children's class party. Parents and carers please come along and join your Little Stars child to sing some favourite songs and join in with some festive fun!
19.12.24	Everyone	school	All classes will be having their class parties and children can wear party clothes to school. Classes will let parents and carers know if they would like food donations.

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

Children in years 3 and 4 went to The Natural History Museum this week to learn more about their topic *Earthquakes and Volcanos*:



Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core value of being *Creative and Practical*

As usual we have seen some fantastic topic homework this half term! From junk modelling of Pudding Lane and a puppet theatre depicting The Great Fire of London to some amazing volcanos (including some that erupted!) and some great fact files it is clear that families have been really engaging in children's topic learning. You will receive your child's new knowledge organizer and topic homework next week, please have a look over the holiday and find out about your child's next topic - we look forward to seeing even more examples of creative homework next term!



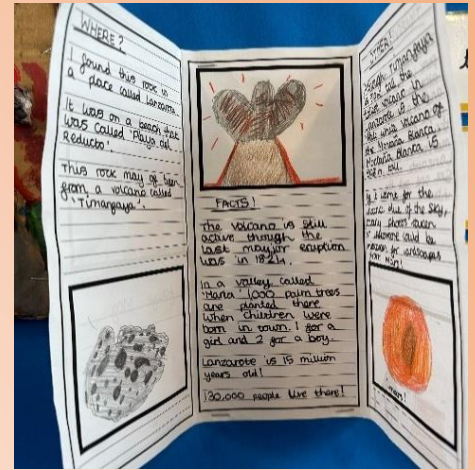
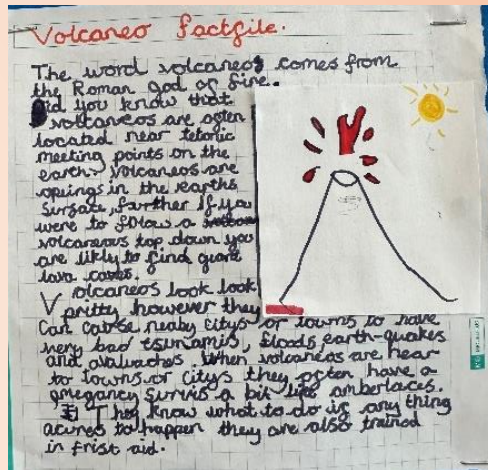
Volcanoes 30
The word volcano
The Roman god
but who know?



Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core value of being *Creative and Practical*

More topic homework!



Classes had a lot of fun erupting these volcanos and watching some light up!



Word of the Week

The Word of the Week next week is **benevolent**. 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

A huge thank you to everyone in the school community for your amazing support this term!

Our **Winter Raffle** had an amazing prize list sourced by volunteers and donated by local businesses. And with the generous support of the school community we have raised a record-breaking amount for Bessemer: £2,674!

Well done to the winners! Please come and collect your prizes from the school office before the end of term.

Beautiful handmade **Christmas Wreaths** will be decorating lots of Bessemer families' homes this month. A huge thank you to Ruth and the team who organised 3 wreath making workshops and raised £1119!

We're very excited about the **Winter Fair** on Saturday. There's going to be music, games, bouncy castle, food, bar and all the fun stalls that we know and love like skittles, chocolate tombola, teddy tombola and more besides! It runs 12-3pm - please do join us if you can!




Online Safety Tip of the Week

A Digital Christmas – Top Tips from Internet Matters

This festive season, set your child up for online safety that lasts the whole year. Whether you're gifting a new device or one that's new-to-them, make sure you set it up before you wrap it up, with step-by-step guides and a personalised online safety plan.

Find out more with the Internet Matters festive online safety guides:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/childrens-online-safety-this-festive-season/>

<p>Set up safe checklist</p>  <p>Before they open their brand new device this holiday season, make sure you set them up safe with this guide.</p> <p>DOWNLOAD PDF</p>	<p>Step-by-step guides</p> <p>Benefits of parental controls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Manage chat and screen timeSet to play age appropriate gamesControl in-game spend <p>Explore over 70 step-by-step how-to guides to set controls and privacy settings on a range of devices and platforms.</p> <p>SEE GUIDES</p>
<p>Gifting a second-hand phone?</p>  <p>Get top tips on how to get it ready for your child to use second-hand devices safely and smartly</p>	<p>The best tech for the holidays</p>  <p>Guide to buying tech</p> <p>Gift the right tech for your family this festive season with our guide created with help from expert Andy Robertson.</p>





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
Rainbow	Jude	Dhvisha	K'Mara		
Sunshine	Ricardo	Hugh	Mabel		
Moonbeam	Frank	Romai	Tymi		
1JM	Gabriel	Victoria	Leo I	Theo	Ben
1NS	Ernie	Lev	Tobi	Florence	
1ST	Safiyatu	Raymond	Lenny	Hilal	
2SD	Ella	Nia Bella	Eleanore	Rufus	Florence
2LT	Jhane	Larry	Leon	Teo	
3LS	Edward	Nathan	Isobel	Ibrahim	
3NI	Kenza	Humaira	Lucas	Margot	Callum
3/4BW	Whole Class	Malaki	Ava	Finn	
4BG	No certificates this week due to the class trip				
4GS					
5RS	Stella	Elena	Harley	George	Sharon
5OF	Sophie	Eve	Callum	Sammy	
5FM	Aishah	Mariatu	Kyanna	Amelia	Winnie
6LM	Owen	Andrea	Toferati	Polly	
6SB	Valentina	Sami	Hannah	Olive	
6MS	Violet	Ruby	Neron	Einas	Lori

Individual Timestable Rockstars

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Benjamin	Teo	Emma	Alessandro	Esme	Eve

Timestable Rockstars Winning Classes

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

House Winners	Emeralds!
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Have a great weekend and I hope to see you at the winter fair on Saturday!

Elizabeth

Winter FOOD & FUN

FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN
(0-8YEARS)

Date:

Monday 23rd - Tuesday 24th December 2024

Time: 10am - 2pm

**Address: Lewington centre
9 Eugenia Road SE16 2RU**

Monday activities: crafts Music , games, lunch etc
Tuesday: Games, Christmas Lunch and a gift from Santa

For more Information

02035369609, 07394662602

✉ Admin@parentskills2go.com
🌐 Parentskills2go.org

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MAYOR'S
FUND FOR
LONDON



Winter FOOD & FUN

FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN
(0-8YEARS)



Date:

**Monday 23rd
& Tuesday 24th
December 2024**

Time: 10am- 2pm

**Address:
5 Nunhead Green
Se15 3QQ**

**For more Information
02035369609, 07394662602**

✉ Admin@parentskills2go.com
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Monday activities:
crafts Music , games,
lunch etc

**Tuesday: Games,
Christmas Lunch
and a gift from Santa**

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CAMBERWELL

WINTER
FOOD & FUN

FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE
10+

**Date: Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th
December 2024 Time: 10am- 2pm**

**Monday Activities: TRIP TO CINEMA
Tuesday: Games,
Christmas Lunch, Gift Giving**

**Address:
Camberwell Library
Camberwell SE5 7AL**

For more Information

02035369609, 07394662602

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**MAYOR'S
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LONDON**

Gymnastics with Coach Stephanie
HEADS, HEARTS & HANDSTANDS

FESTIVE
FLIP

CAMP

Gymnastics
safe
festive
wear
encouraged!



**Wednesday 18th
December**
4:45pm-
6:15pm



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



£16
Per Person

THE ACTIVITIES

Flip into the holiday spirit at our Festive Gymnastics Flip Camp! Fun Filled Flips, Festive Routines, and Holiday Cheer awaits! Don't miss out on the Ultimate Festive Fitness Adventure! Spots are limited so register today!

AGES 5-12

REGISTER NOW

Message: 07931 398 549

Booking ESSENTIAL

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



This winter, Grove Vale Library will be running the Winter Reading Challenge. This is similar to the Summer Reading Challenge; children have to read books between now and the end of February. Children create an account on the website of The Reading Agency, which is the organisation that created the Summer Reading Challenge, and fill in the details there.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>