

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Telephone: 020 7274 2520

Head of School: Elizabeth Whitehead

Dates for your Diary

Friday 28th February 2025

Term Dates 2024-25

September 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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January 2025						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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31						

April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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28	29	30	31			

August 2025						
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25	26	27	28	29	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	6KL
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	1ST	Thursday 12 th June	6SB
Thursday 19 th June		Thursday 26 th June	5OF
Thursday 3 rd July	1JM		

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming Events for the Spring Term:

03.03.25 – Year 5 Friendship and Bullying performance and workshop in school
06.03.25 – World Book Day (no dress up, dress up moved to next day)
06.03.25 – Years 3 and 4 trip to The Royal Festival Hall
07.03.25 – Dress up for World Book Day (book themed dress up)
07.03.25 – International Women’s Day
10.03.25 – Moonbeam Class trip to The Horniman Museum
13.03.25 – Sunshine Class trip to The Horniman Museum
13.03.25 – Year 4 multiplication check parents’ and carers’ workshop, 9.15am
19.03.25 – Early Years Celebration Day (for parents and carers) 9.15 – 10.15am
31.03.25 – Nursery reading workshop for parents and carers, 9.15am
01.04.25 – Years 3 and 4 trip to The British Museum
03.04.25 – Nursery trip to The Unicorn Theatre

Please check this page weekly as dates will be added throughout the term.

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.

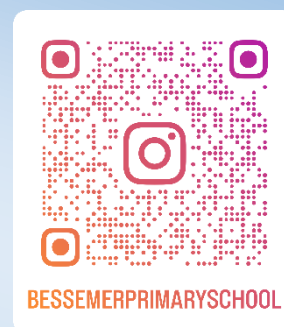
	10.20-11.00		10.20-11.00
Thurs 9 th Jan	6LM	Thurs 27 th Feb	3LS
Fri 10 th Jan	6MS	Fri 28 th Feb	2LT
Thurs 16 th Jan	6SB	Thurs 6 th March	2SD
Fri 17 th Jan	5RS	Fri 7 th March	1JM
Thurs 23 rd Jan	5FM	Thurs 13 th March	1NS
Fri 24 th Jan	5OF	Fri 14 th March	1ST
Thurs 30 th Jan	4GS	Thurs 20 th March	Moonbeam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

Instagram

For more updates about what’s going on at Bessemer and insights into our creative and practical curriculum, follow us on Instagram!

@[bessemerprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/bessemerprimaryschool)



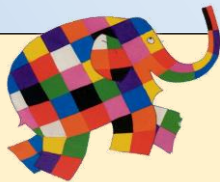
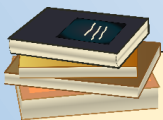
News and Reminders

World Book Day (Bessemer Book Week!)

We love reading at Bessemer so we create opportunities for children to read in school every day and encourage all children to read at home every day too.



We love reading so much that we've turned World Book Day into a whole week of reading fun. Here's a reminder of what we have going on in celebration of World Book Day next week:



World Book Day



Activities in school:

- Children in Years 5 and 6 will be reading stories to children in Early Years throughout the week.
- Early Years parents and carers are invited to share stories with children in class.
- Early Years children will be making their own books in class throughout the week.
- Children in Years 1-6 have illustration workshops with Hannah Robinson on Friday.
- All classes will visit the pop-up bookshop to choose a free pre-loved book on Thursday or Friday.
- KS1 and KS2 will attend World Book Day assemblies on Tuesday.
- All children are invited to dress up as a book character on Friday.

Competition:

- Early Years and KS1 – design your own book cover
- KS2 – write your own blurb for a favourite book

• Competition entry deadline:

Friday 14th March



Inclusion Focus

Here is the latest installment in our focus on inclusion series. This month the focus is on Dyslexia. Look out for the challenges and activities to complete at home.

Learning More About Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a common learning difference that affects reading, writing, and spelling. It has nothing to do with intelligence - it simply means the brain processes words differently. About 1 in 10 people have dyslexia (that's 2-3 children per class).



People with dyslexia often have unique strengths, such as:

- Creativity** - Many dyslexic individuals are amazing artists, musicians, and problem-solvers.
- Big-picture thinking** - They can see connections others might miss.
- Strong reasoning skills** - Excellent at thinking outside the box.
- Resilience** - Overcoming challenges makes them persistent and determined.




How to Support Someone with Dyslexia

If you know someone with dyslexia, here are some ways you could help:

- Be patient and encouraging** - Celebrate their efforts, not just results.
- Use technology** - Apps, audiobooks, and speech-to-text tools can be very helpful.
- Make reading fun** - Comic books, graphic novels, and audiobooks are great alternatives. Within our Federation we have [Comic books](https://www.thedyslexiaishop.co.uk/collections/barrington-stoke) too. <https://www.thedyslexiaishop.co.uk/collections/barrington-stoke>
- Break tasks into steps** - Giving information in chunks can make learning easier.

Did you know many successful people have dyslexia? Dyslexia doesn't stop people from achieving great things!

Do you know the name of the unnamed person below? Which famous character did he play?



Did you know we have our own celebrity with dyslexia in school!



Sarah struggled at school until Year 9. It was an English teacher who recognised that her verbal abilities were stronger than her written abilities. Being able to use a laptop/computer was a great support. She also has a diagnosis of DCD but we will create an information sheet about this in the future.

N.B. 2 Gem points will be awarded if you see Khadra or Lori and can tell them what DCD stands for.

Challenge:

Conduct your own hidden letters hunt - go outside or around your house and look for natural shapes that resemble letters in the environment (e.g., a tree branch forming a "Y" or a door handle looking like a "C"). Create the entire alphabet or your own name. Share your photographs with Lori via email: lknight@gemfed.co.uk

Deadline: Wednesday 26th March 2025.



How to Be a Good Advocate

Advocating for dyslexia awareness helps create a more inclusive world. Here are some things you can do:

- Educate yourself and others** - Share what you've learned about dyslexia.
- Encourage strengths** - Help highlight the amazing talents of people with dyslexia.
- Speak up** - If you see someone finding learning difficult, offer help and remind them they are not alone!



Dyslexia is not a disability - it is a different way of thinking. With support, understanding, and the right tools, dyslexic individuals can accomplish anything!

News and Reminders

Inclusion - Support for Families

National Autistic Society coffee mornings



For parents & carers of autistic children on:

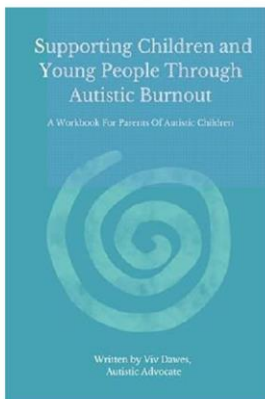
Friday 7th March
9:30am
Carnegie Library Hub
Herne Hill, SE24 0AG

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

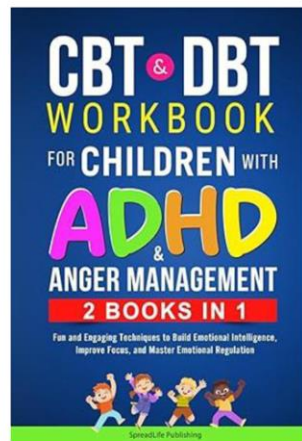
Our guest speaker this month:
Nicole Conradie occupational therapist and owner & director of NC Therapy will be discussing how to support your child's sensory needs



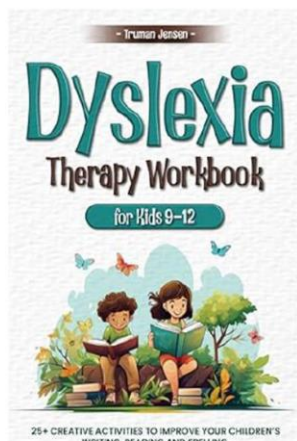
Book Recommendations



This A4 book is written for parents of autistic (and other neurodivergent) school children and young people in education, who are experiencing signs of what is known as 'autistic burnout'.



Empowering your child with ADHD. If you are searching for practical, proven strategies to help your child thrive – without emotional outbursts, frustrating, or struggles with focus- this is the book for you; especially if feeling exhausted and overwhelmed.



Dyslexia Therapy Workbook for Kids 9-12 is an easy guide for dyslexic children. It comprises fun and engaging activities that foster improved reading and writing skills. This book also focuses on overcoming the obstacles in spelling and turning dyslexic children into spelling wizards! With Dyslexia Therapy Workbook for Kids 9-12 in hand, dyslexic children can have improved learning skills. It has intellectual worksheets that require critical and logical thinking.



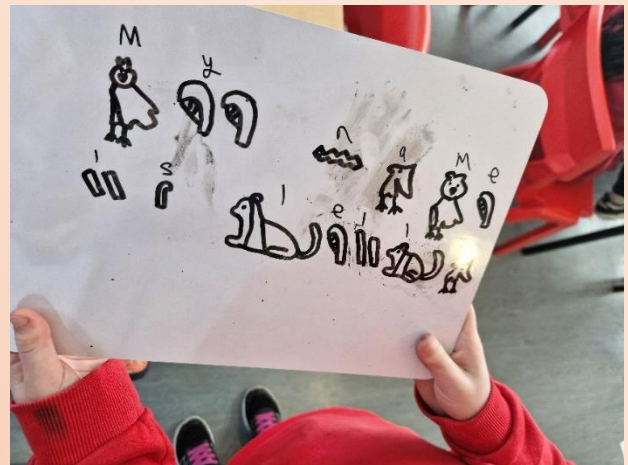
There are many reasons why children and young people face barriers to attendance at school, ranging from anxiety, neurodivergence, mental health difficulties, through to bullying. Suzy Rowland's "I Can't Go To School!" a book for children with an accompanying guide for adults, contains a variety of accessible exercises and activities, alongside a range of friendly and reassuring illustrations, to spark conversation between children and the adults around them. Although some pupils may wish to read the book by themselves; ideally, they will be working through it with a parent carer

Please have a look at the flyers at the end of the newsletter for further inclusion support.

Sharing Children's Learning

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

Children in Years 3 and 4 are continuing their *Ancient Egypt* topic this half term. In art children used clay to make models of The Sphynx and in history they learnt to write in hieroglyphs.



Sharing Children's Learning

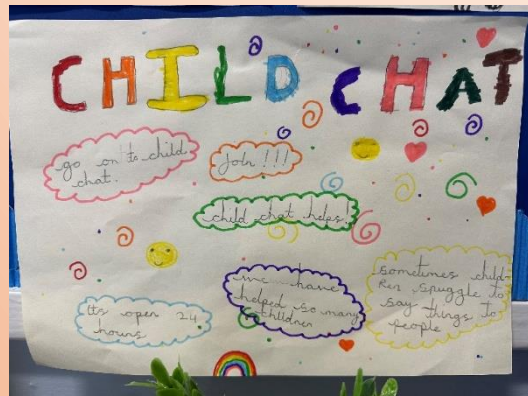
Demonstrating our core values of being *Academically Ambitious* and *Creative and Practical*

Children in Years 3 and 4 are learning about plants in science this half term. This week they used cotton wool pads to conduct an experiment to investigate whether one big root or several small roots would absorb more water.



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

In PSHE children in Years 3 and 4 are learning about charities. They looked at different charities and decided how they would prioritise them and why. They made their own posters for the charities they decided they would support.



Word of the Week

Word of the Week is all about developing children's vocabularies by increasing the number of words they know and use. Making these challenging words part of their vocabulary improves children's speaking and listening, reading and writing skills.

The Word of the Week next week is **tactic**. Please help your child to find out the meaning of the word and try using it in different ways in sentences.

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

Next week - as part of World Book Day celebrations - the F@B team are organising our annual **Bessemer Book Giveaway**.

Our volunteers take over a classroom and transform it into a treasure trove filled with hundreds of donated books. Every child in school is invited to have a look around and to choose and take home a book of their own to keep.

Can you help us?

We need LOTS of donated children's books. We are looking for books all ages and interests: picture books, non fiction, chapter books.

We particularly need chapter books for years 5/6 as these are always in short supply.

Please bring books to the office early next week. Thank you so much!

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Child Friendly Search Engines:

When children are searching on the internet, there are times when they may be exposed to inappropriate content. It is important to remind children what to do if they see something that makes them worried, upset or scared. Let them know that if they see something that makes them feel like this, they should close the page down or turn the device over, then let an adult know what they have seen.

Alternatively, if there is a device that your child uses often, you can get them to use a child-friendly search engine. There are several different ones, but here are two you could try:

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

<https://www.kiddle.co/>





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
Sunshine	Thomas	Rosie	Annabel		
Moonbeam	K'Mara	Zayan	Ayub		
1JM	Luna	Felix	Inoa	Victoria	Rex
1NS	Henry	Cormac	Marlow	Lev	
1ST	Raymond	Samuel	Violet	Nasir	
2SD	Lola	Florence	Arabella	Lyra	
2LT	Sara	Josiah	Eimi	Jasper	Sadie
3LS	Manon	Phoebe	Margot	Keyan	
3NI	Haddy	3NI	Maceo	Ferhot	
3/4BW	Aymar	Juno	Azahier	Helene	Zahra
4BG	Fred	Micah	Zafer	Sarah	
4GS	Leo	Agnes	Charlotte	Nikolas	
5RS	Sharon	Lacey	Noah	Cavalli	
5OF	Sam	Eve	Runaah	Adam	
5FM	Radin	Remy	Abemelek	Daniel	Holly
6LM	Jacob	Emily T	Andrea	Kitty	Izzy
6SB	Alex	Olive	Valentina	Sami	
6KL	Ezekiel	Molly	Johanna	Martha	

Half term Timestables Rockstars Competition winners:



4BG!



House
Winners

Diamonds!



Have a great weekend!

Elizabeth



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY EVENT
(INTERGENERATIONAL)**

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DIVERSITY -OUR STORIES!

**SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 2025
TIME: 11AM - 4PM**

**VENUE: THE APPLEBY BLUE ALMS
HOUSE 94 -116 SOUTHWARK PARK ROAD
LONDON SE16 3RR (OPPOSITE AGE CONCERN UK)
REVERDY BUS STOP**

**Activities: Arts and crafts, Massage ,
Poetry, Dance, Food and more!**

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
02035369609, 07394662602
 **Admin@parentskills2go.com**
 **parentskills2go.org**

Proudly supported by





AUTISM SUPPORT TEAM SESSION FOR SPANISH SPEAKING PARENTS / CARERS



AUTISMO – DIAGNÓSTICO, CARACTERÍSTICAS PRINCIPALES Y ESTRATEGIAS COMUNES DE APOYO


Aims:

- Adquirir una comprensión del diagnóstico de Autismo
- Entender como el Autismo podría afectar a mi hijo/a
- Aprender estrategias prácticas para apoyar a niños y jóvenes autistas.

A quien va dirigido: Padres, madres y cuidadores de niños, niñas y jóvenes autistas que hablan español.

Dates:

 Martes 4 de marzo de 2025,  9:30 a 13:00 h

Venue:  Presencial en 160 Tooley St, SE1P 5LX
Al llegar, por favor regístrese en la recepción.

◆ Un intérprete de habla hispana estará disponible durante toda la sesión.

⚠ Plazas limitadas: Se otorgarán a los primeros en registrarse."

📱 Porfavor para registrarse, use el código QR o haga clic [aquí](#).





AUTISM SUPPORT TEAM SESSION FOR SPANISH SPEAKING PARENTS / CARERS

AUTISM – DIAGNOSIS, CORE FEATURES AND COMMONLY USED STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT

Aims:

- To gain an understanding of an autism diagnosis
- To develop an understanding of how autism relates to my child
- To learn about commonly used strategies for supporting autistic children and young people

Target Audience: Spanish speaking parents and carers of autistic children and young people

Dates: Tuesday 4th March 2025, 9:30 - 13:00pm

Venue: In-person at 160 Tooley St SE1P 5LX
Upon arrival, please register at the reception

The Autism Support Team will provide a Spanish speaking interpreter for the duration of the session

Number of seats is limited so first come first served will apply.
Please register your interest using QR code or by clicking [here](#)





THE PE & SCHOOL SPORTS NETWORK



"The Saturday club has been a lifeline for my son. He has many friends and looks forward to going. He also uses the trampoline as a release of tension."

**AGES
5-18**

SEND SATURDAY SPORTS CLUB

OPEN EVERY SATURDAY
(TERM TIME ONLY)

**OPEN TO SEND PUPILS IN
SOUTHWARK**

For more information please contact Glyn and George via the emails below:

Glyn Davies: glyn@lpessn.org.uk

George Richards: george@lpessn.org.uk

Telephone: 0207 237 1928 Ext: 4086 - Website: www.lpessn.org.uk





THE PE & SCHOOL SPORTS NETWORK



The Saturday sports club runs through the year at Bacon's College. The club caters for SEND students of all disabilities between the ages of 5 - 18 years old. Each session lasts for 60 minutes.

There is a highly skilled and motivated team of 14 working at the club ranging from teachers, teaching assistants, coaches, and special needs specialists.

As well as improving fitness levels and health and wellbeing the club works on social skills such as listening skills, waiting, sharing, teamwork, individual work and focus.

Sports and activities change weekly - trampolining, nature trail and the gym for the older clients, volleyball, football, basketball, multi skills, tennis, cricket, badminton, boccia, new age curling, dance, parachute games, athletics, capoeira, etc.

The club currently run in **4** different sessions:

Session 1: 10:30 - 11:30

Session 2: 11:30 - 12:30

Session 3: 12:30 - 13:30

Session 4: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue:

Bacon's College, Timber Pond Road
Rotherhithe, London
SE16 6AT

" The Network and Saturday Sports Club at Bacon's College has offered myself and family much-needed respite. Glyn, George and the team are very understanding and aware of my son's SEN needs: autism and ADHD. "

SEND SATURDAY SPORTS CLUB

Telephone: 0207 237 1928 Ext: 4086 - Website: www.lpeesn.org.uk



IWDyouth

Saturday 8 March 2025
PLAY LIKE A GIRL SESSION

Location: **Alleyn's School**

Time: **10:00-12:00**

Age group: **6-12**

Level: **All abilities**

Cost: **FREE!**



GIRLS UNITED



girlsunitedfa.org/iwdyouth25



Dulwich Youth Orchestra

Easter course at

Alleyn's School

SE22 8SU



Sat 5th - Wed 9th April 2025

9am-1pm with concert at 7pm on final day

For musicians, aged 7 - 18, grade 2 - 8+.
Students are divided into ensembles:

- String Ensemble
- Wind Band
- Senior Strings
- Symphony Orchestra



Apply now:

