



Belton Update

17th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

It has been an incredibly busy couple of weeks in school! Unfortunately, we have also been hit by a lot of staff and child illness. There have been extra measures in some classes to try and keep the bugs at bay a little. We have been having a great time with World Book Day, Science Week and Red Nose Day and are looking forward to the Great Belton Sewing Bee. Do look at WEDUC for details! Also Chocolate Bingo is coming up soon – tickets on sale on Monday!

Governor news

As you will have seen from my WEDUC post Mrs Hall, our Chair of Governors, has decided to step down. She has been a great asset to the school and I know we all thank her for her service to the school. Don't be a stranger!

During today's Governors meeting, our new chair, Mrs Jo Lee has been elected. Mrs Lee has been on the Governing board a little while now and has written a little something to introduce herself to you all.

Hello! I'm delighted to be the new Chair of Governors at Belton, and as one of the newer members of the board, thought I would introduce myself properly.



I live just outside Ashby-de-la-Zouch, with my husband and two teenage daughters.

By day, I am an executive coach, with two specialties that are both relevant to school life: Working with leaders with overwhelming workloads and high levels of stress, to help them get back in control of their work and work-life balance. Helping people with neurodivergences to develop strategies and identify adjustments that enable them to fulfil their potential and succeed at work.

When I'm not working, you'll usually find me either relaxing with a cup of strong black coffee, playing board games with my family, getting muddy in my garden, reading a book, swimming laps of a pool...or doing something governance related.

I've been involved with the governing body at Belton since December 2021. Initially I joined the team as an associate member for a year, to support some specific aspects of governance development. But by the time we reached Easter, I was hooked! I quickly found I loved the ethos within the school, and was impressed at the dedication of the head and staff to making the school a really welcoming, rewarding, warm and stimulating place for the children to be. So, when a permanent vacancy on the GB arose, I jumped at the chance to become involved for a longer period.

Although I've only been a governor at Belton for a short period, I've been a school governor for almost 13 years, including more than seven as either chair or co-chair at Donisthorpe Primary School in NW Leicestershire. In that time I've been involved in almost everything a governor could become involved in, but I have particular interests in staff and pupil wellbeing, SEND provision, developing long term strategy, and finance management.

I'm really looking forward to leading the governance team here at Belton, as we continue our journey with staff, parents and pupils to ensure all the children get the best possible start to their education and are set for successful and enriching lives. Should you need to contact me, please write to me c/o the school office.



The Office

With Mrs Smith retiring at Easter the office is low in number on a Monday and Tuesday until Easter. I ask that you are mindful of this and anything that needs a quick response you ring as I may not pick up messages. We have recruited and look forward to a new member of the team from after Easter.

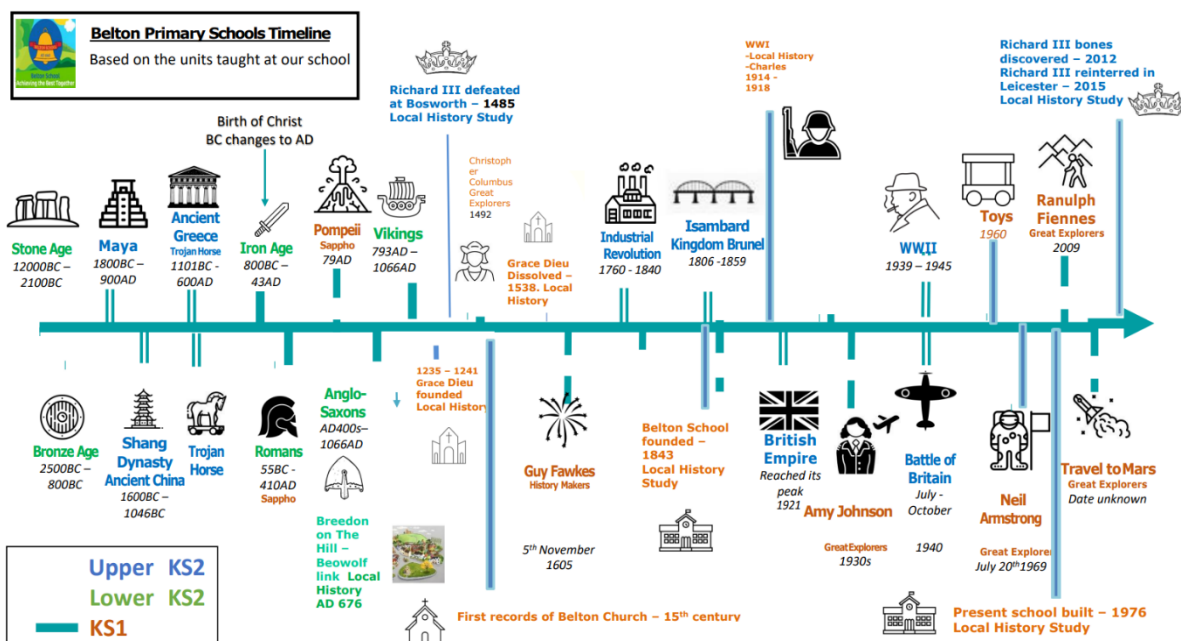
May Day 2023 Saturday 29th April 11.45 am

May Day at Belton is a very important tradition and in a blink of an eye it will soon be time to start practicing again. Don't worry, instructions about what you need will come out in due course. There is the expectation that the children do attend as we can't do the dances without them. If for any reason your child cannot attend please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

Subject Corner - a new feature! Learn more about how we approach different subjects here at Belton

History at Belton

At our school we want to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past. We teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity, and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. We have developed a timeline which shows this developing sense of chronology and children's historical knowledge as they proceed through school.



However, the building blocks for our History curriculum start in EYFS where children are taught through books and experiences such as knowing about the Wright Brothers and the first aeroplane or talking about their family as part of the Past and Present section of Understanding the World.

In KS1 and KS2, through a big question for the unit eg. The story of the Trojan Horse: historical fact, legend or classical myth?, we teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today; we also teach them to investigate these past events and, by so doing, to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving through research and practical skills. The skills that we want



our children to develop through their time at Belton are summarised in our Belton Primary historian which are on our working walls and taught to the children.



As a Belton Primary Historian, I:

Have a passion for history

Have an excellent knowledge and understanding of people, events and contexts from a range of historical periods.

Generate questions myself to investigate

Ask questions about the past and interpret my findings

Form my own opinions about what has happened in the past using a range of sources

Research significant events and historical figures

Place historical events in a chronological order

Develop the ability to think, reflect, debate, discuss and evaluate the past.

Form my own opinions about what has happened in the past using a range of sources



History is the study of the past. The study of history helps make sense of humankind. It also helps people understand the things that happen today and that may happen in the future.

More information about the units we teach and when can be found on the History page of the school website.

Mrs C Yendall – History Lead

Well done!

Golden Book:

Freddie

Lewis

Edward

Theo

Ethan

Caitlin

Otis

Well done Superstars!

Also well done to Annalise and Lewis who won the Book mark competition this week.



Aide Memoire

We are always trying to help our children make the right choices and to give them the skills to be able to say when things go wrong. I think the ideas below are really helpful to aid discussions with children and their behaviour and the behaviour of others.

Words for When Things go Wrong

 <p>CONFLICT: The people involved do not mean to upset others. Everyone involved wants to fix the problem and make things better. Adults can help us make things better.</p>	 <p>RUDE: Happens sometimes and can make people feel upset or angry. When the rude person knows they have upset someone, they take responsibility. The person who was rude may not understand their actions upset others.</p>
 <p>MEAN: When someone is mean, they are choosing to act in a way that might upset someone. They might do this because they are angry or upset. Being mean makes people feel sad. Adults can help us understand if our actions are mean.</p>	 <p>BULLYING: Bullying happens a lot of times. It is thought about and done on purpose to make someone feel sad or worried. Bullies will be very unkind to the person they are bullying and this can be emotional or physical. Adults WILL help people being bullied and help it stop.</p>

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

This is a really good link to help you tackle tricky conversations with your child.



Attendance

Letter from our attendance officer



You may receive a letter from her if your child's attendance is below 90% or of concern.

Please note I cannot authorize holidays in term time unless exceptional circumstances.

YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Paula René. I am a qualified Education Welfare Officer (EWO) from Children's Attendance Welfare Services, (CAWS). I have been commissioned by the school to address their attendance and welfare concerns.

I check the school's registers regularly, specifically concentrating on any child whose attendance falls below 95%, where a substantiated reason or evidence has not been provided. If this be the case I may write to you regarding it.

My letter will:

- ✎ Highlight your child's attendance with an invitation for you to contact me.
- ✎ Inform you that your child's attendance will be monitored closely until improvement is deemed satisfactory.
- ✎ If necessary, include an appointment for you to meet with me to address the issues which you feel may be preventing your child from attending school regularly; this is with a view to offering support and solutions to bring about change.

A child, whose attendance falls below 90%, is deemed to be a "Persistent Absence" pupil as set out by the Department for Education (DfE). Should your child fall into this category, you **WILL** be required to provide the school with evidence to support any further absences, this is to enable the school to authorise the absence.

THE EDUCATION ACT 1996, SECTION 444 STATES:

"If a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence".

In view of the above, I seek your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and on time, as failure to do so means you place yourself at risk of legal action in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice and/or Prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's attendance, or the contents of this letter, I invite you to contact me, either by:

EMAIL: paula@childrensattendance.co.uk

PHONE: 0116 277 6721

Yours sincerely

Paula René
SENIOR EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER

**Children's Attendance
Welfare Services Ltd**

✉ paula@childrensattendance.co.uk
☎ 0116 277 6721
🌐 childrensattendance.co.uk



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

The law states that a parent/carer is responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly and on time. Failure to do so renders the parent/carer guilty of an offence.

- ✎ Compulsory school age is from 5 years to 16 years of age.
- ✎ Ideally a child's overall attendance should be above 96%.
- ✎ Parents/carers are expected to inform the school on the first day of their child's absence to give the reason why their child is not in school. Failure to do this means the school will code the absences as **UNAUTHORISED**. Prolonged non-contact from the parent could lead to a "Safe and Well Check" being initiated on the grounds of safeguarding. (this can involve the Police).
- ✎ A child's absence from school is either recorded as authorised or unauthorised by the school. Parents/carers **CANNOT** authorise their child's absence.
- ✎ School can request supporting evidence from parents/carers, this allows them to record a child's absence as authorised.
- ✎ School will discuss with and may refer cases where appropriate, to their Education Welfare Officer, should a child's attendance become a concern or fall below 95%.
- ✎ The Department for Education (DfE) considers a child, whose attendance falls below 90%, as a "**persistent absent**" child. Schools are expected to address attendance at this level and **not** continue to authorise any further absences unless evidence is provided.
- ✎ The regulations regarding holidays in term time changed on the 1st September 2013. These regulations prevent Head Teachers from authorising holidays in term time except in exceptional circumstances. **PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO BOOK HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME WITHOUT FIRST SPEAKING TO THE SCHOOL OR EWO.**
- ✎ Children are expected to attend school for 190 days per academic year; the other 175 days are spent at home with you 😊
- ✎ Legal action can be taken against parents/carers by the Local Authority if their child's absence has been recorded as unauthorised. This can either be a:

FIXED PENALTY NOTICE (A FINE)

£60 per parent, per child if paid within three weeks, doubling to £120 per parent, per child if paid in the fourth week. Payment is required in full. Failure to pay will result in the Local Authority submitting the matter for prosecution through the Magistrates Court.

PROSECUTION

In the Magistrates Court. The Court can impose a fine of up to £2500 and or 3 months' imprisonment – parents may also be expected to pay court costs and a victims surcharge. The parent/carer usually receives a criminal record. Parents/carers may also be required to attend a parenting course.

Paula René

SENIOR EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER



Badgers PE - Monday

23rd January 2023

6th February 2023

6th March 2023

20th March 2023

Squirrels PE - Monday

16th January 2023

30th January 2023

13th February 2023

13th March 2023

27th March 2023

IMPORTANT

Diary dates

21st March Author Visit

23rd March Fire Service Visit Year 1 and Year 5

23rd March Fobs Event Chocolate Bingo

28th March 6pm Squirrels Easter Performance

29th March 1.45pm Squirrels Easter Performance

30th March Year 3/4 Charity Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 31st March 3.10pm Break up for Easter

Monday 17th April Back to school

20th April NSPCC Parent workshops

24th April Parents' evening

26th April Parents' evening

29th April May Day

1st May May Day bank holiday

8th May Bank holiday King's Coronation

9th May-12 May Year 6 SATS

