



10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well. It has been a busy start to the year and I wanted to update you all on a few things.

KS1 Windows

Earlier this year we heard that we had been successful in gaining a significant amount of funding to replace all of the windows and doors in our KS 1 building. The funding has come direct from Dudley and can only be spent on large capital projects like this. We have been waiting for many years to replace the windows and doors and we can all agree that it is long overdue!

The work is going to start at the end of the summer term, with the vast majority of work taking place over the summer holidays. We also plan to upgrade the security and install an entry system like we have in KS2 whilst the windows and doors are being replaced.

Books

As some of you might be aware the DfE made it a requirement that all schools have an approved Phonics scheme. We made the choice to go with Monster Phonics and began rolling it out last summer term in Key Stage 1 and Early Years. One of the issues that we have found is that there aren't enough physical books that tie to our phonics scheme and that we are too reliant on e-books. We have been fortunate to get a £9000 grant to secure more physical books and we expect them to be in school before half term. Please bear with us as we get these sorted, stamped and out to the children.

We have also been looking at other sources to gain some books – we have signed up to The Peter's Books Support Your school challenge - [Belle Vue Primary School - Support your school](#) the page works just like a Go Fund Me page. Feel free to share the link.

Weather

We've had several parents ask what the arrangements are if we have bad snow and what it would take to close the school. This is a question that gets raised most years and we have detailed section on our website outlining why we might have to shut – [click here](#).

It is never an easy decision to make and with many staff being parents we know the impact that this might have on you. We will always try to let you know well in advance so you can plan for child care. Please check our website, local radio and any social media for any news. If it snows during the night, we will let you know by 7.00am. If you don't hear anything assume that we are open. As much as snow is great, lets hope that we don't have close because of it.

Industrial action

Belle Vue Primary School Lawnswood Road Wordsley DY8 5BZ
Tel: 01384 389900 Email: info@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk

1st February saw the first of four potential strike days organised by the National Education Union (NEU). They currently have three more days planned; **1st, 15th and 16th March**. There is a lot of information in the public domain as to why the NEU are in dispute with the Government and those members of staff who are part of the NEU feel strong enough to take part in that action. I will endeavour to inform parents when I have firm numbers, however staff do not need to tell me that they are striking until the morning of each strike day.

Uniform

This is just a reminder about school uniform. The uniform requirements at Belle Vue are fairly simple and the children are becoming more familiar with them since they were introduced just over a year ago. Please limit jewellery to simple earrings like studs or similar. There have been times when children have come to school with large diamond clusters and hooped earrings. Necklaces and rings need to be left at home, partly because they become a distraction in class and we can't be responsible if they get lost.

There are also some classes where an increasing number of children don't have a PE kit in school. Rather than stop them doing PE, they will still take part but in their school uniform, unless there is a safety concern.

Parents Forum

Mrs Davies and myself ran the first Parents Forum group this week. Once we're established, we plan to alternate the times so that more parents can come. It was really positive and provided a good space to talk about problems that we could solve together. We really appreciated the time that was given up and hope that the parents involved felt the same way. Thank you! If you missed out on the opportunity please speak to one of us to be involved.

If you have any questions or would like to have a chat, myself and Mrs Davies are on the gates in the morning (alternating between Seaton and the Park gate).

Kind regards

Mr Marshall
Headteacher