



## “Inspiring Learning”

### HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Welcome back everyone to a new, and very different, school year at Bellingham Middle School. Despite all of the new routines and measures currently in place, we continue to be impressed with our pupils' cooperation, resilience and positivity. They really are a credit to you all! Pupils have returned to school refreshed and ready to learn. Classrooms are a hive of activity once again and there's a real 'buzz' when you walk around school. We are incredibly lucky in terms of the amazing facilities we have here in school and I know that the children are enjoying accessing a broad and balanced curriculum once again. It is sad that we cannot offer lunchtime clubs at the moment, but it is great to see pupils having fun, enjoying fresh air and building friendships during social times.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two weeks here as your new Headteacher and have been overwhelmed not only by the support I've received from staff, but also the pupils. I've enjoyed many friendly chats on the yard during break and lunchtimes as well as lots of warm enquiries from pupils as to whether I'm settling in. Our pupils are certainly unique and a pleasure to be around! Thank you also to those parents who I've already met and had conversations with so far – your messages of support are genuinely appreciated. I had hoped to host coffee mornings so that we could get together, however, at the moment this cannot happen. Having said that, I am 'virtually' meeting online with our brilliant BMSPTCA, on Tuesday, so who knows, it may be possible to arrange something similar very soon! Our new Y5 pupils have settled in incredibly well and are already part of the BMS family. We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to Katie who has joined us in Y7! As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have questions or concerns about any aspect of school. We are here to listen and happy to help.

Lindsay Hamilton

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### DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!

After an afternoon learning about democracy, we are pleased to announce that our school council reps have been elected for the forthcoming year! Well done to all those who put themselves forward and delivered fantastic speeches. Voters had a very difficult choice!



Congratulations to Maisie, Lucy, Jessica, Hugh, Angus, Grace, Emma and Lucy.

We're sure you'll work hard and make BMS an even better place to be! We can't wait to hear your ideas.





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### WELCOME TO OUR NEWCOMERS!

What an amazing bunch our new Y5 pupils are! They have made an incredible start and their smiling faces are infectious! Take a look at some of their views so far...

*I have loved all of the new lessons!*



*I really enjoy playtimes and have met lots of new people!*

*I love the lunches! They are AMAZING!*



*I love middle school and I really love my English lessons!*

*Everyone is really friendly here!*

*I have loved seeing all of the teachers and meeting new people!*

*I love the food!*



*All of my lessons have been great especially maths!*



*It's great seeing my friends again!*



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### WELCOME TO MISS MORGAN!



It has been wonderful to welcome our new teaching assistant, Miss Morgan, to the Bellingham team!

She writes:

*“I have really enjoyed my first two weeks here at Bellingham Middle School. The staff and children have made me feel so welcome. I have loved getting to know the children and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone else over the coming weeks.”*

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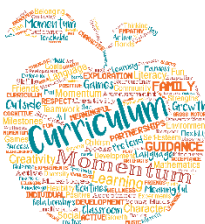
### SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS



**Staff News:** Congratulations are due to Mrs O’Kane, who welcomed the safe arrival of her daughter, Jolene, during the summer holidays! Both mother and baby are doing well and we cannot wait to see them!



**Sponsored Walk:** It is a very strange term as we have had to put on hold so many of our lovely planned events and visits. However, we are intending to hold a sponsored walk on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in order to support both our Enrichment Programme each Friday, as well as the #HelloYellow campaign. This is part of Young Minds charity who carry out vital work with young people in order to promote mental health and wellbeing. We have wonderful, extensive grounds in which we can carry out a very safe, socially-distanced walk in our bubbles, whilst also supporting this valuable cause. More details to follow in due course.



**Curriculum:** Staff have been working very hard making changes to our curriculum to ensure that we address any ‘gaps’ in knowledge and skills due to school closure in March. Our overviews are ready to share and will be sent home next week with pupils so that you are clear what your child will be learning during this term. We will also publish these on our school website.



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### COVID TESTING

We are all being extra vigilant at the moment in terms of spotting signs of Coronavirus so that we all stay as safe as possible. Some guidance has been confusing and seems to be changing on a regular basis. It is tricky to know, as a parent, what to do if your child becomes unwell with suspected symptoms. Updated guidance has been released today which I hope clears up any confusion. It is worth reminding ourselves of the key symptoms of Coronavirus:

- **A high temperature**
- **A new, continuous cough**
- **A change to sense of smell or taste**

If your child displays these symptoms, they should self-isolate, and you must arrange a test immediately and await the results.

#### Siblings/Parents:

If a child lives with someone (or is attached to a support bubble with someone) who is displaying the symptoms listed above, **they must isolate within their home - even if they are not displaying symptoms themselves - until the symptomatic person is tested and receives the results of their test.**

#### Results:

If the symptomatic test is **negative** and the symptoms are gone, the child can return to school and the rest of the household can stop self-isolating.

If the symptomatic test is **positive**, the child and the rest of their household must isolate for 14 days.

If a student is contacted by the NHS Test and Trace system and told to isolate, they should do so and must not attend school. Please inform school should this happen to you or your child.

Communication between parents and school has been excellent this week, and we ask that you continue to contact us and let us know about possible symptomatic children, as well as normal childhood illnesses.

Hopefully this clears up some of the confusion, however, we are always at the end of the telephone should you have any further questions or queries. It's a 'new' experience for us all so don't be frightened to call. You can leave a message on our answerphone if the line is busy, or alternatively, email our admin:

[middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk](mailto:middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk)



## “Inspiring Learning”

### MEMOS AND REMINDERS

**Dinner Money:** School lunches have been very popular since our return to school! In light of Covid please could we ask parents if possible to pay for their child’s lunch money in advance and by cheque where possible. Cheques should be made payable to Northumberland County Council. Cash or cheques should be sent into school in an envelope with your child’s name and year group clearly marked on. Lunches are £2.40 per day, plus an additional 50p if your child would like to purchase a carton of Orange or Apple juice.

If you require free school meals for your child, then please apply to Northumberland County Council. Call: 01670 623592 or apply online, using the link below. Thank you for your support.

[https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free\\_School\\_Meals](https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Free_School_Meals)

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

<b>Wed 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>School Photographer</b>
<b>Mon 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Open Week – by appointment only after school</b>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Open Week – by appointment only after school</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>Sponsored Walk - #Hello Yellow – Mental Health Week</b>
<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Pupils attend school for last day of autumn first half term</b>
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>Teacher Training Day – no pupils</b>
<b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>Start of second half of Autumn term</b>
<b>Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Autumn term</b>

Watch this space! Hopefully we’ll be able to add more events as the term progresses!

Have a lovely weekend!

