

Curriculum Highlights

Autumn 2020

Our children have embraced their learning and teachers have thrown creativity and energy at making sure every area of the curriculum has not just been included but much has been made more memorable and special than ever.

School trips might be on hold for now but the enrichment of the curriculum has not stopped and the children and teachers have been buzzing about what they have been teaching and learning.

2020 has brought its challenges but there is much to celebrate and be proud of. Here are some of our curriculum highlights. . .



Quality First Education Trust
In Quality First Education (Q1E) schools, all children receive a world class, inspirational and aspirational curriculum driven by the principles of improvement, excellence and equity. We have a broad and balanced approach rooted in subject disciplines, which ensures excellent personal, physical, academic, social, emotional, aesthetic and cultural development for all children.

AT ITS CORE THE Q1E CURRICULUM HAS:

- L LEARNERS** who are:
 - inquisitive, resilient and have high expectations of themselves
 - critical and creative thinkers who can solve problems and evaluate effectively
 - confident, collaborative and articulate
 - excellent learners
- E ENGAGEMENT**
 - exciting first hand experiences and enquiry approaches
 - varied, structured learning opportunities that are purposeful and appropriate
- A AMBITION**
 - the highest expectations of what all children can achieve
 - expanding horizons through research and sharing of best practice
- R RELEVANCE**
 - recognition of the richness in diversity and inclusion
 - tailored to reflect local, national and global perspectives
 - clear progression in knowledge, skills, content, language, processes and concepts
- N NURTURE**
 - of personal development fostering a sense of responsibility to self and others
 - a sense of citizenship, community, empathy and service

© Sakshi Khatwani Once Upon an Ordinary School Day. © Chris Hobdell Something for the

'This year is the best we have ever had in the whole school.'

Year 6 Child

Our Nursery and Reception children are settled in, exploring with new friends and taking off with their reading!



Year 6 listening to and rapping with poet Karl Nova over Zoom
The volume was high with each Year 6 class in the Trust joining in!



Your children might also be excited to know that some of the authors whose books they read are interacting with the school's Twitter account @bellevillesch :



After a Twitter exchange with Jenny MacLachlan (author of the short story *The Creature in the Cave* which Year 5 enjoyed this term), she sent children the following letter:





We have had lots of hands-on archaeological digs and exploring artefacts in history lessons. Thank you to the PTA for such great resources.



Tom Gately, former headteacher of St Anselm's R.C. Primary School and friend of our school, came to talk about the Bible with Year 3 and shared many different versions.

Year 6 had a fascinating local history talk with historian Carol Rahn, hearing first-hand about the impact of World War Two on real people from our area.



'The real stories about how the war affected people's lives were really brilliant'

Year 6 Child

Year 6 also had a great time in their 1940s day experience with some strict teachers, make do and mend kite making and an immersive drama experience from 'Now Press Play'.



Year 3 started their topic with a memorable Roman Day event where they dressed up and learned about Roman numerals, wrote on wax tablets, explored artefacts and battle formations.

'I loved Roman Day. It was great to see all the actual artefacts that Romans used. I'm so excited to learn about the Romans and Boudicca!'

Year 3 Child

Children have been getting to grips with the hands-on investigations in science and their knowledge and understanding and use of vocabulary is incredible.



'The children have just loved the science this term, they have been protecting Humpty Dumpty's egg from the fall and finding the right material for Fred's coat.'

Year 1 Teacher

Year 6 explored lamb's hearts in to help their understanding of the circulatory system.



Year 4 have been investigating solids, liquids and gases: making ice-cream in the classroom.

'That was just the best day ever!'

Year 4 child

We are encouraging the children to see themselves as scientists and to develop their understanding how science is relevant in the world. They have been learning about a wide range of famous scientists this term, as well as virtual visits from real scientists in our community.

'I didn't really think of a dentist as a scientist before!'

Year 4 child



Year 2 were visited by an animal expert from Whipsnade Zoo and set a science challenge by material scientist Peter Ettridge.

'I am learning to be a better scientist because I know how to measure and record results.'

Year 2 Child





Food scientist Micah Carr-Hill visited Year 4 to show them how he uses science in his work.

'I couldn't believe it was a real scientist talking to us!'

Year 4 Child

'My whole class wanted to become scientists after that zoom session.'

Year 4 Teacher

Year 5 have been visited by not one, but two astrophysicists this term.



Stephanie Yardley (Post Doctorate Research Fellow at University of St Andrews) who taught the children about life on the International Space Station and working with British astronaut Tim Peake.

Libby Jackson who is the Human Spaceflight and Microgravity Programme Manager for the UK Space Agency.



Coming up in 2021 . . .

We already planning our spring plans to be as packed with learning and extending our horizons.

A taste of what is in the pipeline:

- Watch out for a T-Rex visit to Reception
- Geologist coming to speak to Year 3
- Community link coming to talk about the Windrush to Year 6 as well as a workshop tour of the Black Cultural Archive
- A campaigner and researcher will be talking to Year 1 about plastics in the oceans
- Vaccine developer to talk to Year 4
- Author visit from Elizabeth Laird – author of two of our key texts in Year 2 and Year 5
- Visit for Year 3 from Atinuke, author of ‘No.1 Car Spotter’
- Immersive audio and drama experiences for all year groups through our new resources, thanks to funding from the PTA, called ‘Now Press Play’.



Staff across the QIE Trust schools were asked in September for contacts who might be able to enrich our curriculum. They did not disappoint!

If you know someone who may be willing to visit virtually please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at the office or

alexandra.turnbull@bellevilleschool.org