

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting week at school we have had with rehearsals for the EY/KS1 performance and the KS2 singing event. Year 5 also visited the British Museum for their topic 'Ancient Greeks'.

I hope to see as you all at the performances – EY/KS1 remember to hand in your seating requests.

We still have lots of learning to get through in these final two weeks of term. Unless your child is too poorly to attend, please do send them to school or they will miss these vital lessons.

As school gets busy for the end of term, please can I remind you to be patient with office staff. The office is open from 8am for phone calls and for face -to-face enquiries, after the main gate opens.

Linsay Thomson
Headteacher

Lantern Parade

Year 1 children and families joined the Mayor of Wandsworth at the magical Christmas Tree Switch-On and Lantern Parade! The children made the beautiful lanterns in school and then walked up Danebury Avenue together.



Important Dates

Year 6 visit Wandsworth Mayor's Office - Tuesday 9 December

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch - Thursday 11 December

Ralph The Reindeer performance - Friday 12 December, 9am. For parents and carers of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Winter Singing Concert - Friday 12 December, 2.30pm. For parents and carers of children in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Ralph The Reindeer performance - Monday 15 December, 2pm For parents and carers of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Last day of Autumn Term 2 – Friday 19 December. **School closes for Christmas holidays at 3.15pm.**

Inset Day - Monday 5 January, school closed to children.

First day of Spring Term 1 - Tuesday 6 January. Children come back to school.

Year 3 visit to the British Museum - Monday 12 January

Year 1 visit to Holy Trinity Church - Friday 16 January

Reception visit to the Natural History Museum - Friday 30 January

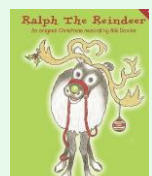
Full Term dates are [on our website](#).

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[@the_alton_primary_school](#)

Ralph the Reindeer!

Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will perform 'Ralph The Reindeer' on 12th and 15th December. A letter has gone home to those classes. Please give the slip to the office to book your seats.



Quality First Education Trust News

John Grove, CEO of the [Quality First Education \(Q1E\) Trust](#), has announced that he will be retiring from the role of CEO at the end of the Summer Term. He has served Belleville Primary School and the Q1E Trust for 25 years as Headteacher, Executive Headteacher and CEO.



John is an outstanding leader with over 20 years of successful headship experience and a track record of improving schools. As Headteacher of Belleville from 2000 to 2016, he led the school from "in danger of failing" to outstanding. Belleville gained national recognition for excellence in many areas and grew to be highly regarded for its support to other schools in the local area. Under John's leadership Belleville was designated as a National Support School, a National Teaching School, an Academy Sponsor and a Maths Hub. John is a National Leader of Education and a Fellow of the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

In 2017, John became CEO of the Q1E Trust and Belleville was joined by Belleville Wix Academy, The Alton and Churchfields Primary School later that year, and by Thomas's Academy in September 2025.

As Ofsted wrote about John, following one of their visits to Belleville: *"You provide inspirational leadership to your staff and are very highly regarded by your colleagues. A strong vision is evident and a positive ethos permeates the school. There is an uncompromising drive for continuous improvement. Your work with partner schools in the network of local headteachers is very well received."*

We echo these words, and we could not put it better ourselves. John will be leaving with our deep gratitude, respect and very best wishes for the future.

Winter Singing Concert

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are practising some songs for their concert, the rehearsals sound fabulous! All parents/carers are welcome to come and hear the children sing on Friday 12th December at 2.30pm.

School Spider

If you have not signed up yet for the School Spider app, please can you sign up as soon as possible.

[For Android phones](#) [For Apple phones](#)

We raised £159.39 for the Royal British Legion. Thank you for your support. Well done to the Pupil Leadership team for organising the poppy selling. You did a fantastic job leading this for such a good cause.



School Tours

If you know of any families moving into the area who need a primary school or nursery place for their children, please encourage them to come along on a school tour. To book a tour, email Mrs Gibbs on admin@thealton.q1e.org.uk or call **020 8876 8482**.

Our number one priority is to ensure that all children and adults are safe. If you are worried about something or if you are worried about someone else, you can talk to ANYONE who works for the school. Safeguarding is the responsibility of EVERYONE. Childline: 0800 1111