



21st July 2022

Newsletter No.19

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems unbelievable but it's not! We find ourselves at the end of another academic year with time feeling like it really has flown by. For our reception children who have just completed their first year of primary school and our year 6's who have just completed their last, this is a particularly special time. We are proud of all the children as they have continued to re adjust to school life back at school. Despite having to manage covid as part of our daily routine (especially in the last few weeks) it has been an absolute delight and pleasure to return to so many previously normal school events such as whole school assemblies, class trips, the summer fair and welcoming visitors in to school.

Stand out moments in each of our year groups are as follows:

Reception

The Foundation Stage children have had an amazing first year in school! In the autumn term the we enjoyed learning about a range of different celebrations and produced some beautiful illustrations of exploding fireworks. The children were fantastic during the Nativity Play, showing great enthusiasm for singing the songs and still (in mid-July) request to opportunities to sing these again! We have loved learning about animals of the polar regions (particularly penguins). During this topic we also completed fun investigations finding different ways to crack open, paint or melt ice. We have really enjoyed exploring the traditional tales, (Jack and the Beanstalk, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, etc.) and role-playing the different characters involved in these. Later in the year, during our topic on 'plants and mini-beasts' we loved watching our caterpillars complete the different stages of their life cycle. Although this produced a lot of mixed emotions, from excitement at seeing them become beautiful butterflies and pride (we looked after them very well) in watching their first flight, coupled with a sadness that they weren't part of our class anymore. Well done to all our reception children for a wonderful first year in School.

Year 1

Sparrows and Wagtails have had an amazing year. This year, we had our first ever school trip to the Science Centre on the citi 7 bus. We have loved learning about animals in Science and creating our own non-fiction books about tigers and hedgehogs. We were great at investigating the 'tiger' that broke into our classrooms! Another highlight of our 'Animals' topic was visiting Shepreth Wildlife Park, where we enjoyed learning from zoo keepers. As well as this, we have loved developing our creativity through art. We had a visit from artist Ricki Outis who supported us to create screen prints for Sawston library. We have thrived when using our outdoor area and have utilised this space independently to continue our learning by building rockets, water slides, our own zoos and even Viking longships.

Year 2

In English the Year 2 children wowed us with their 'delectable' poetry about tropical fruit, intrigued us with their adventure stories about Baba Yaga and amazed us with their marvellous meerkat and minibeast reports. In Maths they enjoyed alfresco learning, held a fractions feast, directed each other through log mazes and honed their time skills with regular 'time alerts'! In the Spring, Year 2 stepped back in time to experience the history of the Great Fire of London. The children created the sights and sounds of their very own Pudding Lane complete with self-made Tudor houses. In Science the children went on a minibeast safari, discovered why balls bounce and nurtured their own bean seeds from germination to harvest. The children ended the year with a fun filled trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park and they sailed the seven seas with the Pirate Salty Dog Crew. These are just a few highlights of a wonderful year! Well done Skylarks and Goldfinches! You have definitely soared to success!



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Year 3

We are so proud of Year 3 and their learning this year. There are definite stand-out moments: the joy of giving birth to an amazing Christmas production, the wonderful "Midwife Crisis", where the children acted, danced and sung their hearts out; the first school trip for years to Colchester Zoo, where the excitement of being out and about was palpable; and finally, the glorious Roman Day, where we all got to look very fashionable and Mr White got to march up and down and shout some Latin.

Year 4

One of the best things about being in Year 4 is that we have some superb history topics! We have been reflecting on the past year with the children, and they all agreed that they loved learning about the Ancient Mayans, the Anglo-Saxons and Ancient Egypt. They particularly loved the gory parts about sacrifices, ferocious battles and mummification. The return of visitors and trips has enhanced their experiences, with expeditions to Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, and Ancient Egyptian role-play with History off the Page and pretending to be Anglo-Saxon royalty with Mr Lang.

Year 5

The first highlight for the year 5s has been the learning about Japan; its population, geography, climate, language and food. They engaged in a variety of homework tasks which included power point making and presentation, volcano eruption demonstration, writing their names in Japanese and making Japanese Kokeshi dolls. Another highlight for year 5s was when they went to Sawston Village College for swimming. It gave them an opportunity to appreciate the talent of those children who have worked hard to be very good swimmers and everyone is looking forward to start swimming lessons in year 6.

Year 6

Well, what a year we have had in Owls and Eagles! Our absolute highlights have been: performing our incredible production of "Porridge," spending a day in the life of a World War Two evacuee and, of course, going away on our residential to PGL where we abseiled, canoed and toasted marshmallows over campfires. All of this topped off with our tear-jerking final assembly - it has been a one-of-a-kind year. Enjoy your USB sticks year 6, they have all these memories and many, many more. Thank you, year six and good luck at your secondary schools!

As a school we have enjoyed many events together which has been a delight after so long. Having parents on for our mother's day breakfast and father's day books and biscuits was a real joy, the children were so proud to welcome you. Similarly our Jubilee celebrations were an absolute delight, a real moment in history for us all to remember, what a great job the children did. Finally we enjoyed a fabulous sports day together where the children were able to show off their sporting skills in style again. What a year!

We also saw a return to statutory assessments which perhaps wasn't as welcome for some! We are very proud of all the children's achievements in these, they challenged themselves, did their best and were rewarded with great progress and results.

It wouldn't be an end of year newsletter without some thanking you all. We are grateful to the whole school community for helping the children 'soar to success'. We know it is a team effort and the children benefit hugely from a rounded education in school that is supported at home by parents and carers. A particular thank you to our wonderful team of parent volunteers who help bridge this gap. We must also extend a very welcome thank you to FABs who have worked tirelessly throughout the school year to support our children with some wonderful events. What a delight it was to see the school community at the Summer fair!



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The governing body was able to meet face to face for the first time since the pandemic began in the summer term which was a welcome opportunity to step away from zoom. We benefit hugely from the supportive challenge we receive from them and are looking forward to in person meetings continuing in September. A big thank you to them all but especially Mr Nick Silk and Mrs Elizabeth Taylor who are stepping down from their roles. Thank you both for your invaluable contributions.

A final thank you to the whole staff team; yet again they have worked with passion and dedication to support our children in all aspects of their school life. Within this a special thank you must go to Mrs Dix, Mrs Guggiari and Mrs Hines who stepped up to acting roles of SENDCo and Assistant heads respectively, what a great job you all did.

On that note, we are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Guggiari who has taken on a permanent Assistant headship in a school closer to her home. We know she will enjoy and thrive with this new challenge and thank her for all her hard work in supporting so many staff and children at The Bellbird. Mrs Gleed-Owen is also moving on and has a new role in a nursery school having discovered a new passion for the early years this year. Her kindness and care will be missed and we thank her for her hard work. Finally Mrs Van Dok has taken on a new teaching assistant role in a new school. We wish her all the very best with this new challenge and know she will be as supportive in her new school as she has been here. Mr Ruzvidzo is also leaving us having worked with Year 5 since January on a long term contract. We are sure we will be welcoming him back for cover in the future though! Good luck to them all in their next steps.

We are pleased to have welcomed back Mrs Waddingham from maternity leave to her SEND role this term. We are also delighted to share that Mrs Collins will be taking on the key stage two lead role in the new school year. In addition we are welcoming a new team member, Miss Soons, who we know will be a wonderful addition to our year 3 team.

We hope you all have a happy and safe summer holiday. Good luck to our year 6's in their steps towards secondary school and to the few children who are leaving us at the end of term across the school. Thank you for a fabulous year and we look forward to working with you and your children next year as we continue to support the children in *'soaring to success!'*

Best wishes
Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney