



7th October 2022

Newsletter No.3

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have settled in to the school year well and are now fully established in their routines. As I type it seems impossible that there are now only two weeks left of the first half of the autumn term.

As is always the case in the autumn term, the days have most definitely changed and autumn is upon us. At The Bellbird we have been embracing the opportunities autumn brings us. We were delighted to be able to visit Sawston Free Church this week for our Harvest services. As we have grown so much as a school, this happened in three separate sessions. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join and celebrate with us, it was a delight to be in the community as a school together. The children's behaviour walking to and from the church was exemplary. On a similar theme year 1 and 2 had a wonderful time both inside and outside with their apple event, digging, investigating, sharing and making were all skills that the children used. Finally gardening club is back in action and the children are having a great time in our school garden. The wheat is growing well and so are the wild flowers that the group sowed. They have also been harvesting potatoes, planting broad beans and a few apple trees! Pictures of all of the above activities can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Over the last few weeks the children have been voting for their school council representatives. Each class has elected a lead and a deputy to attend the meetings to discuss and put forward ideas about school life. We are so proud of ALL of the children who put themselves forward to be considered. Standing in front of your peers and talking about what you believe in takes skill and courage: well done to everyone who took this step and congratulations to those who were elected.

Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney had a visit from our local authority advisor this week. It was with immense pride that we took him round the school to see the teaching and learning taking place. The atmosphere in school is calm and purposeful and the teachers and teaching assistants are committed to ensuring all the children are able to do their best through well planned lessons. On this note, the teachers staff meeting last night was PE themed and the staff were exploring Outdoor Adventurous Activities which form part of our PE curriculum. The staff had a great time reviewing and developing their ideas around this area of the curriculum. Thank you to Mrs Irons for leading. On that note, if you are interested in an Outdoor Adventurous Activity as a family, why not try Geocaching? It's a great way to get outside as a family and go for a walk exploring as you go and there is a basic level of geocaches to find that are free. All you need is a phone and a pen to get started! To find out more visit: <https://www.geocaching.com/play> or download the app on your phone.

A gentle reminder that covid is still with us. Anyone testing positive for COVID must not attend school and should follow the guidance below regarding specific isolation details. Current NHS guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/> You can contact school for further advice should you need to. We appreciate your support with this.

Finally, I shouldn't really be talking about Christmas just yet(!) but Anthony Browne MP has sent us his annual Christmas card competition information which is attached alongside the newsletter this week. A lovely creative activity for your children as the evenings draw in. Sophie Mcfarlane in year 6 had her wonderful entry highly commended last year!

Best wishes

Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney



**Year 1 and 2 Apple event:
trying lots of activities**

**Harvest service and
celebration at Sawston Free
Church**



**Gardening club have been keeping
our garden area in action. Sowing,
growing and reaping!**



School Term Dates

Autumn term 2022

Professional Day: Thursday 1st September 2022 (Staff only)

Professional Day: Friday 2nd September 2022 (Staff only)

Term Starts: Monday 5th September 2022

Half Term: 24th October – 28th October 2022

Professional Day: Friday 18th November 2022 (Staff only)

Professional Day: Monday 21st November 2022 (Staff only)

Last day of term: Wednesday 21st December 2022

Spring term 2023

Professional Day: Wednesday 4th January 2023 (Staff only)

Term Starts: Thursday 5th January 2023

Half term: 13th – 17th February 2023

Last day of term: Friday 31st March 2023

Summer term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 17th April 2023

May Day: Monday 1st May 2023

Half term: 29th May – 2nd June 2023

Last day of term: Wednesday 19th July 2023

Diary dates: see table overleaf

Diary dates:

Further dates will be shared over the year. Please see the previous page for **term dates** and **inset days**.

Autumn term dates	Event
14 th October	Flu vaccinations (THIS DATE HAS BEEN MOVED FROM THE 11TH: SEE SCHOOL COMMS)
18 th October	Year 5 Sharing Assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
19 th October	Photo day: whole school
31 st October and 1 st November	Urban strides dance workshops (details to follow)
1 st November	Parents consultation in person at The Bellbird: 3.30 – 7.00pm
2 nd November	Presentation and tour for New Reception parents September 2023: 9.15am
3 rd November	Parents consultation on zoom: 8.00 – 11.00am
14 th —17 th November	Year 6 bikeability (details to follow)
28 th November	Flu vaccinations: round 2
7 th December	Presentation and tour for New Reception parents September 2023: 9.15am
12 th December	Reception and Year 6: weighing and measuring
13 th December	Reception sharing assembly: Nativity (time tbc)
15 th November	Reception sharing assembly: Nativity (time tbc)
19 th December	Carols Around the Tree KS1 and parents: 9.30 – 10.00am
21 st December	Carols Around the Tree KS2 and parents: 9.30 – 10.00am

Spring term dates	Event
Week beginning 23 rd January	Year 4 bikeability (details to follow)
9 th February	Year 4 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
15 th March	Mothers Day event in school am (details to follow)
21 st March	Year 3 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
24 th March	Reports out to parents
28 th March	Parent consultations 8.00 – 11.00
30 th March	Parent consultation 3.30 – 7.00pm

Summer term dates	Event
Week beginning 8 th May	Year 6 SATS week
17 th May	Reception: Vision screening
25 th May	Year 1 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
9 th June	Sports day times tbc
28 th June	Year 6 pupils Induction day at Sawston Village College: all day
29 th June	Year 6 Induction evening at Sawston Village College: pupils and parents 4 – 7.30pm
11 th July	Year 2 sharing assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am