



9th September 2022

## Newsletter No.1

Dear Parents and Carers

*We begin this Newsletter by marking a lifetime of inspirational leadership and service from Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II. The children and staff spent time today celebrating our Queen who was a role model to us all. Unflinchingly focused on her purpose to serve and celebrate our nation.*



**Queen Elizabeth II 1926—2022**

We have been delighted to welcome you all back to The Bellbird this week. In particular, our new reception children and their families. It has been wonderful to see the children arriving at school and settling in to their new routines and learning. The teachers and TAs (teaching assistants) have been sharing how proud they are of their classes as they show their commitment to their learning. There is already so much to be proud of in our children's commitment to school.

At The Bellbird we are acutely aware that learning does not just happen at school. The school community is a special one and we welcome your support and involvement. Homework menus and topic webs will be sent out today. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher about these documents or any other aspect of your child's learning should you need to. Your child's teacher will also speak to you if they have any concerns or ways in which they think you can support. They will also share your child's successes, do ask your child what they are proud of from their learning from time to time and celebrate with them when they are rewarded with a Bellbird Superstar!

As a school we have grown immensely over the last few years. As I type we are fortunate to educate 417 pupils at The Bellbird. With this growth come changes. As a school we no longer have room to fit in the hall all together along with parents as guests. As a result of this we are making a few changes to the way we invite you in to school. Celebration assemblies, which will still take place, will now be school staff and pupils only. We will instead invite you to a class assembly for your child's year group. This will be an opportunity to come in to school and watch your child and their peers share their learning in an assembly followed by time in class to look at learning in books. Dates of these assemblies are overleaf, we hope this advanced notice will support your attendance. This won't be the only opportunity to come in to school: we will continue to celebrate Mother's and Father's Day and will also be sharing Key Stage Carols Around The Tree events at Christmas, an opportunity to come and sing with us and your children. Watch this space for other events!

We look forward to continuing to work with FABS this year (Friends At the Bellbird School, our parent teacher association), you will have seen our school comms regarding their second hand uniform sale. Please support this event if you can: donating or purchasing items. A great way to share, save money and promote more sustainable purchases. Thank you in advance for your engagement.



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At The Bellbird, the school council children are given the opportunity to share ideas and views on things going on in our school and how we can help improve things that are important to the children. Next week (wb 12th Sept) the children in Y1-Y6 will be given the opportunity to share with their class why they feel they would like to become a school council representative. To help your child feel prepared with this, it would be good to ask them to think about any reasons for why they would like to put themselves forward to potentially be voted as a school council member (if they choose to do so). Each class will have a main school council representative as well as a deputy role. If your child expresses an interest in this, you may want to help them make some short notes or a poster about why they think they would be good at this so that they are ready to share their ideas in class. School council is an important part of The Bellbird community, we often ask them to collect their feedback on ideas and last term they helped inform important decisions whilst also raising issues important to them. We know they will continue in this work supported by Mrs Lambell.

Please do take the time to make note of the dates attached, a useful start to your calendars for the school year.

We look forward to working in collaboration with you to support your child this year. Thank you for your parent consultation feedback, the outcome was a split vote between parents wanting in person or online (53% in favour of in person meetings). With this in mind we will trial offering both options this term and review accordingly. We look forward to working together to help your child to 'soar to success!'

**Best wishes**

**Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney**

### **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:**

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

Autumn term dates	Event
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the teacher Year 4: 3.30—4.15pm Year 1: 4.00—4.45pm
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the teacher Year 2: 2.30 – 4.15pm Year 6: 4.00 – 4.45pm
15 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the teacher Year 3: 3.30 – 4.15pm Year 5: 4.00 – 4.45pm
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Sawston Village College open evening (time tbc)
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccinations: round 1 (information will follow)
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 Sharing Assembly: 9.10 – 10.00am
31 <sup>st</sup> October and 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Urban strides dance workshops (details to follow)
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Parents consultation in person at The Bellbird: 3.30 – 7.00pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Presentation and tour for New Reception parents September 2023: 9.15am
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parents consultation on zoom: 8.00 – 11.00am
28 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu vaccinations: round 2 (information will follow)
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Presentation and tour for New Reception parents September 2023: 9.15am
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception sharing assembly: Nativity (time tbc)
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception sharing assembly: Nativity (time tbc)
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols Around the Tree KS1 and parents: 9.30 – 10.00am
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Carols Around the Tree KS2 and parents: 9.30 – 10.00am

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

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