



## Newsletter No.7

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been such a busy term, I am sure that it feels like Christmas has hurtled towards you at full speed. We are definitely in full Christmas mode as we end the term. Festivities were started beautifully with a carol service with our choir at the start of the month at Great St Mary's Church in Cambridge. The choir were fantastic, both in their solo performances but also when they sang with Mrs Thorpe's choir. Their skill absolutely reflects their hard work and they are well supported by Mrs Collins and Mrs Irons who work hard to develop not only their vocals, but also their professionalism in performance and conduct. All of these stood out at Great St Mary's, I was a very proud Headteacher!

On a note of gratitude, we would like to thank all volunteers who support the children at The Bellbird, whether it is with clubs such as code or chess club, reading with the children or helping with the library. We are always grateful for the support and impact this has on the children. We must also give a very big thank you to FABs who whilst raising money for the school, hosted a rather wonderful Christmas fair. It was a lovely community event and great to see so many of you there with your children supporting the school, playing a few games and getting a bit of Christmas shopping done!

School has been a hive of activity over the last half term, the snow brought us some fun outdoors but also a few indoor plays when it was too icy to venture out. Within this time year 5's hoosh making was made all the more interesting when Herons ended up making theirs in the snow. Re-enacting more than just Shackleton's food making! Year 2 also used the stoves to cook some pineapple as part of their topic this term and we have been delighted to see year 1 start to venture outside on their side of the school again now that the external roof work has been finished. Year 6 have been working hard on some beautiful ocean themed clay tiles whilst year 4 have been making some dramatic paper mache masks. Year 3 have been impressing us with their French language learning, it is always a pleasure to be spoken to 'en francais' when we are welcomed and they have been learning some great songs. Finally, reception finished the year in style giving us a beautiful nativity with all the children performing and showing off their talents. Well done! Do enjoy the photos overleaf of just a few highlights from the term.

As is often the case at the end of a term we have some thank you and goodbye messages to share. Mr Cornaby has been working in Goldfinches one day a week this term. He will be replaced by Mrs Oakley who we look forward to welcoming back from maternity leave in the Spring term. Mr Cornaby has frequently supported with cover at The Bellbird over the years and we are sure we will welcome him again at some point soon. We thank him for his calm and consistent work with Goldfinches. Mrs Hunt is moving on to a new school after developing her teaching career at The Bellbird from her teaching assistant work. We thank her for all her years of service and are optimistic she will keep in touch! She is a wonderful teacher and colleague and we wish her well for her next steps. We are delighted that Mrs Rix has agreed to work with Sparrows on a full time basis moving forward. Mrs Rix's time in year 5 will be covered by Mrs Oakley. We hope both Mrs Hunt and Mr Cornaby continue to soar to success in their new challenges and we wish them all the very best.

We hope you have a lovely break and are able to enjoy the holidays with some seasonal cheer. We have a training day on Wednesday 4th January and look forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday 5th January.

**With best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas.**

**Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney**





**Around  
the school  
over  
Christmas!**



**Attendance:**

*There have been a large number of bugs affecting families this term, a possible aftermath of covid isolation. Whilst we are mindful of this, we are also always keen to promote good attendance. The impact it has on attainment is clearly evidence linked. Do have a read of the attached web link which may prove helpful in the future if you need to make a decision on school attendance. Is my child too ill for school: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. We have begun to send out attendance letters again to highlight when attendance falls below the expected standard. We always welcome discussions about improving attendance whether it be with ongoing health issues or persistent lateness.*

**School Term Dates:****Autumn term 2022**

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**.

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
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception: Vision screening
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