



27th March 2023

## Newsletter No.13

Dear Parents/ Carers and Children,

Following my resignation in October, I will be leaving The Bellbird at Easter.

It has been an absolute privilege to lead the school over the last few years and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you all, as well as your children.

I believe that The Bellbird is a unique school and community and despite the ever growing size to 420 pupils, it has managed to maintain the familiarity and warmth of a much smaller school, where everyone is valued and known well by the adults. So many of our teaching staff, both teaching assistants and teachers are themselves Sawstonians, which demonstrates such a genuine commitment to the success of the school.

All of the staff work tirelessly to support all of the children regardless of their needs and, as a consequence and with your support, the children continue to soar to success .

Parents have always played an enormous part in the school whether as volunteers listening to readers/ changing library books, attending parent forum meetings, being part of the Governing Body or being members of the amazing fundraising PTA, FABS! I have always felt that this level of investment on behalf of the parents, is crucial in the success of the school; I'm sure it will continue.

The pandemic certainly raised significant challenges to the community as it did to so many others, but despite that too, we remained connected as best we could. (We all improved our technology skills I think!).

I would like to thank you all for your generosity of spirit and time over the years and for working so positively with me—it really has been an absolute pleasure on my behalf.

Before I move to other updates, I would like to take this time to thank you all very much and wish you all, and your amazing school ,every future success!

**Best wishes**

**Mrs Katie Kendall**

Since the last newsletters, exciting opportunities have continued for the children, across the school. It was absolutely super to see so many parents able to attend the year 3 sharing assembly. The children shared a breadth of learning from Raps to beautiful artwork inspired by their topic work on Rainforests. We hope that you enjoyed the chance to visit the classrooms and look at some great learning afterwards too.

Swifts and Nightingales were fortunate to find a window of dry weather in which to hold their Anglo Saxon inspired story telling session around the fire pit. Miss Lang added an extra layer of fun to the atmosphere by accompanying the event with some fiddle playing!

As part of their topic on Victorians, the year 5 pupils attended a special Victorian themed day at Challis House. Dr Wreghitt, our Chair of Governors, has been very involved with this project, having carried out significant research himself and the children were absolutely enthralled by all of the workshops. Their knowledge was impressive and really helped them to ask interesting and well informed questions.

The Easter Bunny and accompanying dancing Spring Chicken will be visiting the classrooms at the end of the week for a fun end to another term.

Have a safe and happy Easter Holiday!

**Best wishes**

**Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney**

**Headteachers**





A Victorian classroom



Learning about the leather making factories in Sawston.



Story telling, poems and jokes around the fire pit.

### Attendance:

*We continue to monitor attendance. We are hopeful that as the weather gets warmer, and we can all be outside more, the number of illnesses will decrease. We always welcome discussions about improving attendance whether it be with ongoing health issues or persistent lateness. Please note that in line with our absence policy and government guidance on attendance we cannot authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any decisions made would also take into account attendance up until that point within an academic year.*



### School Term Dates for the remainder of this year:

#### Remainder for Spring term 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

Extra coronation day bank holiday: Monday 8th May 2023

(YEAR 6 PLEASE NOTE SATS WEEK STARTS: TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2023)

Half term: 29th May – 2nd June 2023

Last day of term: Wednesday 19th July 2023

### Term dates for **2023–2024** are as follows and are now published on the website:

#### Autumn term 2023

Professional Day Friday 1 st September 2023

Term Starts Monday 4th September 2023

Half Term 23rd October – 27th October 2023

Professional Day Friday 17th November 2023

Professional Day Monday 20th November 2023

Autumn term closes Wednesday 20th December 2023

#### Spring term 2024

Term Starts Thursday 4th January 2024

Half term 19th – 23rd February 2024

Spring term closes Thursday 28th March 2024

#### Summer term 2024

Term Starts Monday 15th April 2024

May Day Monday 6th May 2024

Half term 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31st 2024

Summer term closes Thursday 18th July

Professional Day Friday 19th July

Professional Day Monday 22nd July

**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
22nd February	Year 2 Tower of London trip
1st March	Year 4 Trip to West Stow
1st March	Teacher strike day: information released nearer the date on impact and plans
14th March	Year 3 Colchester Zoo trip
17 <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: SATs start on the Tuesday due to the Cornonation bank holiday, please ensure your child is in school promptly each day. Further details will follow.
17th 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