



28th April 2023

Newsletter No.14

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

What a wonderful two weeks we have had here at The Bellbird! The children have come back from their Easter break rejuvenated and full of enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see their smiles on their way in to school each morning and then leaving us with smiles after a great day of learning. There is a very positive vibe in the air amongst staff and children and we know this will continue as the term progresses and the sun continues to shine.

Sawston Fun Run—Sunday 7th May

Last week the children were excited to greet Sue and Alice from the Sawston Fun Run Committee who came to our whole school assembly to talk to us about the Sawston Fun Run. After the assembly, many children told us that their parents/carers have already entered them - what wonderful news! If you haven't entered your child yet, don't worry, there is still plenty of time. Further information and details on how to enter can be found using this link: [Sawston Fun Run – Sawston Fun Run and Walk event](#).

Parent Communication Survey

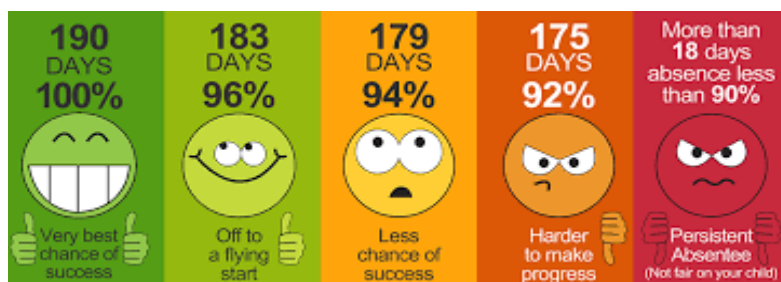
Thank you to those parents/carers who took the time to respond to our Parent Communication Survey. The survey is now closed. We will analyse the results and let you know the outcome in due course. We will of course continue with our communication of key information via newsletters and SchoolComms, but hope we can enhance what we do with additional snapshots of school life through social media.

Year 6 SAT meeting

Thank you to Mrs Dobson and Mrs Irons for leading the virtual Y6 Statutory Tests and Assessment meeting on 19th April. Many of our Year 6 parents attended - if you were not able to attend please ensure you read the slides, which can be found at the bottom of the Owls and Eagles page on our website using this link: [Owls | The Bellbird Primary School](#)

A polite reminder

Thank you to all the parents who get their children to school promptly at 8.45am. This gives them the best start to the day and ensures they do not miss any learning. Any child who arrives after the gates are closed at 8.55am will be marked as 'late' and this should only occur under exceptional circumstances.



We cannot stress enough the impact poor attendance has on children's progress and attainment. If you are having a problem getting your child to school or arriving on time, please do come and speak to us, if you haven't already, so we can work together to plan a way forward.

A love of learning

I have spent a lot of time in classrooms and outside at playtimes/lunchtimes over the past fortnight and I have been very impressed by what I have seen. We are so lucky here at The Bellbird to have children who are polite and friendly, well behaved and who clearly love their learning. A big thank you to all the teachers for planning such interesting topics for our children to enjoy. Let's hear what they've all been up to...

Reception have settled back in wonderfully after the Easter holiday. They have been investigating the signs of Spring by drawing spring blossom and flowers, making alarm clocks to wake up the hibernating animals and writing invitations to the birds to come and stay in the soft nests that they have made.

Cont..

Year 1 and 3 have had an exciting visit this week! On Tuesday, Kid's Country came into school to deliver the 'Grow Your Own Produce' event. The children participated in 4 activities: they each planted a potato which we will harvest before the end of the school year, and a lettuce plug to take home, learnt about healthy eating, collectively completed an eat well plate jigsaw and finally they learnt about tractors. I'm sure none of you missed the bright yellow tractor parked in front of the school! [all photos are from this event]



Year 2 have just started 'Project Britain'. They have had great fun looking at atlases and finding locations on a map. Some of the children have talked about either visiting Grandparents in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland or going on holiday there. If you have any photos of your child and their family in these locations, it would be lovely if you could email these to the Year 2 team, using the office@ email. If you have images of your families in other countries (for example, India, South Africa, Poland, Sri Lanka, Korea, etc.), we would love to see these as well.

Year 4 have been thoroughly immersed in a new poetry text for English, Cherry Moon, a gorgeous collection of poems about nature written by Zoro Weil and beautifully illustrated by Junli Song. In particular, 'Elephant Tusks' has inspired a passion for animal conservation. Some children are even forming a committee to come up with fundraising ideas so they can sponsor an elephant through WWF.

Year 5 have been stepping into "The Ring of Fire" and exploring all things Japanese, including a tour of the islands and creating their own "Space Invader" animated sprites!"

Year 6 have enjoyed writing their own 'Choose your own adventure' stories set in the Amazon Rainforest. They have also been learning about how a foetus grows in Science and were excited to discover that an elephant is pregnant for nearly two years! This week they have been 'exploring' Sawston using Google maps as part of our local area topic.

Thank you

Finally, we thank you all for your continued support. The positive feel in the school is also down to you. The smiles, hellos, and support you give us and your child/ren mean our journey together is happy one, and we couldn't do it without you.

The Bellbird team wish you all a wonderful bank holiday weekend and look forward to seeing all our children and families on Tuesday 2nd May at 8.45am.

Best wishes,

EC

B Pentney

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Pentney
Headteachers



Diary Dates, details of
school coronation
celebrations and
Term Dates for
Academic Year 2023-24
overleaf.



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 1st May 2023	May Day (School is closed)
Thursday 4th May 2023	Year 5 Maths Challenge (after school - invitation only)
Friday 5th May 2023	School coronation celebrations
Monday 8th May 2023	Extra coronation bank holiday
Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th May 2023	Year 6 SATs week (SATs start on the Tuesday due to the Coronation bank holiday, please ensure your child is in school promptly each day. See slides from Year 6 parent presentation for further details)
Monday 15th - Friday 19th May 2023	Year 2 SATs week
Wednesday 17th May 2023	Reception Vision Screening
Friday 19th May 2023	FABs Bingo Event
Thursday 25th May 2023	Year 1 sharing assembly and class visit (9.10-10am)
Friday 26th May 2023	FABs Disco
Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2023	HALF TERM
Monday 6th-Friday 15th June 2023	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Friday 9th June 2023	Sports Day (times tbc)
Monday 12th - Friday 17th June 2023	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check (Year 2 PSC retake)
Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th June 2023	Year 6 PGL Residential
Thursday 15th June 2023	Music concert for choir and instrumentalists
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd June 2023	Arts Week
Wednesday 21st June 2023	EIFA workshop for parents [time and acronym?]
Wednesday 28th June 2023	Year 6 pupils Induction day at Sawston Village College: all day
Thursday 29th June 2023	Year 6 Induction evening at Sawston Village College: pupils and parents 4 – 7.30pm
Friday 7th July 2023	Year 5 Sawston Village College taster morning
Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th July 2023	Evening performances of Year 6 Production
Tuesday 11th July 2023	Year 2 sharing assembly and class visit (9.10-10am)
Wednesday 12th July 2023	Year 6 leavers assembly
Wednesday 19th July 2023	Last day of term

Coronation Celebrations

Friday 5th May

Children can come to school wearing **red**, **white** and **blue**.

A special coronation lunch!

Fun activities about His Majesty King Charles III



Details of the later events will be shared once they have been finalised.

<u>Term Dates 2023-24</u>	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Term Starts [first day of school for children]	Monday 4th September 2023	Thursday 4th January 2024	Monday 15th April 2024 [May Day - 6th May]
Half term	23rd-27th October 2023	19th-23rd February 2024	27th-31st May 2024
Term Ends [last day of school for children]	Wednesday 20th December 2023	Thursday 28th March 2024	Thursday 18th July 2024
Professional Days (School closed to children)	Friday 1st September 2023 Friday 17th & Monday 20th November 2023		Friday 19th & Monday 22nd July 2024