



26th May 2023

## Newsletter No.16

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Well, haven't the past six weeks flown by! I cannot believe I am sitting here writing this and I have been in post one half term already. But, what a half term! We've had Year 6 SATs, Year 2 SATs, swimming for Y3, 4 and 6, Year 5 maths challenge, a golf day, discos, grow your own produce day and dinosaurs visiting Early Years, to name just a few of the events that have been keeping the staff and children extra busy in school. As always, a big thank you to all our families for their continued support each day. You are a key part of The Bellbird Community and your shared desire to achieve the very best for our pupils means they can continually 'soar to success'.

### Its all about the learning...

Reception have been continuing their dinosaur adventures and the children are still pondering over why the dinosaurs are roaming around our woodland area in the early hours! The children have been expert palaeontologists by excavating and making their own fossils. They have created dino feasts (being careful not to get nibbled by the carnivores), created their own new dinosaur and written letters to a T-Rex and read his replies!



In Year 1, we have loved finding out all about blue whales and creating posters. In maths, we have been learning to find a half and a quarter of shapes and amounts. We were excited to share our learning during our class assembly and want to thank everybody who was able to attend.

This week the children in Year 2 started their new science topic on the theme of 'Animals and their Habitats.' Following the reading of Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett, the children have loved finding out about meerkats. They have been designing posters for Andy's Safari Adventures. The posters show how meerkats are adapted to life in the Kalahari Desert and they have been building dens and burrows for their meerkats in our outside learning area.

In Year 3, the children have enjoyed their first two weeks swimming lessons. We have some super swimmers and those new to the sport are gaining in confidence! In science we have explored magnetic forces carrying out investigations to find the strongest magnet. Learning has also included using compasses and finding out what you can learn using a compass and a magnet together.



Year 4 children have been enjoying a wide range of Ancient Egypt-related activities, including relief printing of hieroglyphics, and experimenting with watercolour pencils in preparation for painting scarab beetles. Swifts spent a wonderful afternoon on the field, baking Egyptian bread on the outdoor stoves. It was delicious. Nightingales can't wait for their turn!



Year 5 have been enjoying making and exploding volcanoes (and explaining how all this happens). We've also been exercising our artistic muscles, creating haikus and art for "The Wave" and cherry blossom.

Year 6 During the last couple of weeks, Year 6 have visited Challis House and Gardens for an informative talk led by Mrs Phillips and Dr Wreghitt. They also enjoyed a historical walking tour of Sawston, investigating the age and uses of various local buildings in support of their current topic. This week they have auditioned for their roles in the forthcoming production of Joseph and the amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which we hope you will come and support in early July.

### Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show Exhibition

We are very pleased to announce that we had 14 entries to the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show Exhibition. Of those 14 entries 2 have been accepted for the online exhibition which can be viewed on the Royal Academy website. Congratulations to our two young artists whose work is shown below.



Time by Zachary



Fire from a Dragon by Freya

### Designated quiet area

As a school we are constantly reflecting on the quality of education we provide for our children and considering how we can make it even better. This isn't just about the teaching and learning that happens in the classroom, but about our wider offer outside of lessons. As a result we have reintroduced a 'quiet area' on the playground for children who find playtimes and lunchtimes a little overwhelming, or children who just need to take 5 minutes to calm down before joining the hub-bub again. This was introduced last week and will be developed as time goes on, with the wonderful Mrs Collins taking the lead on this, as part of her Key Stage 2 lead role. With that in mind, if you have any fabric bunting you no longer need and would be happy to donate to the school we would gratefully use it to decorate the area.

### Attendance

Receiving a good full-time education will give your child the best possible start in life. Attending school regularly and punctually is essential if children are to make the most of the opportunities available to them. Government research suggests that 17 missed school days a year = 1 GCSE grade DROP in achievement. We see it at primary level too, attendance below 95% directly impacts on a child's achievements.

If you need help in getting your child to school please come and speak to us and we will do whatever we can to help you.



### FABs

Thank you to the FABs team who have put on many successful fundraising events this term and thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported these events by attending. As budgets become tighter and tighter for school, the extra monies raised through these events mean we can continue to supplement our curriculum with enrichment activities we could otherwise not afford. If you are interested in supporting the FABs team, keep an eye out for their next meeting date. It would be great to see you all there.

### Online Safety Parent Meeting

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended this session, run by Emma Louise Copperwheat of the NSPCC. This course was designed to help us become confident in how to deal with the issues we will invariably face as parents/carers of children growing up in this technological world. Please see the posters sent along with this newsletter for some handy tips on how to keep your child[ren] safe online.

### Nails

A gentle reminder that nail polish of any kind is not allowed, as per our uniform policy. Therefore, we ask that all nail varnish is removed before your child comes to school. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Finally, may we wish you all a wonderful half term break. Whatever you have planned, try to take some time to do something fun together. I think we are going to try roller skating - whilst I'm worried about broken bones, I know laughing and persevering together will do our family good. On that note, please do read Mrs Simons' news from the Bellbird Wellbeing Committee overleaf. We look forward to seeing all our children and families on Monday 5th June at 8.45am.

**Best wishes,** Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney, Co-Headteachers

## News from the Bellbird School Wellbeing Committee

As last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, we thought it would be a good time to hold our first wellbeing committee meeting. Last term each Key Stage 2 class chose one representative to attend a meeting every half term and subsequently report back to the class what they have learnt/discussed. At our first meeting, we talked about what we mean by 'wellbeing' and decided that a good definition would be '*emotional stability and happiness, living in a healthy way*'.

We then learnt about the '**Five Ways to Wellbeing**', an idea which was originally developed in 2008, stating that there are five steps we can take to improve our mental wellbeing.

The five areas are:

We had lots of ideas for how to implement each area, such as:



**Connect** - ring a grandparent for a chat, read a book with a parent

**Be Active** - run around in the playground, go for a bike ride

**Keep Learning** - learn some words in another language, learn how to play a new game

**Take Notice** - look at the clouds and see what shapes they make, listen to the sound of the trees blowing in the wind

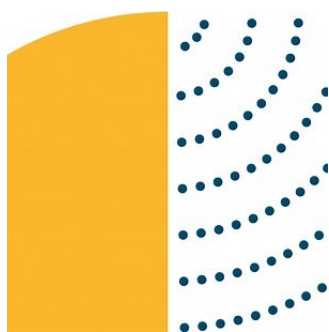
**Give** - help someone who has hurt themselves in the playground, help a parent with some housework, give some things you no longer need to charity.

Maybe you could try some of these this half term and see how it makes you feel.

If you would like to learn more about the '**Five Ways to Wellbeing**', you may find these links useful:

<https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/resources/5-ways-to-wellbeing/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/mental-health-at-work/five-ways-to-wellbeing/>

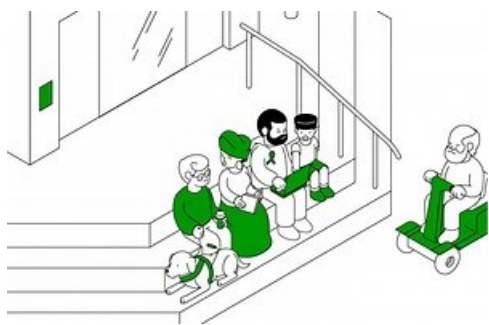


[Health in Mind | 5 ways to wellbeing](https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk)

[www.health-in-mind.org.uk](https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk)

The theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week is Anxiety. If you would like to know more about Mental Health Awareness Week or Anxiety, click the link below:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week>



[Mental Health Awareness Week 2023](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event where there is an opportunity for the whole of the UK to focus on achieving good mental health.

[www.mentalhealth.org.uk](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)

I look forward to seeing the class reps again after half-term for our next meeting, which will focus on another area of wellbeing.

Mrs Simons



### Diary Dates

Date	Event
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	Family Advisor workshop for parents
Wednesday 21st June 2023	New to Reception Parents Welcome Evening
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
Friday 14th July 2023	FABs Summer Fair
Wednesday 19th July 2023	Last day of term

### Term Dates for Academic Year 2023-24

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