

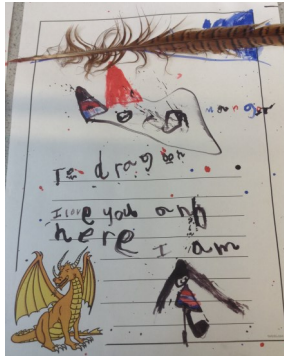


30th June 2023

## Newsletter No.18

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

We have enjoyed greeting all of our families, at the start and end of school, this week. Seeing you give your children the biggest hugs [and occasional kisses] as you say hello or goodbye, fills our hearts with warmth. Children knowing they are loved and cared for as they enter school sets them up for their day in the best possible way. Thank you.

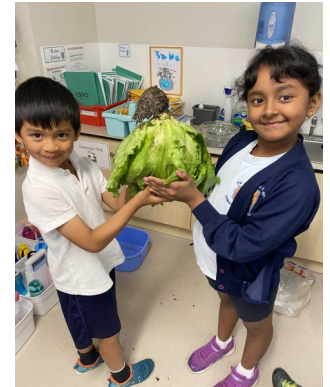


**Let us hear about the learning that has been taking place this week...**

Reception were very excited to discover a dragon's egg had appeared in the classroom! They managed to hatch the dragon with their arty fire pictures, wrote it welcome letters with quill pens and used charcoal to draw fantastic pictures of it. Zog also put in an appearance and the children got to be flying doctors, curing sick animals with their plasters and prescriptions. Super work Wrens and Robins!

Year 1 have been learning about Amy Johnson and her solo flight from the UK to Australia. They made posters describing her adventures and the children will bring these home soon and are excited to share what they have learnt with their adults at home. In Science they continue to learn about plants and have compared the leaves of our sunflower, lettuce and potato plants. They are really looking forward to harvesting our potatoes before the end of term.

Year 2 have been looking at the habitats and food chains of meerkats and other animals. They have also been studying the various microhabitats found within the school grounds and the different mini-beasts that live there. This week they have all enjoyed eating the broad beans we planted earlier in the year.



Year 3 have really enjoyed creating Roman mosaics – you should be seeing their handiwork soon as they have taken photos to keep records. An additional challenge has been producing word art of their names. Last week in swimming they learnt about life saving skills and the children really impressed with their ability to demonstrate safe steps to assist someone in trouble in the water. They have worked hard on books about Roman Gods and Goddesses and in maths are coming to the end of the shape topic mastering tricky concepts such as parallel and perpendicular lines.

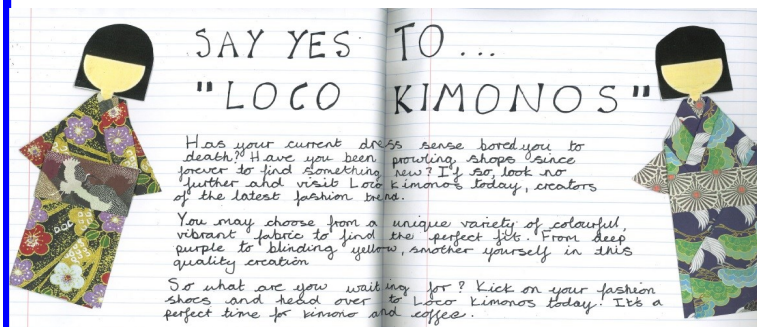


Year 4 had a very exciting visit from time-traveller, Howard Carter, who came to tell them about his experience of discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun. The children worked as groups of journalists from The Times to The Cairo Chronicle, interviewing Mr Carter and reporting in a way that would appeal to their readers. The children have also been developing their watercolour skills, painting an important symbol from Ancient Egypt, the scarab beetle.



Cont.





Year 5 have been continuing to enjoy their "Japan" topic, creating origami peace cranes, kirigami kimonos and epic Mount Fuji quests. They are also embarking on shadow puppet retellings of Japanese myths and legends.



Year 6 have been very busy rehearsing their production of Joseph and are excited about their performances on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July. We have also had the privilege of having a private tour of Sawston Hall, where we enjoyed seeing a fabulous example of a priest hole, which wasn't even big enough to stand up in! On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June many of our children visited SVC for their induction morning to meet their new classmates and teachers.



### Lateness

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have responded so well to our new lateness procedures. We now have far less children arriving to school after the gates close at 8.55am. This means more children are accessing the learning at the very start of the day and can settle easily into their class routine.

For those of you who missed the school comms email, following a Targeted Support Meeting with the Local Authority Attendance Office we now have to ask for the reason of lateness and note how many minutes late every child is. This then has to be recorded on each child's record, for monitoring.

### Attendance

During an attendance training session I attended last week I saw this great graphic illustrating how many lessons are missed if a child is not in school. We expect 100% attendance from all our children unless they are ill. We have had many requests for term time leave; unless these are unavoidable and exceptional we cannot authorise them and this is likely to lead to a Penalty Notice. 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.

95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

**BE SMART BE THERE!**

Percentages based on 190 academic days

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

### Gardening club

A big thank you to Mr Tim Wreghitt, our Chair of Governors, and Mrs Foster for leading gardening club this half term. The Year 2s attending are doing some great work!

### Chess Club

This week saw the last chess club of this academic year. Well done to the children who have made the most of attending this club - chess is proven to improve your memory, intelligence and creativity; we hope you have felt the benefits! Another big thank you to Mr Stanway, Mr Samanta and Mrs Goddard for giving their time over on a Tuesday after school to run this club.

Finally, may we wish you all a wonderful weekend. The Bellbird team all love coming to work each day and that is mainly because of you and your lovely children, so thank you.

### Best wishes,

Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney, Co-Headteachers



# The Bellbird Primary School

Friday 30th June,  
2020

## Newsletter No.18

### Final Summer Term Dates:

Date	Event
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd June 2023	Arts Week
Wednesday 21st June 2023	Early Intervention Family Advisor workshop for parents
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
Tuesday 18th July 2023	Year 6 leavers bbq
Wednesday 19th July 2023	Last day of term

<u>Term Dates 2023-24</u>	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Term Starts [first day of school for children]</b>	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 [last day of school for children]</b>	Wednesday 20th December 2023	Thursday 28th March 2024	Thursday 18th July 2024
<b>Professional Days (School closed to children)</b>	Friday 1st September 2023 Friday 17th & Monday 20th November 2023		Friday 19th & Monday 22nd July 2024