



14th July 2023

Newsletter No.19

Dear Parents and Carers

As I sit down to write this I can't quite believe that another year has passed so quickly. What a year it has been though, too many wonderful moments to mention so I asked each class to pick their favourite! See pages 3 and 4 for their fabulous responses. It's a bumper newsletter to end the year so sit back and enjoy!

The children have worked so hard and we are proud of each and every one of them and all that they have achieved. Do ask your child what they are most proud of as an individual, whether it is a learning achievement or a social one, give them a big well done. They deserve it!

We'd like to say a particular well done to the Year 2 and 6 children for completing their SATs, the year 1 children for their phonics check and the year 4 children for the multiplication times tables tests. Whatever their individual results, we know they have worked hard to do their best.

A few final events of the year that we must highlight. Firstly, our year 5 team worked very well together this week in the maths challenge final. They worked out the answers as quickly as possible and when their answers differed they listened to the child that could 'prove it' the best. What a great team approach, we were very proud of you all!



Our school council have had a fantastic year of opportunities to contribute to our school in different ways, from judging the road safety posters to interviewing our new headteacher Mrs Clayton. This week however, they were lucky enough to go to the Children's Society in the village to spend some of the spellathon money you helped your children raise. They spent time carefully selecting new books for our library. They made some great choices!





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As we move on to goodbye's a special mention goes out to our Year 6's who leave us for secondary school. We hope you leave with a brain brimming with fond memories, but ready for the challenge ahead. You've got this year 6 and we wish you all the luck in the world! To all our leavers at the end of term, enjoy your next steps and make new friendships while cherishing your current ones. Work hard and do your best, we will miss you.

We have a few staff leavers that we must mention. Mrs Oakley is leaving us to work closer to home and to build on her vast experiences, they are lucky to have her! Mrs Lambell is also leaving us to take on a class teacher role in another school where they will benefit from her calm, caring manner. Mrs Khan is leaving us to undertake her teaching training qualification and, whilst we are sad to be losing her, we know you will agree she will be an amazing addition to the teaching profession. Mrs Ho is also leaving us to work outside of education, we know your new work will benefit from your helpful, calm approach. Miss Coxall and Mr Weir have done a great job of coming together to support Doves for which we are extremely grateful. Mr Weir will continue to support us in his Governor role, he can't stay away! Similarly, Mrs Smith, whilst not leaving has done an amazing job of teaching Robins, we are delighted we get to keep her in the team! Finally, two rather special retirements. Mrs Jacobs is retiring after 37 years of service at The Bellbird; her warm and engaging presence will be missed as will her wonderful smile. And last but by no means least, Mrs Baslington is also leaving us to retire after 26 years at The Bellbird. Her amazing ability to remain calm whilst juggling multiple issues is a wonder that we can all learn from. We will miss all of our leavers and wish them all, the very best in their future steps.

Over the past few weeks we have been welcoming our new team members: Mrs Dervish (year 4 job share with Mrs Chivers), Miss Abrahams (year 6 teacher) and Mrs English-Matern, our new office manager. We know you will make them all feel welcome as they settle into their new roles in September.

As we think about our children and staff leaving it can often feel sad but with every ending comes a new beginning. We are excited for all the new beginnings September will bring for our community and are looking forward to working with you all to help your children be their best and 'soar to success'!

Included in this newsletter are some links to activities and ideas for the summer holidays. In addition, our wellbeing committee have attached some useful information following their most recent meeting. Have a wonderful Summer, we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 4th September.

A big thank you to all the members of our school community for such a fabulous school year!

Best wishes

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Pentney



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Foundation Stage and Key Stage one highlights

Robins: *Robins have enjoyed doing craft and making submarines and robot dinosaurs. They enjoyed phonics, writing about the seaside and learning about rockpools. They loved the Goldilocks and the three Bears' crime scene and hatching a dragons egg!*

Wrens: *Wrens class said that they have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs, playing in the 'sea' with the sea creatures and making submarines and puppets. They said they loved reading and learning new sounds, they enjoyed sports day and they have loved getting a rainbow sticker!*

Wagtails: *Wagtails have had an amazing year. They loved reading 'Beegu' and creating artwork inspired by the story. In Maths, they have been so proud of how they have learnt to count in 2's, 5's and 10's. Their highlight has definitely been our recent trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park where they got to see a variety of different animals and had a talk from one of the keepers about food chains.*

Sparrows: *Sparrows class have loved so much of their learning this year - the challenge of learning 45 new graphemes in phonics; learning about the blue whale and Amy Johnson in English and working with numbers up to 100 in maths. They really enjoyed visiting Kingfishers class for their Punch and Judy shows, all the fun and different events on Sports Day and last but not least our visit to Shepreth Wildlife Park.*

Skylarks: *Special highlights included playing the Jamaican drums at SVC and making Jamaican pancakes. They also really enjoyed making Tudor houses and an epic trip to the Tower of London. Another highlight was investigating the habitats of different mini-beasts and bugs, pond -dipping on the school grounds and visiting Challis Gardens. They loved drawing and painting the symmetrical patterns on their different insects. Their last topic this year has been Pirates! These are so much fun to learn about.*

Goldfinches: *Goldfinches loved it when it snowed in the winter and we made snowmen, snow angels and a snow chair! The Tower of London trip was superb, we all enjoyed it so much. Apple Day was brilliant because we tried all different types of apples and we made an apple bird feeder. A delicious activity linked to our Jamaica topic was making pancakes with pineapple and syrup!*



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Key Stage two highlights:

Doves: So many to choose from in Doves but they all loved Colchester Zoo which was a real trip to remember. Also popular were the beautiful roman mosaics they all completed as well as learning about the Gods and Goddesses. Lots of mention of the pride children have felt in improving their reading and finally, they have all loved swimming!

Swallows: James and the Giant Peach was their favourite text because of the 'funny characters'. In mathematics they have enjoyed learning times tables and they like getting to know if their answers are right in the lesson as they correct their own work. Colchester Trip was a fabulous day out seeing the animals. Finally swimming was a popular activity in the summer term – something different!

Swifts: Swifts were inspired by their fabulous texts in Year 4; they loved designing sweets inspired by "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", exploring strange amphibian invasions in "Tuesday", writing fact files on dragons and recreating their own versions of the ancient tale "Cinderella". Telling stories and reciting poetry by a campfire, cooking Egyptian flatbreads on the stoves, carving wooden prickles for a giant hedgehog and learning to write our names in Korean script are just some of the exciting things we have done. It's a year to remember!

Nightingales: Nightingales adored all things history-related this year; studying the Ancient Maya, the Anglo-Saxons and Ancient Egypt gave opportunities for real and online trips to museums, exploring a replica village and a visit by a reincarnation of world-famous Egyptologist, Howard Carter! Other highlights included studying some great texts, from the bloodthirsty Beowulf to David Lucas's picture book Grendel, which inspired the children to produce their own version. Art and craft activities were a hit, as they produced Anglo-Saxon brooches from clay, papier-mâché Mayan masks, relief-printed hieroglyphs, collage Pharaoh headdresses and watercolour scarab beetles. They even loved the challenge of the Multiplication Tables Check!

Hérons: In Herons Class there have been a number of stand-out moments during the year, making Ernest Shackleton's renowned "HOOSH" survival drink on the wood-burning stoves in knee-deep snow being one of them! Other highlights have included dressing up for Victorian Day, exploding volcanoes, getting to grips with origami and singing opera and sea shanties (not at the same time!).

Kingfishers: The children recreated Shackleton's 'Hoosh', a simple nutritional soup devoured on his trip to Antarctica, and a chocolate bridge that they constructed and welded together and then ate! We have explored our performing skills through dramatic vignettes from Macbeth and Oliver!, a lusty rendering of a sea shanty, and presenting Punch & Judy shows to Year 1. Children have enjoyed the 'freedom of writing stories', potion-making when 'we could envision we were evil witches', dressing up on Victorian Day, a trip to Challis House and 'making lungs'. The children have embraced these opportunities and many, many more with enthusiasm and energy, making for a very rewarding and eventful year.

Eagles: Eagle's highlights included; unlocking a love for reading, acting in the show and PGL which was, without a doubt, their favourite trip ever! Their favourite topic was World War II and one Eagle learnt that they were 'braver than they thought they were and that they can do anything!' What a great feeling heading off to secondary school!

Owls: Moments from Owls that stand out are cooking soup on the stoves outside, it was fun and really tasty! They also really enjoyed making their carousels for their buddies, it was unique a experience as they had never made anything like that before, it was great to work with their friends and they got to use glitter! Also the moment at PGL when someone had to pull the string on the giant swing, it was exhilarating! Finally, canoeing and swimming in the lake was really cool too.



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A look back at just a few photos from a wonderful year!

Thank you to all of The Bellbird Community for making it such a special one!





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Summer ideas!

If you are stuck for things to do, there might be something on this list that will help.

National trust: 50 things to do before you're 11 3/4 with the national trust. Even if you're older than that, you can see how many you have done and catch up! <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>



Action for happiness: 'Jump for July' or have a look at August's focus and see what you can do to feel happy and be kind. <https://actionforhappiness.org/calendar>



Summer at the Museums: We have some wonderful museums in Cambridge that you can visit for free. Many also have additional (charged) activities on over the Summer that are perfect for children. <https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/summer>



Challis house and gardens: Speaking of museums, visit the wonderful house and gardens right on our high street! <https://challistrust.org.uk/>



AND FINALLY...

Use our local library and READ. As Dr Seuss said 'The more that you read, the more that you'll know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/listings/sawston-library>

For some book inspiration try these lists:

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/nursery>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/reception>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year1>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year2>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year3>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year4>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year5>

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/year6>



There is a section called book match where you can look at authors you may know, and other authors to try that you might enjoy as a result.



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<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