



Newsletter No.2

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As is the case every year, the autumn term is already flying by! The warm weather has left us and we are now facing downpours of rain. It is such a relief to have our roof fully repaired as we face the heavy rains this year.

The children continue to settle into the school year, and are impressing us with their attitudes to learning. As we shared in our last newsletter, for the past two weeks the teachers have been meeting to look at pupil progress to ensure that time is maximised to meet pupil needs. These meetings have been led by Mrs Dix and members of the leadership team. The staff have been rigorous in their analysis of the children's potential attainment. You will find out more about the support your child is receiving at parent consultations in October.

Meanwhile in class the children have been ensuring they keep doing their best in their learning. To support them in 'picking up where they left off', all of the children have a piece of their writing from the end of last year in their books. This is being used as a motivation to remind the children of their best work. It has been wonderful to go into classes and be able to talk to children about their learning with this useful reference point.



Speaking of links to last year, the photos above are just a small selection of photos of the large collection of books we were able to purchase following the hugely successful spellathon in the Summer term. The children raised a very impressive total of just over £2000, meaning we were able to purchase a broad range of texts to engage all readers. There really is something for everyone in these wonderful additions to our library. Thank you for supporting the children to achieve this impressive fundraising amount.

We know that lots of children will have kept reading over the summer, it really is a great way to keep your brain engaged and your vocabulary growing. If your child took part in the summer reading challenge and achieved a certificate or medal, they are welcome to bring this in to school on a Friday to share during the celebration assembly. We are always delighted to celebrate reading at The Bellbird!

Moving on to a different topic, as the school year develops clubs are starting up again and one of these has been gardening club. As part of their work this year our gardeners are taking a full journey from soil to table. They have harvested wheat and this week they thrashed it to make flour. A fabulous process to go through to remember where our food comes from and how something like wheat can be transformed into a versatile and useful product. This will be a feature of our harvest assembly I am sure. Well done gardening club!



Finally, before we share some reminders and diary dates on the following pages, we would like to say a very big thank you to our outgoing FABS (Friends At The Bellbird School) committee who have worked tirelessly for our school, you will be missed. A thank you and welcome to the new and existing team who met this week. FABS will be sharing dates with you in the coming weeks for events in this coming school year. FABS are a fabulous group who fundraise for our school but also provide events that help our wonderful school community come together and meet. We are grateful for both of these and encourage you to support their events as much as possible. A great way to support school fundraising and get to know other families in our school community.

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

Attendance

We will continue to share messages with you about attendance at school throughout the year. We are passionate in our commitment to promoting good attendance because we know from the evidence what a huge impact it has on good outcomes and life chances.

Supporting your child to attend school and to be on time is one of the biggest ways you can support them to 'soar to success'.

We know have a new display in our school main entrance area reminding us all of the impact of good attendance and punctuality. Do take a look if you are heading to the office. In particular the following quote is an important one to remember:

*Data from 2019 shows that **84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard**, compared to just **40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage**. (source DfE)*



Communication with school

In our first newsletter of the year we reminded you of the importance of coming to see your child's class teacher in the first instance if you have a concern, worry or question. They are always the best person to contact. They are best placed to take steps to support your child and will always seek further advice from the team should they need to. If you are unable to come in to school to have a chat or arrange a meeting, please email the school office. The school office team will ensure your email is passed on in a timely manner so our teachers can respond within their working time. Thank you for your support with this.

A reminder that the email address to use is office@thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk

Parent diary dates:

(this list will be updated as the year goes on and dates are added so do keep checking it in each newsletter)

Week beginning	Events
25 th September	27/9/23: Year 5 Zoology museum trip 27/9/23: Reception Meet the teacher at 3.30pm
2 nd October	5/10/23: Census day (special lunch menu)
9 th October	13/10/23: Giraffe design competition deadline
16 th October	Year 6 Bikeability week 16/10/23: Harvest assembly (pupils only) 17/10/23: Parent consultations am 18/10/23: Year 5 Parents assembly 19/10/23: Parent consultations pm
23 rd October	HALF TERM
30 th October	Handwriting competition week 31/10/23: 24/25 intake Reception open evening 4-5pm 2/10/23: 24/25 intake Reception open evening 5-6pm 3/10/23: Bonfire lunch (special lunch menu)
6 th November	7/11/23: Flu immunisation day 7/11/23: Breakfast event year 2 and 3? 9/11/23: Year 4 trip to MAA and Cambridge 10/11/23: History off the page, Year 6
13 th November	17/11/23: STAFF INSET DAY NO SCHOOL
20 th November	20/11/23: STAFF INSET DAY NO SCHOOL 21/11/23: Individual and sibling photos
27 th November	
4 th December	
11 th December	12/11/23: Reception nativity performance 1 13/11/23: Reception nativity performance 2
18 th December	18/11/23: Christmas dinner (special lunch menu) 20/11/23: Last day of the autumn term 21/11/23: Christmas holidays begin

Remaining term dates for the 2023 – 2024 school year:**Autumn term 2023**

Half Term 23rd October – 27th October 2023

Professional Day Friday 17th November 2023 (no school)

Professional Day Monday 20th November 2023 (no school)

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 27th May – 31st May 2024

Summer term closes Thursday 18th July

Professional Day Friday 19th July (no school)

Professional Day Monday 22nd July (no school)