



6th October 2023

Newsletter No.3

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Can you believe it is the end of week five already. Where has the time gone? All our staff have been busy over the past few weeks, focussing on high quality teaching and learning and providing targeted support for those children that need a little boost to plug gaps and support future learning. Walking around the school as the doors close at 8.55am, the atrium and corridors are filled with 1:1 and small group work with our talented teaching assistant team. It is wonderful to see.

Alongside the topic webs that are sent out to parents and carers at the start of term, we like to share with you what each year group have been engaged in since our last newsletter. So let's start by hearing the fun our Bellbirds have been having...



Our **Reception** children have been phonics superstars! Last week they learnt all about the sounds i, n, m and d by writing invitations for igloos, writing n's to make Mrs Lovewell and Miss Meechan take a nap, creating magic mice and digging for gold. This week they have learnt 4 more new phonemes - g, o, c and k. During their continuous provision they have been doing lots of different activities linked to their new sounds. For example, colour mixing to make green and orange, making a concertina caterpillar and making a crown for a king! They have been super sorters and marvellous matchers in Maths. The children are ready to come and pair all your socks up at home! Reception have also been singing harvest songs and learning about our feelings with 'The Colour Monster'. Well done Robins and Wrens!

In **Year 1** the children have been reading The Tiger Who Came to Tea and have learnt to tell the story with actions. They have also had fun making tiger masks. In maths they have been comparing numbers using greater than, less than and equal to. In science they have been learning about our senses - they went on a senses walk and did an experiment identifying different scents in socks!

Year 2 have been enjoying starting their 'Over the Sea and Far Away' topic. They have learnt to name and locate the different continents and oceans. Please ask them to sing you their continent or ocean song! They have also started their learning all about Jamaica. They were so excited to taste pineapples and are looking forward to writing poems about them.

Year 3 have created cave paintings this week, learning about how these are a source of evidence about what life was like long ago. They continued their science following on from creating 'chocolate rocks', to understand how fossils are formed.



Year 4 have had great fun coming up with exciting adjectives to describe different characters from "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". They will use these ideas to come up with their own golden ticket winning child next week. On Wednesday this week, Years 4 and 5 had visitors from Kids Country who came to teach them all about apples. They tasted different apple varieties, made bird feeders, prepared baked apples and learned all about the history of the apple. We can't wait to try more of the 7,500 other varieties of apple that there are in the world!

Thank you to the Year 4/5 parents and carers who were able to make a contribution towards the cost of this event. We hope the bird feeders have attracted some interesting birds into your gardens.

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Year 5 had an action-packed day in Cambridge, visiting the Scott Polar Museum and the Museum of Zoology. After navigating the local public transport successfully, the children loved looking at the artefacts in the Scott Polar, including a huge polar bear hung on the wall of the lecture theatre! Museum of Zoology was an eye-opener too: skeletons, taxidermy, many interesting creatures preserved in formaldehyde AND... the WORLD-FAMOUS Wasp Nest of Mrs Chivers!



Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed meeting their buddies over the course of the week. They shared a postcard introducing themselves and had the opportunity to draw or read together with their buddy. Lunchtime visits are underway and lots of joyful play is taking place. In our WW2 topic the children have enjoyed writing a letter home in the role of an evacuee. Our class novel is proving to be an exciting read as each chapter ends with a cliff hanger!

Zones of Regulation and CHUM CATs

At the Bellbird Primary School, we recognise, more than ever, the importance of promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in our children and their families. This year we aim to create a more open culture around the discussion of mental health and wellbeing and to empower our children to be able to regulate their emotions and behaviour. This will help them as they seek to develop successful and stable relationships throughout their school life and into adulthood. With this in mind, our middle leaders have been busy developing a new strategy for the teaching of self-regulation and conflict resolution, bespoke to our school. As a result, children are becoming more skilled in identifying and understanding a wide range of emotions in themselves and others, including being able to recognise body clues that we might experience or see in others, and, our older children, are starting to develop an understanding of the complexity of emotions and their interplay with each other. Furthermore, we are teaching children the Zones of Regulation, which will help them to categorise their emotions and develop strategies for alerting or calming appropriate to the zone. Through our unique 'CHUM CATs' model, we build upon their fine-tuned emotional literacy, to teach our children a process of identifying, addressing and resolving disagreements or disputes in a peaceful way and to the satisfaction of all parties involved. All skills that will make a positive difference to the young adults they will become. More information to follow.



New Houses

Alongside our newsletter this week you will see a letter from Mrs Lovewell, our PSHE Leader, informing you of the new house system we have implemented this year. The letter outlines the thinking behind the new house symbols so please do have a read - pupils, through school council, have decided upon these so we are excited to share them with you.

BLINKs

A part of our monitoring and evaluating of teaching and learning, Mrs Dix and I carried out BLINKs this week, where we 'drop in' to each class. We focussed upon teaching standard 7, which considers effective behaviour management to ensure a good and safe learning environment. We saw clear rules and routines for behaviour in all classrooms and were thrilled to see all children focused and engaged in purposeful learning. Well done to The Bellbird Team, staff and children alike.

Attendance Letters

In line with our attendance policy, shared earlier in the term, our first attendance and lateness letters went out last week. This initiative is in line with **statutory** Government guidelines and is a key policy in ensuring the best possible outcomes for pupils. The decision of when to send letters, and to who, has to be objective, so when certain markers are met, a letter has to go out to that family. We thank you in advance for ensuring your children are in school and on time each day, unless they are genuinely too poorly to come to school.

Finally, may we wish you a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the sunshine that is promised. The Bellbird Team look forward to seeing you all at 845am on Monday morning.

Best wishes,

Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney,
Co-Headteachers

**Key whole
school dates**

Half term:
23rd to 27th October

Giraffe Design
Deadline:
Monday 9th
October

**Parent Teacher
Consultations: Tues-
day 17th October
[am] & Thursday
19th October [pm]**

**Donations for our
Harvest Festival:**
Monday 16th
October
[pupils only]