



19th October 2023

## Newsletter No.4

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

And just like that, we have reached the end of the autumn term! A very big thank you to all of you who came to parent consultations for your child/children this week. Learning really is a team effort and your support in engaging and supporting your child with homework and being 'fit to learn' is appreciated.

### Whole school updates

We have had so many varied experiences for the children this term (trips, topics and times tables practise are just a few) but it is timely to go right back to the beginning of term when as a school we used the beautiful story 'In Our Hands' to focus our learning. You will have noticed in the last week our display of just some of the fabulous work this text has produced has begun to go up on our front windows. It is a joy to look at as you walk up the front path. Do go and have a closer look for some smiles and proud moments. Our children embrace their learning challenges and are proud of their beautiful work, as are we.

Linked to this as part of our monitoring this term we have focused on how the children have settled in to school and their learning. The comments have shown how committed the children, and their teachers are to doing their best. With a few classes to complete after half term the findings have been positive so far. 100% of the children asked so far are happy with school and think their teacher helps them to learn. When asked to expand on this children shared ways in which they were helped after the teacher had demonstrated or modelled activities:

*'We have sound mats and ten frames which we can use.'*

*'She shows us and talks about things.'*

*'When I do writing, she shows me why it is good.'*

*'We use one arm robots and curly caterpillars to remind us of our writing.'*

*'Diennes and part whole models are really helpful.'*

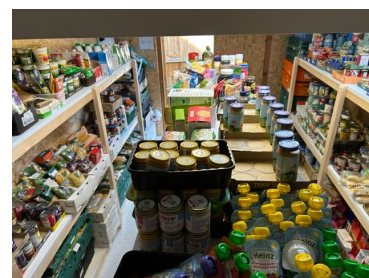
*'They remind us to put the sentence in our head and then write it down. Some people use sound buttons if they can't remember.'*

*'(The teacher) writes a sentence of her own to help us with words we might write in our sentences.'*

It is so positive to hear how the children are encouraged to develop independence through using scaffolds to support themselves. These strategies will really help the children 'soar to success!'

### Harvest assembly and gardening club:

We ended the term with our harvest assembly this week. Thanks must go to the gardening club pupils, who along with our chair of Governors Dr Wreghitt, TA Mrs Foster and parent helper Mrs Wreghitt Jones, made some beautiful decorative breads to mark the occasion (it smelt divine as well!). The club have worked hard to sew, grow and harvest the wheat. They grinded it to make flour and produce the beautiful bread you can see on the left below. A wonderful experience and a great outcome. On the left you can see your donations, stocking up the JHC foodbank, a fine example of community action. Thank you all.



## Wellbeing committee

Another group of pupils who have met this term to work and provide for others is the school wellbeing committee. This consists of pupils from years 3—6. They took time to discuss common issues for children in our school, this meeting's theme was friendships. They discussed positives and things that go wrong and how they could support each other to resolve issues. CHUM CATS is a great strategy for our pupils (as explained in the last newsletter) and we look forward to sharing more about this with parents in the near future. The children took their discussions back to their classes so all the Bellbird children can benefit. They also shared websites which may be useful for children (and parents) to access for support:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/news-and-blogs/2023/february/5-ways-to-support-your-child-to-make-friends/>

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/my-child-has-friendship-issues>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-make-friends-at-primary-school>

## Parent Governors

We are extremely grateful to have a supportive Governing body and earlier in the term communicated to you that we had vacancies. We are delighted to say that three parents came forward as prospective governors. As we only have two vacancies a vote will take place. You will receive communication after half term regarding voting. Please ensure you take time to read all our prospective candidates statements carefully and then return your votes as the letter and supportive documents will detail. Our candidates are:

*Peter Deane*

*Sam Goddard*

*Cynthia Okpokiri*

We thank them all for standing. Governing bodies are such a vital part of school life, Challenging and supporting our work as we soar to success.

## Wrap around care: Premier education update

Premier education have been delighted to see increased numbers of pupils at both morning and evening sessions this term. At the end of the Summer term the decision was made to move the premier room back to the end of the atrium to support classroom spaces and so there was cookery access for the children. As a result a number of baking sessions have been able to take place with positive results. The children have also been enjoying making Halloween decorations to decorate the room. Sublime Science also had a visit to school and the children were delighted and engaged with a number of wonderful hands on experiments. Sport clubs this term are football, gymnastics and multi-sports, all sessions run for an hour after school and can be booked separately to wrap around care sessions. For further information about sports clubs and wraparound care offered by premier education please visit: <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/321/>

## Giraffe update

A very big thank you to everyone who entered our giraffe design competition. Judging will take place in the coming weeks and further details will follow about decoration. There are some fabulous designs so it will be a tough decision!

## Half term

Finally we hope you all have a relaxing half term and that your children can relax and recharge, ready for the second half of the autumn term. The first term of the school year is a long one as the children work hard to settle back into school routines. For our reception children the transition to school life is an enjoyable but challenging one. A break is needed for all as we approach the end of the half term. If you do need an activity for the break, may we suggest Anthony Browne MP's Christmas card competition. We have had many pupils see success in this competition in the past with highly commended entries. An enjoyable and relaxing activity for the half term break, we have attached the flyer should your child be interested. Please note: entries should be posted or emailed to the addresses on the flyer and *not* brought in to school.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 30th October.

Best wishes

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Pentney



Children's work displayed at the front of school.

**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
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	HALF TERM
30 <sup>th</sup> 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) <b>SATURDAY 4/11/23: FABS stall at the Sawston firework display</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> 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 10/11/23: FABS Quiz Night (parents only)
13 <sup>th</sup> November	17/11/23: STAFF INSET DAY NO SCHOOL
20 <sup>th</sup> November	20/11/23: STAFF INSET DAY NO SCHOOL 21/11/23: Individual and sibling photos
27 <sup>th</sup> November	
4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>SATURDAY 9/12/23: FABS Christmas Fair</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> December	12/11/23: Reception nativity performance 1 13/11/23: Reception nativity performance 2
18 <sup>th</sup> 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** 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**Summer term closes** Thursday 18th July

**Professional Day** Friday 19th July (no school)

**Professional Day** Monday 22nd July (no school)