



Newsletter No.6

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We hope our 6th newsletter of the academic year finds you well and adjusting to the colder weather. This newsletter has a focus on our school community and our external links. The past few weeks have given us a number of opportunities to reflect on the many benefits we gain from reaching beyond our school doors.

Head's cluster group

As a school we look beyond our gates for support, challenge and advice as well as within our team. We are all learners. A great example of this is the Head's cluster that Mrs Clayton and Mrs Pentney attend every half term. This is a group of local schools who come together to share challenges, problem solve and consider how joint working can benefit us. One of our current projects we are developing, will involve meeting with teachers from other schools to moderate writing assessments. We will be supported by the local authority who will work with teams from across the schools to look at age related writing expectations for each of the year groups. Working together in this way is a great way to ensure we are accurate, and also an opportunity to share good approaches and curriculum ideas.

The most recent Head's cluster meeting saw the cluster school learn about the support the Cambridge and Peterborough Teaching School Hub can offer us. Parents who attended the John Paxton school may recognise Mr Paul Barraclough (ex-headteacher) who was sharing this information with us. Have a look over the page for a photo if your memory needs jogging. Mr Barraclough was delighted to visit The Bellbird pointing out the location of the old school building as we toured the school (as well as meeting a former colleague!).

Cambridge Standing Tall 2024

Last week we were delighted to announce the winners of our Mini G design competition. This was a competition open to all pupils to design our Mini G. Congratulations to our well deserving winners who have decorated our mini G with their bright and colourful entries. It was a tough decision and Mrs Pentney had to seek advice from the Standing Tall team as well as school council to make the final decision. It was agreed that the winner's ideas would work well together to create a design that really stood out. Our giraffe includes; all of our class names, the school name and motto, three birds to represent each phase, handprints of our winners, leaves to represent growth, hearts for love, rainbow patterns and a colourful dot applied by everyone who entered the competition! We can't wait to show you the finished design but in the meantime you can see some sneaky peaks overleaf. Our winning team worked wonderfully together with Mrs Pentney to bring the design to life. Whilst working, they decided on the name 'United' for our Mini G as it has brought together the winners of the competition and our school community. We couldn't be prouder of them.

We hope many of you will undertake the trail when it begins in the Spring. At the moment you can see a mini G in the Break charity shop window, thank you to Mrs Pacey for drawing this to our attention! You can find out more about the fundraising here: <https://www.break-charity.org/cambridge-standing-tall/> Our heartfelt thanks go to Cambridge University Press and Assessment for funding our Mini G.

History off the Page

Year 6 travelled back in time on Friday 10th November as we welcomed History Off The Page. History Off The Page provide children with an immersive experience stepping back in time to experience, in this case, the 1940's. The children were taken through bombing raids, evacuation, school life, money and rationing to name just a few

experiences. They also had to be mindful of the local bobby and remember that careless talk costs lives. It was wonderful to see the children embrace stepping back in time and fully immersing themselves in their roles. History Off The Page make the experience all the more realistic due to their wealth of knowledge, artefacts and props that the children can handle and use to bring the experience to life.

Colder weather reminder

As the colder weather is now upon us, please ensure your child brings to school appropriate clothing for playtimes and outdoor learning. A winter coat, hat and gloves ensure we can make the most of our school environment along with shoes that can withstand the occasional puddle.

Christmas is coming

A reminder that as Christmas approaches, we will not be distributing Christmas cards in school. This change has been positively received in recent years and takes an element of pressure away from families. It can also add a fun family activity to delivering Christmas cards to friends outside of school, should children and parents wish to. Each class will create a whole class Christmas card together which will wish everyone a 'Happy Christmas'. This will then be displayed in the hall as part of our Christmas decorations and serve as a bright backdrop for our Christmas dinner. Christmas dates are displayed at the end of the newsletter and we look forward to welcoming you all to the FABS Christmas Fair, our Christmas carol services and Reception parents, to our nativity.

Best wishes

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Pentney

Year 6's History Off The Page day: stepping back in time to the 1940's.



Mrs Tolhurst with ex-John Paxton Headteacher Mr Paul Barraclough. We wonder how many parents remember him?



A few sneaky peaks of our mini G being decorated for the Cambridge Standing Tall 2024 trail.



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
27 th November	
4 th December	SATURDAY 9/12/23: FABS Christmas Fair
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) 19/11/23: Parents and Children to Church for Christmas Service—in Houses [more details to follow] 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**

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)