

15th March 2024

Newsletter No.13

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

As we march on through to the Easter holidays The Bellbird has been a hive of activity. Not only have our children been engrossed in their learning, we have had enrichment activities galore! Read what each year group has been doing below to see the fun we have been having...

Reception

Wrens and Robins have been very busy chasing after runaway food this past fortnight! They read the book 'The Big Pancake' and learnt to retell the story with actions. Our littlest learners then had fun inventing their own runaway food. They had everything from runaway donuts being eaten by crocodiles to runaway pizzas being gobbled up by unicorns! They then designed and created different sorts of traps to stop their food escaping. The Reception classrooms were then a hive of activity preparing wonderful treats for Mother's Day. They drew daffodils, learnt how to make peppermint creams and made bookmarks for their Mums. Most of all, they loved telling us why their Mums were so special! Well done Wrens and Robins.



Year 1

Sparrows and Wagtails were thrilled to receive a reply from Matty Long, the author of last term's English text Super Happy Magic Forest. He was very impressed with the children's posters they sent him and wrote:

Thanks for getting in touch with all these fantastic creations! I loved looking through them and was amazed at the display. So much colour and creativity on show. Please tell your pupils I really enjoyed looking at them and had fun imagining new adventuring hero groups made up of their characters. They really captured the spirit of Super Happy Magic Forest.



In Science Year 1 continue their chemistry topic on Materials and have enjoyed lots of practical lessons investigating which material would be most suitable for making an umbrella and predicting and investigating which material would keep an ice cube frozen for longest.

Year 2

Year 2 have started the construction of their Tudor houses. They have drawn a diagram of a Tudor houses, written about the features and are now starting their models. In English, they have been exploring poetry and have looked at different poems describing fire, including 'Fire' by Shirley Hughes. To prepare to write our own poems to describe fire for our book corners, we had our own fire in school! This helped us to collect lots of interesting adjectives.

Year 3

Year 3 have been enjoying performance poetry and have been learning about how to use rhythm and rhyme effectively to write some raps of their own. They have also been to see some real-life animals of the rainforest at Colchester Zoo for their Topic work. They loved seeing how they measured up against an orangutan's arm span and observing the sealions in the underwater tunnel. They are now having fun preparing for their assembly to parents next week!

[Year 3 Sharing Assembly - Tuesday 19th March](#)
Doors Open - 9am, Assembly starts - 9.10am
Followed by a book-look in your
child's classroom until 9.55am.



Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful time on their trip to the reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow. They explored the museum and tried on Anglo-Saxon clothes, and got to handle lots of artefacts, including a cow's jawbone and a brooch! In the afternoon, they walked around the houses and learned about how archaeologists have experimented with working out how they were built. They finished our trip around the fire in the hall which gave us lots of inspiration for our retelling of the Anglo-Saxon legend Beowulf!

Year 5

Year 5 have been working with teachers and sixth form students from The Perse over the last few months, learning to sing and perform classical pieces of music. On Saturday 9th March, some of the children got to perform the pieces at West Road concert hall. It was an amazing afternoon, singing with other local primary schools, adults and sixth form students from The Perse, and all accompanied by a live orchestra. Well done year 5!

Year 6

Taking inspiration from the Spiderwick Chronicles Year 6 have worked hard this week to create a class guide to the mystical fantastical creatures that are often hidden from human sight. The children have also explored animal adaptation and evolution in science through a practical experiment inspired by Darwin's finches. Using tweezers of varied size to represent bird beaks, they were challenged to feast upon wooden beads and rice to ascertain which bird would survive changes to their habitat.

Assemblies this half term

This half term we are focussing our Monday assemblies on everyone's right to be treated equally and without prejudice. Our children have learnt about the protected characteristics which we all have a duty to protect under the Equality Act 2010. Over the next few weeks our assemblies will move on to consider stereotypes vs prejudice vs discrimination and lead into an in-depth look at racism and anti-racism.

One child in my first assembly said it so beautifully:

'We must treat everyone equally, no matter who they are, if they are disabled or are a different race or believe different things. Whilst we are all different, we are also all the same. We are all human.'

Bellbird's got talent!

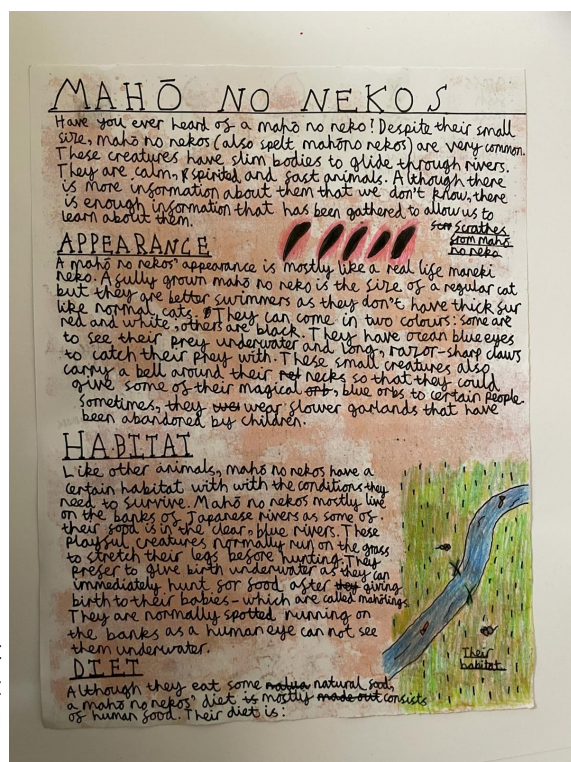
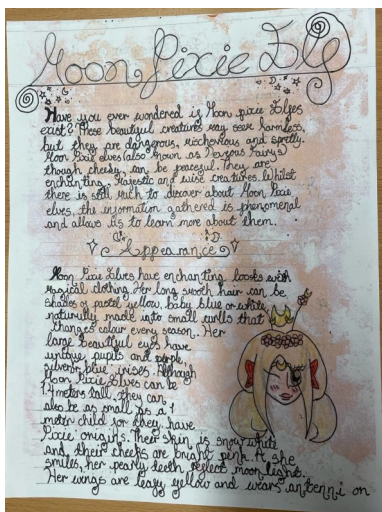
We have received lots of fantastic entries for Bellbird's Got Talent from children in **all** year groups. We clearly have a lot of very talented children at our school - showcasing talents such as singing, dancing, playing instruments, gymnastics and sporting skills. Well done to everyone who has entered. Entries are currently being shortlisted by a panel of teachers and then classes will get to vote on their favourite finalists over the next two weeks. Hopefully we will be able to announce the winners from KS1 and KS2 just before the Easter holidays. Good luck to all who entered!

Next Page Book Shop- Tuesday 19th March 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Next Page Bookshop, which is based in Hitchin, will be running a book shop after school on Tuesday 19th March. There will be a range of high-quality fiction and non-fiction books available for sale. Children will be able to use their world book day voucher towards the cost of a book. The book shop will bring along any copies of the £1 books for 2024 although they will have a limited amount of these. The Book shop will accept cash and card payments although I would like to make parents aware that in the past card payments have not been possible due to a poor signal at the school.

If your child will be attending Premier after school wrap around care on Tuesday 19th March, Premier staff have agreed to bring any children with book shop money to the hall after school.

Cont.



Safeguarding

Keeping our children and staff safe from harm is our primary concern - without feeling safe and cared for we cannot thrive. With that in mind, can I ask that as members of our school community you too report any concerns you have regarding safety. If this is linked to keeping a child safe from harm, please contact myself, Mrs Pentney or Mrs Dix, as we are the schools Designated Safeguarding Leads, or the school office if you have a concern about the safety of the school site. Thank you for your help with this .

Easter Bingo - postponed

FABS Bingo scheduled for the 22nd March, has been postponed, with a new date to be confirmed soon.

Attendance

We were thrilled to share with you in our last newsletter the attendance awards we have been given for being in the top 25% of schools nationally for our attendance. Our attendance continues to be strong this week. We thank you for bringing your children to school when they are well enough to be here and for not requesting term time holidays. *'Moments matter, attendance counts'*

The Bellbird	National	Difference
95.5%	94.3%	+1.2

Finally, may we wish you a wonderful weekend. The sun has shone a little over the past few days...Spring is surely on its way?!

We look forward to seeing you promptly at 8.45am on Monday morning.

Best wishes,

Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney, Co-Headteachers

Key Dates

Keep your eyes peeled for more summer dates soon!

Week beginning	Key dates so far
18 th March 2024	Tuesday 19 th March: Book Fair Tuesday 19 th March: Year 3 sharing assembly Wednesday 20 th March: Dental Survey Wednesday 20 th March: Year 5 Victorian day Friday 22 nd March: FABS Easter Bingo - POSTPONED
25 th March 2024	Thursday 28 th March: Year 1 walk around school Thursday 28 th March: Easter lunch Thursday 28 th March: Last day of term
29th March - 14th April 2024	EASTER HOLIDAYS
15th April 2024	Monday 15th April: First day of the summer term
22nd April 2024	
29th April 2024	Friday 3rd May: FABS Quiz night
6th May 2024	
13th May 2024	
20th May 2024	Friday 24th May: Sports Day
27th-31st May 2024	HALF TERM
3rd June 2024	Friday 7th June: FABS Fun Friday
10th June 2024	
17th June 2024	
24th June 2024	
1st July 2024	
8th July 2024	
15th July 2024	Tuesday 16th July: Year 6 leavers BBQ Thursday 18th July: Year 6 leavers assembly

Week beginning	Key dates so far
18 th March 2024	Tuesday 19 th March: Book Fair Tuesday 19 th March: Year 3 sharing assembly Wednesday 20 th March: Dental Survey Wednesday 20 th March: Year 5 Victorian day Friday 22 nd March: FABS Easter Bingo - POSTPONED
25 th March 2024	Thursday 28 th March: Year 1 walk around school Thursday 28 th March: Easter lunch Thursday 28 th March: Last day of term
29th March - 14th April 2024	EASTER HOLIDAYS
15th April 2024	Monday 15th April: First day of the summer term
22nd April 2024	
29th April 2024	Friday 3rd May: FABS Quiz night
6th May 2024	
13th May 2024	
20th May 2024	Friday 24th May: Sports Day
27th-31st May 2024	HALF TERM
3rd June 2024	Friday 7th June: FABS Fun Friday
10th June 2024	
17th June 2024	
24th June 2024	
1st July 2024	
8th July 2024	
15th July 2024	Tuesday 16th July: Year 6 leavers BBQ Thursday 18th July: Year 6 leavers assembly

<u>Term Dates 2023-24</u>	Spring Term	Summer Term
Term Starts [first day of school for children]	Thursday 4th January 2024	Monday 15th April 2024 [May Day - 6th May]
Half term	19th-23rd February 2024	27th-31st May 2024
Term Ends [last day of school for children]	Thursday 28th March 2024	Thursday 18th July 2024
Professional Days [school closed to children]		Friday 19th & Monday 22nd July 2024