



Newsletter No.14

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This half term has certainly been a blink and you'll miss it one! Despite this it has been actioned packed with lots going on for all of our children. This week they have ended with some preparation for Easter: a visit from the Easter Bunny and the Easter chick as well as their Easter lunch today. A round of up of the whole term for each of year groups is below, do ask your child/children what they have enjoyed most or are most proud of this term.

Reception have had an out of this world experience being space explorers this term! The children zoomed to the Moon in home made box rockets and wrote lists of picnic food to eat when they landed. They then designed and built their own spacecraft to fly to one of the planets they had been learning about. They experimented with chalk pastels to make shooting stars and made their own clay aliens. Our littlest Bellbirds also learnt about Lunar New Year and the Wrens and Robins worked co-operatively to do their very own Chinese Dragon dance. They also learnt to drum out a beat to keep the dancing in time. To enhance their learning further, the children were lucky enough to taste some delicious Chinese food, kindly provided by the Mayflower in Sawston. The children reported that it was the best food ever!

In year 1 the children have really enjoyed exploring the properties of materials in their science learning. They have taken part in a range of simple tests. The children used their knowledge to predict which material the ice would melt quickest and slowest in. For this they used salt, tinfoil, woolly socks, and paper. They discussed this before the experiment, drawing on their knowledge of the world around them. They also really enjoyed testing and comparing how waterproof different materials are. The children particularly enjoyed using a pipette to slowly drip water onto different fabrics stretched over a jar. Some of the results were surprising to the children but it was great fun! They ended the term with a Sawston Village walk and luckily the sun was shining for them!

Year 2 have been learning all about the Great Fire of London. They had a 'Great Fire of London day' where they experienced what it would have been like to be living in London in 1666. They also got the opportunity to take part in an archeological dig to find artefacts from the fire. As well as this, the children have written their own poems to describe fire. They had a bonfire in our outdoor area to help them understand what fire looks and sounds like to inspire their writing. In PE, year 2 have been learning a dance routine to demonstrate the devastation the Great Fire caused. They were excited to perform it!

In Year 3 the terms learning has included a focus on rainforests. The classrooms are themed to reflect this! To support this learning the children enjoyed a trip to Colchester Zoo to see rainforest creatures. Following the trip the children wrote about their experience. In science year 3 have been learning about magnets. The children have enjoyed experimenting to discover which metals are or are not attracted to magnets. They went on to create their own experiments to test the strength of magnets. To celebrate all of their learning the children practised for and performed in front of parents in an assembly which included a rap, a rainforest song, recorder playing and sharing their animal pointillism pictures.

Our year 4 children have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons this term, and they had a wonderful time on their trip to the reconstructed Anglo-Saxon village at West Stow. Year 4 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 the trip around the fire in the hall which gave them lots of inspiration for their retelling of the Anglo-Saxon legend Beowulf! In D&T, the children have been learning different techniques for making paper jewellery. They will be making pendants inspired by Anglo-Saxon design.

Year 5 have been working with teachers and sixth form students from The Perse school 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! A wonderful opportunity to see how they can work with others to create something truly impressive.

Finally our year 6 children have enjoyed learning how to create perspective in watercolour painting. They developed their skills first by experimenting with the vanishing point, using a wash and practising the finer details of painting the foreground. Alongside their painting, the children have explored poetic description of rivers to support their topic work this term. Year 6's science work offered an opportunity to write an explanation text about the life cycle of their favourite animal. They have also enjoyed conducting an experiment to observe the growth of mould on various food items over the course of the term. The results prompted lots of discussion, exploration under microscopes and some rather green faces!

If you are looking for an activity over the break, you will remember back in the autumn term we shared with you some progress on our mini g. We had four winning designs which were combined to decorate our mini g and everyone who entered got to make their mark on it! We were very kindly sponsored by Cambridge University Press and Assessment, to have a 'mini g' to decorate as part of Cambridge's Standing Tall Giraffe trail. The trail is raising money for Break charity who support young care leavers across Cambridgeshire. Our mini g is on display at Cambridge University Press Bookshop, 1-2 Trinity St, Cambridge CB2 1S. Please do take your children to have a look at United (the name of our giraffe) and maybe see how many other giraffes you can find on your travels! For more information please visit: <https://www.break-charity.org/cambridge-standing-tall/>

Finally, we are pleased to say that this term we re launched our house points systems to ensure it was motivational for the children. There has been lots of healthy competition with house points being rewarded to children for a range of positive behaviours. It was a close call but the winning house was Oak who received an extra break time to reward them for their hard work and efforts. The totals were: Oak: 554, Willow 532, Silver Birch 489 and Apple 473. We look forward to seeing what happens next term. Every point counts!

We hope you all have a happy and safe Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back for the Summer term. Please find diary dates so far on the final page of the newsletter.

Best wishes

Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EC'.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Pentney'.



**WHAT A
BUSY TERM!**



Diary dates:

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

Week beginning	Diary dates
15 th April	Thursday 18 th : Year 2 and year 5 cricket coaching in PE begins
22 nd April	Monday 22 nd : Premier Sports Football Euro fundraising assembly launch (information letters sent home on the same day) Monday 22 nd : Sawston Village College staff visit Year 6 pupils at The Bellbird Wednesday 24 th : Year 4 swimming begins Thursday 25 th : Year 3 swimming begins Friday 26 th : FABS Bingo evening event
29 th April	Friday 3 rd May: FABS Quiz night tbc
6 th May	Monday 6 th : Bank holiday NO SCHOOL Wednesday 8 th : Year 5 maths challenge Sunday 12 th : Sawston Fun Run
13 th May	KS2 Year 6 SATS WEEK
20 th May	Monday 20 th : Premier Sports Football Euros fundraising goal event FS and KS1 Wednesday 22 nd : Premier Sports Football Euros fundraising goal event KS2 Wednesday 22 nd : Year 6 PGL information meeting 4pm Friday 24 th : Sports Day
27 th May	HALF TERM NO SCHOOL
3 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication check week 1 Monday 3 rd : Year 6 swimming begins Friday 7 th June: FABS Fun Friday
10 th June	Year 1 phonics screening check week Year 4 Multiplication tables check week 2 Friday 14 th June: Whole school Premier Sports Football Euros Celebration Assembly
17 th June	Sawston Village College Work Experience Students at The Bellbird
24 th June	Sawston Village College Work Experience Students at The Bellbird
1 st July	Wednesday 3 rd July: Year 6 induction day at Sawston Village College Thursday 4 th July: Year 6 induction evening at Sawston Village College Friday 5 th July: FABS Summer Fair
8 th July	Monday 8 th – Wednesday 10 th : Year 6 Residential trip to Norfolk Lakes Friday 12 th : Geography and Music Day Friday 12 th : Reports to parents
15 th July	Tuesday 16 th : Leavers BBQ Year 6 Thursday 18 th : Leavers assembly Friday 19 th : Staff training day NO SCHOOL
22 nd July	SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEGIN NO SCHOOL

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)

For the 2024– 2025 academic year, please visit the school website: <https://thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk/term-dates/>