



4th March 2024

Newsletter No.12

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We hope your children have enjoyed the first week back of what is a very short half term. Just 4 weeks and 4 days, we have lots to pack in!

ATTENDANCE

We are delighted to share with you all that we have received two attendance awards for the autumn term: our attendance is in the top 25% for all FFT Primary Schools and also in the top 25% for primary schools similar to us. This is a wonderful achievement, thank you to you all for supporting your child's attendance. As you know, attendance makes such a big difference to your child's educational outcomes so we are delighted that we are performing so positively. FFT is a non-profit organisation backed by the Fischer Family Foundation, a registered charity that supports a range of UK-based education and health projects. FFT support primary schools in looking at data and progress to ensure children's educational outcome targets are challenging but realistic.

AIMS, VISION AND VALUES WORK

We are continuing with our work on this area and will be meeting with Governors this half term to finalise our approaches to support the children. As well as asking for your opinions in our recent survey, we also asked the children to tell us what they thought about what their vision is for themselves; what qualities do they want to have when they leave The Bellbird. We also asked them about what rules are important for our school. We knew they would be super helpful with their responses and as you will see overleaf they didn't disappoint!

WELLBEING

The wellbeing committee have met again, please see their update letter attached. In it you will find some useful advice about supporting self esteem, such a vital part of our emotional health.

CURRICULUM

We are working hard on our curriculum at present, reviewing coverage with staff and listening to pupil's talk about what they enjoy. On Friday, we had a Governor visit from Dr Wreghitt and Mrs Mba who listened to our updates on our School Development Plan target related to pupil outcomes for all pupils, including our most vulnerable ones. They spent time with Mrs Pentney and Mrs Waddingham discussing our successes and challenges and then went to classrooms to look at provision and to talk to children. As always it is a pleasure to look closely at what is happening in classrooms and listen to what children say about it. The children talked about the subjects they enjoy and told us why. Comments included maths; 'when you get a challenge you get to use numbers', art; 'because it's calming and fun' 'everyone got to choose their own thing.' and science; 'when you do experiments you work in a group'. The children helped us confirm what is going well and also gave us some useful things to consider for next steps. Please see below for pictures of a wonderful rainforest learning environment in year 3 that is supporting the curriculum.



COMIC RELIEF

Comic relief is fast approaching. The theme is 'do something funny for money'. To fundraise we are asking the children to wear something red to school and bring a joke to tell to their class. They might get to tell it to the whole class or a friend or

Infographic to share the children's thoughts on helpful rules for our 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	Key dates so far
26 th February 2024	Friday 1 st March: FABS KS2 Disco
4 th March 2024	Thursday 7 th March: Year 3 trip to Colchester Zoo Saturday 9 th March: Singing with The Perse at West road concert hall , Year 5
11 th March 2024	Monday 11 th March: Year 5 Challis House visit – Victorians Wednesday 13 th March: Year 5 Challis House visit - Victorians
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
25 th March 2024	Thursday 28th March: Last day of term Friday 29 th March: Good Friday, Easter holidays

Remaining term dates for the 2023 – 2024 school year:**Spring term 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)