



Newsletter No.15

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

We hope all our families had a wonderful Easter break, managing to enjoy the sunshine between the rain! Staff and children alike have come back to school following the holidays, reenergised, ready to face the Summer term with equal measures of enthusiasm and determination. We are excited about what we can all achieve over the remaining 11 weeks.

Headteacher update

We are very pleased to share that we have had much interest in the full-time headteacher vacancy for September; it has been a joy showing potential headteacher candidates around the school, celebrating our wonderful children and sharing the exciting journey we have been on this year to secure consistent high quality teaching across the school. Mrs Pentney and I have been able to say wholeheartedly to one and all that we love working at The Bellbird and we would stay if our circumstances hadn't changed.

All who have visited us have commented on how calm and purposeful the school is and this is a credit to our children and staff, who aspire to ensure all 'soar to success'.

Anyway, without further a do, let us hear what learning has been happening across the school since our doors opened again after Easter. We don't have many photographs this week, but the two we do have are exceptional!

Reception

Despite the unseasonably chilly weather, our littlest learners have been spotting the signs of Spring. They made nests for different types of birds and enjoyed writing invitations to their new cosy homes. The children imaginatively designed and made something to wake up the hibernating animals from their long winter slumber. The animals were unceremoniously woken up by an array of alarm clocks, loud instruments, poking devices and messages saying things like 'wake up sleepy heads!' The children particularly enjoyed peeping into real birds nests using 'nest cams' and spying on an owl and her sleepy owlets. Well done Wrens and Robins for making such a successful start back after Easter!

Year 1

Year 1 have started their science topic on plants by visiting the school allotment and planting potatoes. They will companion plant these with sweetcorn and nasturtiums and will hopefully be able to harvest their produce before the end of the school year. They have also started a simple experiment with marigolds, giving one no sunlight but water, another sunlight but no water and the third will have both sunlight and water. They will be watching how these gradually change over the coming weeks.

Year 2

In Year 2, children are so excited to have now completed their Tudor houses. They loved building Pudding Lane with their creations. In Music, they then performed 'London's Burning' on the glockenspiels. In English, they are reading 'Jack and the Baked Beanstalk' and are working on creating missing posters for the giant. They are going to include noun phrases in their descriptions to make sure he is found. In science, they have planted broad bean seeds and are hoping they will grow soon! They have now started their new 'living things and their habitats' topic.

Year 3

Year 3 have begun reading The Iron Man by Ted Hughes and enjoyed 'rebuilding' him from body parts in small groups. They have now started their topic on the Romans and have made good use of the new giant timeline in the atrium, looking at how the Romans fit in with other periods of history. In Science, some children were excited to find their sunflower seeds had grown over the holiday and they have been discussing what they need to grow healthily. This week they started swimming and the children look forward to gaining greater water confidence and improving their strokes over the coming weeks.

Cont.

Year 4 [photograph to the right]

Year 4 have started swimming and got off to a great start! They have also been having a go at the MTC 'try it out' check in preparation for their times table check in June. This has given them a taste of what the real check will be like. They have really impressed us with how far they have come in their times tables. Keep up the hard work Year 4! The children have also been busy working on their paper quilling technique in D&T over the past few weeks. This involves rolling, shaping and sticking paper to make beautiful shapes and designs. They have used this technique to create their own Anglo-Saxon necklaces. I'm sure you'll agree that they look amazing!



Year 5 [photograph below]

Year 5 have begun acclimatising to the glorious country of Japan: they have been tour guides and geographers, taking a tentative step into the "Ring of Fire". After looking at the four different tectonic plates that the country straddles, they have explored the causes and effects of earthquakes and what to do in the event of one. Next stop: volcanoes! ☹️

TOUR OF JAPAN

Day 1: Tokyo
Discover the wonders of Tokyo in a day! There are plenty of vendors, clothes shops and sky-scrapers to voyage through and will make sure you ~~thoroughly~~ thoroughly enjoy your time! One other thing you must do, is eating traditional Japanese food - it is delicious!

Day 2: Mount Fuji/Lake Ashi
Take a hike up Mount Fuji - one of Japan's 3 sacred mountains! It's a perfect day trip and is phenomenal to look at once you get to the top! Go Catch a boat and sail around Lake Ashi's beautiful waters!

Day 3: Tsukiji Fish Market
If your passion in life is fish, or you just like fish, this is the place for you! Spend your time taking mini samples of stupendous kinds of fish! The staff will always help you - ~~not~~ whatever the need!

Day 4: Kyoto
Like Tokyo, Kyoto unravels lots of temples, shopping malls, culture and Japanese history where you can discover how the Japanese culture started!

Day 5: The Bullet Train
Jump into the 1st Bullet Train and explore all around Japan. The Bullet Train is an excellent way to reach destinations quickly!

And that's all! What are you doing next?! Get Get online and book that ticket to Japan! Life in Japan is quite different to most countries, for some tips, go to our website: www.japan-tours-and-tips.com

japan tours and tips

Year 6

This week in Year 6, the children have begun reading 'Holes' and focused on developing a character description. Everyone has enjoyed getting stuck into this book! In Science, they have been exploring the stages of human development. It was great fun guessing staff members from their baby pictures. Children have also been demonstrating their vast knowledge of Sawston during our topic lessons. They have learnt about the village coat of arms, discussed the amenities of the village and practised their map reading skills.

Pupil Progress Meetings

As a team of professionals, we believe passionately that it is our duty to *each and every child* in our care to ensure they leave us happy, with a love of learning, having achieved their very best. We know that if we get it right now, in their early years, we can make a real difference to their future.

With this belief guiding us, over the past two weeks, each teacher has been released for a day to join senior leaders in pupil progress meetings. These meetings are designed to identify any child who did not make the expected progress during the previous term and most importantly make a plan of strategies the class teacher, pupil, senior team and parents can do to further support the child to make good or better progress moving forward.

School Meals - Catering Contract

Back in the Spring term we began a tendering process to find a new catering company as our contract with LTS Catering Services was coming to an end. We are very pleased to say that we have had two companies bid for the tender, both of whom come highly recommended. On Monday, myself, Mrs English-Matern [School Business Manager], Tim Wreghitt [Chair of Governors] and Peter Deane [Parent Governor], along with some school council representatives, will attend the 'presentation day' where both companies present their vision for catering at The Bellbird and showcase examples of their food. We look forward to sharing with you the outcomes of the day.

Exciting events!

Just in case you don't look at the dates below, please note we have some new dates added which were not on the previous newsletter.

Year 1 Sharing Assembly
Wednesday 22nd May
9.15 start, with a visit to the class-room to see your children's books.

Fathers' Day - Book and Biscuit Event
Thursday 13th June
2.45-3.15pm
More details to follow!

Please note at The Bellbird, we alternate events for fathers'/mothers' day each year.

All that is left to do is wish you all a relaxing weekend. Keep your fingers crossed the sun shines and the temperatures rise so we can start enjoying being out and about without a coat!

Our very best wishes,

Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney, Co-Headteachers

Week beginning	Diary dates
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 : Year 1 sharing assembly [doors open 9am for 9.15am start, 10.15am close] 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 Tuesday 13 th June: Father's Day 'Book and Biscuit' Event - open to all fathers or alternative car-ers. 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	Monday 1 st July: Year 6 production evening Tuesday 2 nd July: Year 6 production evening 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

Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney, Co-Headteachers

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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
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<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