



Newsletter No.18

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Well, what another wonderful week here at The Bellbird. The damp, cold days, have not stopped us making the most of all the learning opportunities on offer...read on to find out what each year group has been up to. There is lots of additional subjects reported on this week too so please make sure you read to the end!

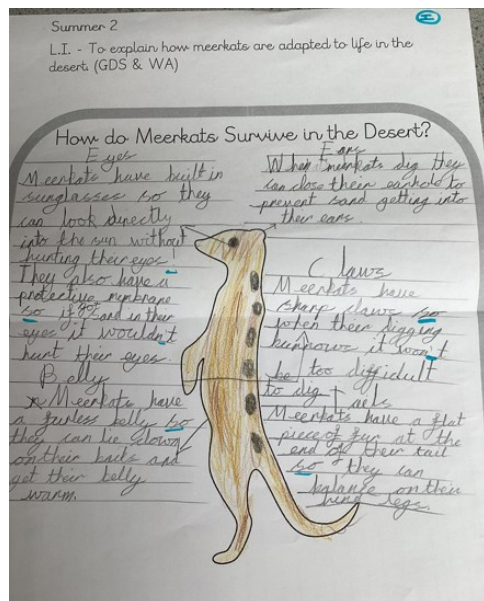
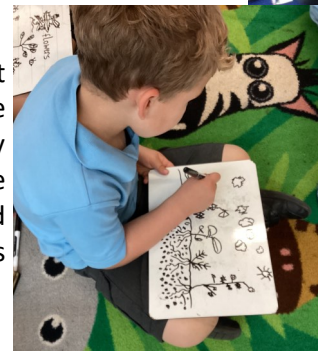
Reception

Wrens and Robins have continued their time travelling adventures to learn all about Medieval knights. After reading 'Snuff' by Quentin Blake, the main character Sir Thomas Magpie invited the children to become pages - knights in training. Naturally, our littlest learners jumped at the chance! They have been busy creating their own trusty steeds, adorning themselves with armour and designing and labelling their own coat of arms. There has been much excitement in the build up this week's 'dubbing ceremony' and they are hoping that the 'King' will find their knights in training ready to become real life knights. Bravo Wrens and Robins!



Year 1

Year 1 have looked at the life and work of the Scientist John Ray. They learnt he was the first person to make a book about plants. He was unusual at the time because he went out into the field to draw plants in an era when many artists would paint wealthy people or kings. They acted out parts of his life (questioning him why he was drawing plants rather than rich ladies, etc.) and the events (English Civil Wars) that took place during his life time. As well as drawing plants in the detailed observational style he used.



Year 2

Year 2 have been learning all about living things and their habitats. They have read 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett and read some non-fiction texts to learn all about meerkats. The children have designed their own meerkat food chains, written meerkats fact files and created posters to demonstrate the adaptations meerkats have. Please ask them for some facts about meerkats - they would love to share what we know! In maths, they have used the bee bots to support their understanding of position and direction, as well as creating their own games to show their understanding of turns and movement. They have also been working on their bowling, batting and fielding skills in our cricket sessions

Year 3

Year 3 have been working hard researching the Roman Gods and Goddesses and designing PowerPoints which they will then present to their classmates. In Science they continue to investigate light. The children have demonstrated which materials are opaque, transparent, or translucent and managed to experience true dark using a 'dark box'. They continue to practise telling the time.

Year 4

Over the past two weeks the Year 4 children completed their MTC. They have all worked so hard learning their times tables this year and should be really proud of their effort! In Maths, they have also been working on time and thinking about how to convert between the 12-hour clock and the 24-hour clock. The children have been working hard to complete their instruction writing describing how to mummify a friend, while including the key features of this text type. In our topic lessons we have been finding out about Howard Carter and the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. The children have been planning newspaper reports to detail this amazing discovery. Thank you for the empty cereal boxes that we have already received. We are still collecting these for our RE craft lesson next week so please do send some in, if you have any at home.

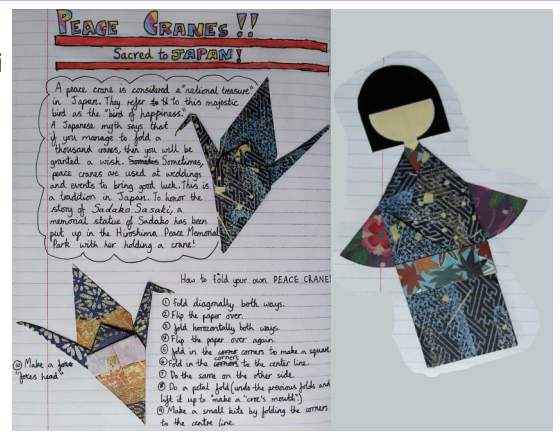
Year 5

Year 5 have been looking at many Japanese myths and legends, involving koi-carp, dragons, cranes and boys who wrestle bears or originate from peaches! The children have also been developing their origami and kirigami skills, creating peace cranes and kimonos.



Year 6

Rehearsals are in full swing this week and the children have been working hard to learn their role in the production. They have also enjoyed a visit from Rishi Nag, a local humanist who spoke about life as a humanist, his values and experiences. Budgeting, finance and fair trade have been discussed in depth in PSHE and the children have shown their enthusiasm for all things money orientated!



30 Days Wild!

As part of the Wildlife Trusts' '30 Days Wild' we are encouraging all children and families to celebrate and support the wonderful mini-beasts we have in our parks and gardens. We are encouraging the children to spend time observing, drawing or painting the mini-beasts and plants they have in their gardens or surrounding areas. We would love to see their mini-beast related art work and will display it in School for all to see. If your child is able to do some mini-beast / wildlife related art work please encourage them to bring it into School so we can share and celebrate this.



Wellbeing update from Mrs Simon - Wellbeing Lead

Just before the half-term holiday, we held our wellbeing committee meeting, which focused on *resilience*. We discussed what resilience means (the ability to bounce back from difficulties, to 'keep going' even when things go wrong and to not give up). We then went through some ways of building resilience, for example:

Learn to **relax**, as this will make you more able to cope with challenges

Practise **positive thinking**, especially when something does go wrong

Learn from your **mistakes** – and remember that everybody makes mistakes, it is how we react to them which is important

Remember that **we have a choice** about **how** we respond to difficulties – try to react calmly and logically to find a solution to the issue

Maintain perspective – even when a setback seems overwhelming, try to understand that it may not be that big in the long run

Build your **confidence** – be confident that you can succeed, even if you have setbacks

Develop **strong relationships** – when you have people who support you, you feel more confident in your own abilities

Be **flexible** – remember that life will always bring the unexpected and plans will sometimes have to change, so try to embrace this and work with it

The committee members made some fantastic posters to represent these points, which are now displayed on the wellbeing noticeboard, along with some real-life stories of resilience. One example is that of Harry Potter author J K Rowling, whose first Harry Potter book was rejected by **12** publishing companies before finally being accepted by a literary agent – to date, over 600 million copies have sold worldwide and the series has been translated into 85 different languages!

If you would like to read more about raising a resilient child, visit these links:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/raising-a-resilient-child>

https://www.betterliveshealthyfuturesbw.nhs.uk/learning_resource/resilience/

There will be one more committee meeting this term, which will focus on transition.

Catering update

Just a reminder that from 1st September 2024 our school meals will be provided by ABM, who successfully won the tender to be our catering provider for the next three years. ABM's food stood out from the rest and was the preferred choice for the panel and pupils involved in food tasting. Alongside the great food, we believe ABM will provide an excellent service for our school and will support the current kitchen team to follow their recipes to the 'T' so our meals taste as good as we all expect.

In light of this change in caterer, we have had to review the cost of school meals. Please be advised that from 1st September 2024 the price of a school dinner will increase to £2.75. This is still less than the company will charge us, so the school will be subsidising school meals but we want to make them affordable to our families so uptake is as high as possible.

Don't forget, children who currently have a special dietary menu will have to resubmit the information using the QR code in the second attachment to the email sent to all parents/carers on 3rd June. Please do contact the office if you would like this resent.

Staffing update

Miss Jaggard, one of our midday supervisors, began her maternity leave last week. She will be missed by the team and children alike as she always comes to school with a smile and kind heart. I am sure you will join us in wishing Miss Jaggard an easy birth and restful maternity leave.

Following the retirement of Mrs Baron, Mr Gilmore's promotion and Miss Lang's maternity leave, we are currently recruiting for three Key Stage 2 teachers for the academic year 24-25. Once we know the outcome of this round of recruitment, we will be in a position to give you a staffing update for next year. Please bear with us as whilst we look to further strengthen our team.

School Reading Books - PLEASE READ

Key Stage 2 - During the week starting Monday 8th July, the teachers in Key Stage 2 will be collecting in Star reading books, colour banded books and library books. They will also be collecting in the children's reading record books.

Reception and Key Stage 1 - From Friday 12th July, Little Wandle reading books will not be issued to children and the children's reading record books will be collected. All colour banded books in year 2 will also be collected in on this day.

At the end of the term, from Reception to Year 5, the children's current class teacher will be sorting out the children's first reading book for September 2024

From the 8th July, there will still be books in the class reading areas and the children will have access to these books during reading time in class.

Could we please ask that you have a good look around at home for any school reading books lurking under beds or on the top of shelves. If you find any, please return them. Thank you.

Please also see the summer reading challenge newsletter attached to the Friday email. This is a great way to encourage your child to keep reading over the summer holiday.

Gosh, what a lot of information this week. Thank you for reading to the end!

All that is left is to wish you a wonderful weekend...keep everything crossed for a little bit of sunshine! See you on Monday.

Best wishes, Mrs Emma Clayton and Mrs Rebecca Pentney [Co-Headteachers]



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