



Newsletter No.1

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

A big welcome back to all our families and a particularly warm welcome to those families who are receiving this as their first newsletter now their child/ren have joined one of our Reception classes. What a first week we have had! All our children have impressed us with how quickly they have settled back into school, and any worries or nerves that the children had before school on Monday are now gone, replaced with big smiles and a confident stride. Well done, Bellbirds!

Our newest Bellbirds have enjoyed a quieter start to their week, with smaller groups joining us each day. Thank you to our Reception parents for supporting us in this; we know that for some families it has been tricky to juggle work and half days but we believe passionately that our approach is the right one to ensure we start each child's journey with us as positively as possible. This week we are using our newsletter to share some key information, which we hope will begin to help you understand how things work in the school.

Attendance

Good attendance [above 98% and no lower than 95%] is one of the most influential factors in ensuring children achieve. Quite simply, if a child is not in school, they can't learn and they miss key knowledge and skills which is needed as the foundation of future learning.

Please remember that we have to follow these procedures strictly and our practice is monitored closely by the Local Authority throughout the year. Therefore, can we ask that children arrive in school at 8.45am ready for their morning work. The school gates will close promptly at 8.55am and anyone arriving after this will have to enter school via the school office and a late mark put in the register. If a child arrives after 9.15am when register closes, this will be classed as an unauthorised absence.

It is also important to note that each child's attendance percentages do not start afresh each academic year. Your child's attendance in 2022-23 has to be included in our monitoring of attendance. If your child's attendance drops below 95%, we are required to act via telephone and/or letter. We also are required to fine parents who take a term time absence that is not exceptional or unavoidable.

Open Door Policy

The Bellbird has an open-door policy, which means, if you have any concerns, worries or questions, we encourage you to come into school straight away. Your child's class teacher may not be able to see you instantly, but will see you as soon as possible, normally the next day, and certainly by the time the week ends [unless of course it is a safeguarding issue when we will ensure someone sees you there and then). In our first few days here, we have been incredibly impressed by the whole Bellbird team and we know they will do what they can to sort any issues.

We are also in the process of ironing out some issues with lunchtimes with the move to the new caterers. The food looks fantastic and hopefully everything will be resolved next week.

Finally,

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has warmly welcomed us to the school this week. It has been lovely to see so many smiles (from adults and children) as they come and go from school. We will continue to be available on the gates in the mornings and afternoons for anyone who wants to stop for a chat.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'M. Brough' followed by a flourish.

Mr Matt Brough and Mrs Laura Fielding
Interim Co-Headteachers