



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Update

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Parent Working Party on Saturday, 8th February. Your hard work and dedication made an incredible difference! We are delighted to share that the entire hall, corridors visitor, and disabled toilets have been freshly repainted. Several classrooms now have additional noticeboards, outdoor sheds and have been re-felted, they and fences have been painted; rubbish has been cleared, hall lightbulbs have been replaced and the broken block paving at the front of the school has been repaired. Your support has truly enhanced our school environment—thank you and it was so lovely to chat with so many of you on the day. Our aim is to run these working parties on a termly basis. Please see images below of the working party in action!

A quick reminder that our upcoming parent consultation meetings will take place on 25th and 27th February. SEND parent consultations are on 5th (Doves class only) and 6th March. Please ensure you have booked your appointment.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish all of pupils, staff and governors a relaxing half-term break.



February half-term

As a quick reminder, next week (17.2.25 – 21.2.25) is half-term week. The school will be closed to pupils. All pupils return on Monday 24th February.

Respect for the school grounds

We kindly ask for your support in reminding children to respect our school grounds. Please ensure that children do not run on the grass, play on the wooden equipment, or ring the school bell before and after school. As they are not under the supervision of school staff during these times, their safety is our priority.

Additionally, with the recent wet weather, the field is becoming damaged, and we want to preserve it for all students to enjoy. Your cooperation in keeping children off the grass will help maintain our outdoor spaces for everyone's use.

Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school a safe and welcoming environment.

School Gates

Following the hoax message received last week, we have reviewed our security procedures to ensure the safety of all pupils, staff, and visitors. As a precaution, the main school gates and pedestrian access will now remain closed during the school day.

If you need to visit the school during school hours, please ensure you close these access points after entering or leaving. Maintaining secure entryways is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for everyone.

Welcome Our New Parent Governor: Mrs. Lorna Golds

We are delighted to announce that, following a closely contested ballot, Mrs. Lorna Golds has been elected as our new Parent Governor.

Lorna brings a wealth of experience to the role, both as a dedicated parent and a qualified solicitor with strong analytical, communication, and time management skills. Her professional expertise and commitment to the school community will be invaluable in supporting The Bellbird's continued growth and success.

Dr. Tim Wreghitt, Chair of Governors, and the entire governing body warmly welcome Lorna to the team. We look forward to the positive impact she will make in helping to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for all our pupils.

Our thanks also go to Dr Daniel Dr. Trocmé-Latter and Dr Romit Samanta for standing for election.

Join Our FABs Team!

Who are we?

Friends at Bellbird School (FABs) is our school's parent/teacher association. We're a small but dedicated group of parents and staff who organize fundraising events and support school activities.

What do we do?

Our goal is to bring together children, families, staff, and the wider community through fun and engaging events. The money we raise goes directly toward providing essential resources and enhancing learning opportunities for every child.

What have we achieved?

With the help of our amazing volunteers, we've made a real difference. From improving the school library with new books and furniture to hosting author visits, theater performances, and funding swimming lessons for Years 2, 4, and 6, our contributions continue to benefit all students. We've even added a new PA system to the school hall!

Want to help?

If you're interested in joining, please leave a message for Mr. Andy Irons at the school office or speak to a member of the School Leadership team at the gate. We'd love to have you on board!

Why School Attendance Matters: A Message for Parents

Attendance at school is vital for your child's academic success, wellbeing, and development. Regular attendance supports educational, social, and economic outcomes, while also fostering positive peer relationships that improve mental health.

Long-Term Benefits of Attendance Being present prepares children for adulthood and boosts future success. Students with high attendance consistently achieve better results. In 2019, 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils with 100% attendance met expected standards, compared to 40% of persistently absent pupils.

What is Persistent or Severe Absence?

- **Persistently absent:** Missing over 10% of school sessions.
- **Severely absent:** Missing over 50% of sessions.

Although absence rates have improved since the pandemic, reducing absences remains a priority to ensure every child benefits fully from school.

When to Keep Your Child Home Children with mild colds, like a minor cough or sore throat, can usually attend school. Keep your child home if they have a high temperature (38°C or above). Schools have guidance to help you decide, and additional illness advice is available on the NHS website.

Let's Work Together Whilst it is understandable that some children genuinely need to be off school, for many others, this is just not the case. Your support is crucial for improving attendance. Together, we can help every child reach their potential. If you need assistance, contact your child's school

Parent Emails

We appreciate your ongoing support and communication with our school. To ensure a smooth and organised flow of information, we kindly remind you that all emails to teachers must go through the school office email.

Please do not email teachers directly. If you need to get in touch with a teacher, kindly send your message to the school office at office@thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk and they will ensure it reaches the right person. This process helps us manage communication effectively while allowing teachers to focus on their pupils during the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school office.

Year 6 lunchtime clubs

Our Year 6s have really embraced leadership opportunities this year and we have seen a roaring success with our lunchtime clubs which they have been leading. Y2 have been currently enjoying coding club and Y1 and 2 construction club. In KS2, we currently have Y6s leading drama club and Pokémon club. Clubs are always popular and it is fabulous to see so many children keen to join in. A huge thank you to the staff who are giving up their lunchtime to support our Y6s. Lunchtime clubs coming up later this year: Dance club (KS1), Origami, Art, friendship bracelet and drawing club.

National College guide Top Tips to Supporting Children Return to Routine

This attached guide lets you know how to help children and young people through the transition back into education after a school holiday.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Parent Consultation Evening – Zoom	Tuesday 25 th February 3.30-7.00pm
Parent Consultation Day time – In person	Thursday 27 th February 8.00 – 11.00am
SEND Parent Consultation. Invites only.	Thursday 6 th March 3.30-5.30pm

SEND Parent Consultation. Invites only. (Doves class only)	Wednesday 5 th March 3.30-5.30pm
FABS Discos YR, KS1 and KS2	Friday 7 th March – more details to follow
Y4 West Stow trip	Friday 21 st March
Cambridge University School Day	Tuesday 25 th March for KS2 pupils.
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th March @ 9:15am
FABS Quiz	Friday 2 nd May – more details to follow
Year 1 Class Assembly	Wednesday 21 st May @ 9:15am
Year 2 Class Assembly	Tuesday 8 th July @ 9:15am

Kind Regards,



Mr James Puxley

Headteacher