



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Exciting Times at The Bellbird Primary School!

Last week's pantomime performance brought lots of excitement to both the children and staff alike - despite the chilly weather! Thank you to FABS for funding this. Our classes are buzzing with energy too. I've been busy with pupil progress meetings with the year group teams over the last two weeks. In the upcoming weeks, I'm eager to get into classes and witness first-hand the wonderful learning experiences of your children. There's so much to look forward to as we continue to grow and learn together at The Bellbird Primary School. Please do keep reading the weekly newsletter for more updates on our journey of learning and discovery!

The Importance of Reading at Home with Your Child

Reading at home with your child has astonishing benefits, offering comfort, reassurance, confidence, and security. It provides relaxation, happiness, and fun while showing your child they matter. This quality time builds self-esteem, enhances vocabulary, sparks imagination, and even improves sleeping patterns.

For our youngest readers, listening to them practice the sounds they are learning in class is invaluable. As children progress, shared reading becomes vital for developing understanding, expression, and fluency (prosody).

We recommend Reception and Year 1 parents read daily with their children. As they grow, the minimum expectation is for parents, carers, or trusted adults to listen to their children read for at least 10 minutes, three times a week or more. Don't forget to record these moments in your child's reading record book—your comments make a difference!

Together, we can foster a lifelong love of reading and learning in our children.

Parent Working Party – Saturday, 8th February

I am excited to invite parents to join both myself and Mr Foster for a Parent Working Party on Saturday, 8th February, from 9 am to 12 pm. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the school, we'll be repainting the lower sections of the hall and corridors, and we need your help! All painting materials will be provided, and we'll keep you fuelled with as much tea as you can manage. There might even be a bacon roll, if we can find someone to make them! Due to a tight budget, your support means more than ever. It's a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference in our school environment. If you are able to assist, even for half an hour, please a member of the office team know. Children are more than welcome to attend.

Parent Governor Election

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. Governor's play a crucial role in the strategic direction of the school and offer a wealth of knowledge and expertise. You should have received a letter about how to express your interest in the position and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Calling All Parents and Carers: Help Us Run School Clubs!

We're looking for parents and carers with talents, hobbies, or special interests to volunteer and run school clubs! Whether you have a passion for sports, arts, music, or any other exciting activity, your involvement can make a real difference to our children. If you'd like to contribute, please email the school office or speak to a member of the senior leadership team at the school gate. All volunteers will need to complete a DBS check and provide suitable references. Join us in enriching our pupils' learning experiences!

Home Learning – All Year Groups

Throughout the year, all pupils receive a home learning menu with project suggestions to enhance their learning outside of school. This encourages exploration of personal interests and reinforces classroom lessons. Your involvement is crucial in helping children complete these projects for sharing in class. Additionally, support in areas like spelling, reading, and Mathematics is essential. Collaboration between parents and school is key to nurturing every child's learning journey. Please speak with your child's teacher if they need assistance with their home learning.

Support Pupils in Reading with Confidence

We're looking for volunteers to help our pupils improve their reading accuracy and confidence. By listening to children read, you'll provide invaluable support as they practice sounding out words, building fluency, and understanding texts. Your patience and encouragement can make a real difference in their progress. If you're interested in helping young learners succeed, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the school office for more information or to get involved.

National College guide on Snap Chat

As one of the most popular messaging apps available, Snapchat sees an enormous amount of usage across the globe – with a significant number of those utilising the platform being under 18. For that reason, it's important to understand the potential risks to younger users when spending time on this app.

Of course, it can be difficult to identify every hazard associated with the platform, let alone what can be done to mitigate these concerns. The National College guidance – attached to this newsletter - lays out the key online safety risks of Snapchat, as well as how to safeguard young people while they use the app.

Cambridge University School Day

As an unmissable diary date, the Cambridge University School Day will take place on Tuesday 25th March for KS2 pupils. This is a fun, free, curriculum-linked talks and workshops at the University West Cambridge site. Talks will feature space, maths, archeology and much more!

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th February @ 9:15am
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th March @ 9:15am
Year 1 Class Assembly	Wednesday 21 st May @ 9:15am

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr James Puxley

Headteacher