



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Exciting Developments in Our School

Despite the chilly weather, it has been a productive and inspiring week at school. Over the past two weeks, I have had the privilege of joining class teachers and phase leaders in conducting pupil progress meetings, which have provided valuable insights into the challenges some pupils face in their learning journey. Thanks to the dedication of our proactive Bellbird team, intervention groups and personalised support are already in place, ensuring every child gets the help they need to thrive.

Looking ahead, I will be joining other senior leadership team members next week to complete lesson observations, continuing our shared commitment to maintaining excellent teaching and learning.

Parent Working Party – Saturday, 8th February

Our school thrives on the strength of our community, and we are reaching out to you for a little extra help as we tackle an important project. On Saturday, 8th February, from 9 am to 12 pm, we'll be hosting a Parent Working Party to repaint the lower sections of the hall and corridors—and we'd love for you to join us!

Why are we asking for your help? Our school budget is tighter than ever, which means every small act of generosity can make a huge difference. By volunteering your time, you'll directly contribute to creating a brighter, fresher environment for all our children—a space they can feel proud of.

All painting materials will be provided, so all you need to bring is a willingness to pitch in. To keep you energised, we'll have endless cups of tea and, if we're lucky, some bacon rolls too! Even if you can spare just half an hour, your contribution will make a real impact. This is also a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents, spend time with your children, and show them how working together as a community can achieve great things. Children are more than welcome to join in!

If you're able to assist, please let a member of the office team know. Your support means the world to us and to our pupils. Let's come together to brighten our school—every brushstroke counts!

School Meals

Children currently order lunches in the morning during registration. The process can be time consuming and children lose valuable learning time as a result. We will therefore be introducing a new way of ordering lunches in advance through School Gateway. We will send instructions and further information nearer the time. Please could you ensure that your School Gateway account is set up ready, even if your child is in receipt of Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals (KS1). More information to follow from the office team.

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!

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.

Calling All Parents and Carers: Share Your Talents!

As a school we are keen to invite parents and carers to help run school clubs. Whether you're passionate about sports, arts, music, or have a unique hobby to share, your skills can make a huge difference in enriching our pupils' experiences. If you're interested in volunteering, please email the school office or chat with a member of the senior leadership team at the school gate. All volunteers will need to complete a DBS check and provide references. Let's work together to create fun and inspiring opportunities for our children—we would love to have you on board!

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.

The Bellbird Bird Watch

This weekend is the RSPB's Big Garden Bird watch. The Eco-Committee would love it if you could take part in this by watching the birds in your garden this weekend. The details can be found on the RSPB's website or by following this link. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

National College guide Conversation Starters About On Line Content (attached)

Trying to start a conversation about online safety with children can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why children or young people may not want to talk to adults about it. One might be that they don't think you'll understand, or that you won't know how to help if they *did* come to you with an online problem. It can also be hard to start a conversation about something that, even as a parent or carer, you might have limited knowledge about. However, with screen time statistic increasing each year, it's more important than ever, to be maintaining a dialogue with children about what they're accessing online.

In our guide, you'll find tips such as cultivating a blame-free culture, asking the child to be the teacher and getting them to think about online risks.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th February @ 9:15am
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