



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Update

The half-term break now seems like a dim and distant memory as we settle back into a busy and exciting term. On Monday, 24th February, we were delighted to welcome the wonderful author **Pippa Goodhart** to our school. The children were captivated by her stories, insights, and invaluable tips on how to become great writers. It was truly inspiring to see their enthusiasm and creativity sparked by her visit.

It was also fantastic to see so many of you at our **spring parent consultation meetings** on Thursday, whether in person or virtually. These meetings are such an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, and we appreciate your engagement and support. Please remember that SEND consultation meetings will take place on **Monday, 3rd March, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

Pippa Goodhart, Author Visit (Written by Violeta - Owls)

On Monday, an author called Pippa Goodhart came into our class to talk to us about the books that she has written. We were all fascinated to hear about what life was like for her when she went to school. Surprisingly, she said that she was not especially good at neither reading, nor writing, but she was always great at making up stories. She said that the first every book that she wrote was for a competition and the book was called "A Dog Called Flow". She went on to tell us about another book that she wrote which was based on a boy who discovered a fossilised piece of an animal's head in a coprolite mine.

What I found most interesting about her talk was just how she got her ideas. She said that most of the time, she does not plan her stories, she simply writes them as they come. Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed Pippa's visit and we all learned a lot!

Book Week

The whole school Book Week starts on Monday 3rd March. Each day the children will be sharing and talking about books. FABs have recently funded the purchasing of some Star Reading books for key Stage 2 and these have all been processed and are on the book shelves in the atrium. I hope that next week some of the older children enjoy reading these books.

Each day children from different classes will be able to bring in from home one of their favourite books. They will have the opportunity during the day to share their book with a friend and to explain why they enjoy reading that particular book. Recommendations from other children is always a successful way to encourage children to read a wider range of authors or genre.

The days for each class are as follows:

Tuesday 4 th March	Hérons Kingfishers
Wednesday 5 th March	Eagles Owls
Thursday 6 th March World Book Day	Goldfinches Skylarks Swifts Nightingales Wrens Robins Sparrows Doves Swallows Wagtails

Y3 Athletics Final at SVC (Written by Michael Katsos – Swallows)

On Wednesday 26th February seven children from Year 3 were chosen to go to Sawston Village College to participate in an athletics challenge.

There were 12 different activities. One was called the high step where you had to step over staggered foam blocks and keep repeating this as many times as you can in 40 seconds. One of the harder ones was when you stood side on to a wall and put your hand as high

as you could and this was then measured. You then had to jump from a standstill and this was then measured to see how high you could jump. I was not very good at this one. Another one, which was my favourite, was called the standing long jump. Sadly, this was my worst score.

We walked back to The Bellbird Primary School in the pouring rain but we all had fun and were proud of ourselves. Once we got back to school we had to take our soaking wet shoes off as they were full of water. We did not win the challenge but I was happy because I had missed English and most of maths!!!



National Science Week at The Bellbird

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National Science Week runs from 7-16 March, and we're seeking curious objects to spark discussion in classrooms! These will rotate daily and can be natural (e.g., a bird nest, animal skull, or unusual shell) or man-made (e.g., an old phone, motherboard, or Newton's cradle). Objects must be safe and not too fragile, as children will closely examine and handle them.

If you can contribute, please drop off objects at the school office next week, ideally in a labelled box with your name and a brief description inside. We'll reveal details after students explore them.

Additionally, Cambridge University's Cambridge Festival (19 March – 4 April) offers free family-friendly events:

<https://www.festival.cam.ac.uk/events/format/family-weekend-9642>

No choir on 14th March

Due to year 5 trip that Mrs. Collins will be attending, there will be no choir after school on Friday 14th March.

Exciting Additions to Our Governing Body

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Daniel Trocmé-Latter and Dr. Romit Samanta to our school's governing body.

Dr. Trocmé-Latter is an academic and a practising musician. He teaches undergraduates at Homerton College, part of the University of Cambridge, where he is not only a college lecturer but also supports students in their extracurricular musical activities.

Dr. Samanta is a doctor at Addenbrooke's Hospital and an academic researcher at the University of Cambridge. Having studied in both London and Cambridge, he specialises in intensive care, where he navigates complex and sensitive situations with patients and their families. His career has also provided him with experience across industry, education, and international settings.

Both gentlemen bring a wealth of expertise and diverse skills to our governing body, and we look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to our school community.

Join the Friends at Bellbird School (FABs) team and help make a difference!

As our school's parent-teacher association, we're a passionate group of parents and staff dedicated to organising fundraising events and supporting school activities. Our goal is to bring together children, families, and the wider community through fun, engaging events while raising funds for essential resources and learning opportunities. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we've improved the school library, hosted author visits and theatre performances, funded swimming lessons for Years 2, 4, and 6, and even added a new PA system to the school hall. If you'd like to get involved, leave a message for Mr. Andy Irons at the school office or chat with the School Leadership Team at the gate—we'd love to have you on board!

Whole School Evacuation Drill

At The Bellbird Primary School, the safety and well-being of our pupils and staff are our top priorities. As part of our ongoing commitment to emergency preparedness, we will be conducting a **whole school evacuation drill** in the coming weeks. This drill follows our recent fire drill and invacuation practice, helping to ensure that everyone knows what to do in the event of a critical incident requiring the full evacuation of the school site.

Pupils will be fully briefed by their class teachers before the drill takes place. Please note that a selected number of pupils – for medical/ health reasons - will not be participating in the drill. If you feel that your child may find this experience unsettling, we advise that you practise walking to and from Sawston Free Church, which is our designated emergency location. Children can then become familiar with the route and building. We appreciate your support in helping us to prepare our pupils for all possible scenarios in a calm and reassuring manner.

Wheelchair Request

If you have a spare or disused wheelchair at home, we would greatly appreciate any donations or offers to sell one to the school. In the event of an emergency, having a wheelchair on hand will help ensure the safety and well-being of pupils who may need assistance. Your generosity could make a real difference. Please contact the school office if you can help.

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 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 TikTok tips

Among children – and especially teenagers – TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This free guide lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site. See attached.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Parent Consultation with Mrs Waddingham. Invites only. (More details to follow)	Thursday 6 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