



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Update

As I write this, I'm loading dust sheets, paintbrushes, and rollers into the back of my car, ready for tomorrow's parent working party. A huge thank you in advance to those of you giving up your time to help refresh and brighten our school—it really does make such a difference!

With the half-term holiday now just a week away, it is wonderful to see how well the children and staff have powered through the darkest and dreariest part of the year. Spring is just around the corner, and there is a real buzz of energy and enthusiasm in school.

A quick reminder to book your slot for our upcoming parent consultation meetings, taking place on **25th and 27th February**. If you have a child that is listed on the SEND register you will be offered a 20 minute appointment on **Thursday 6th March** between 3.30pm - 5.30pm (Doves class only **Wednesday 5th March**). These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress—please do make the most of them! The general slots will be available to book from 11am on Sunday 9th February and SEND slots will be available to book from today at 5.30pm. Please check your emails for details of how to book.

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. Tomorrow morning, 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!

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.

Playground Improvements

Miss Eames writes: Recently, we used Sports Premium to spend over £3000 on improving the amount of playground equipment. This has included Eurohoc sets, basketballs, moon hoppers and tennis racquets. It has been brilliant to see the children so active at break and lunch times! The long skipping ropes have been a particular hit with lots of children working on improving their skipping skills and rhymes.



Outdoor Equipment & Field Usage After School

We kindly remind you that children should not play on the wooden equipment or run around on the field after school hours. During the school day, pupils are always supervised by staff while using the equipment. However, after hours, there is no staff supervision, and we want to ensure the safety of all children.

Additionally, with the recent wet weather, the field has become muddy and easily damaged. Continued use after-school is causing further wear and tear, which affects playtime conditions for all pupils. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our school grounds safe and well-maintained. Thank you for your support and understanding.

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

National College guide Top Tips to Get Smart about Online Devices

This free online safety guide (attached) focuses on children's devices. The guide takes a look at how to tackle a range of potential risks such as location settings, fake profiles and screen addiction.

Key dates for your diary:

| Event | Date |
|---|--|
| Year 5 Class Assembly | Thursday 13 th February @ 9:15am |
| Parent Consultation Evening – Zoom (School Comms to follow with details) | Tuesday 25 th February 3.30-7.00pm |
| Parent Consultation Day time – In person (School Comms to follow with details) | Thursday 27 th February 8.00 – 11.00am |
| SEND Parent Consultations. Invites only. | Thursday 6 th March 3.30-5.30pm (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. |
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| 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