

The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move further into March, the sunny weather has certainly been lifting everyone's spirits, bringing a real sense of energy and positivity to school life. With the Easter holidays fast approaching, our pupils are enjoying the final weeks of term, making the most of outdoor learning opportunities and seasonal activities.

A big thank you to all who attended our recent parent consultation meetings. These conversations are invaluable in strengthening the home-school partnership and ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils. If you were unable to meet with your child's class teacher, please do contact the school office to arrange a convenient time for a discussion. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

No choir this afternoon

Due to the year 5 trip that Mrs. Collins will be attending, there will be no choir after school this afternoon.

Join Our School Team!

We are looking for a friendly and organised **School Administrator** to join our office team from **2nd June 2025**. This **23-hour-per-week** role (term-time plus training days) is perfect for someone with great communication and customer service skills, as you will be the first point of contact for families, staff, and visitors.

Key responsibilities include helping with school communications (website and social media), organising trips, and supporting general office tasks. IT skills and office experience are essential, and a first aid qualification (or willingness to train) is required.

Training will be provided as needed, and we welcome prospective applicants to visit the school. Parents are most definitely encouraged to apply! For more details or to apply, contact the School Office at **Office@thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk** or call **01223 833216**.

Parking Etiquette at Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We kindly remind all members of our school community to be respectful and considerate when parking during drop-off and pick-up times. Please ensure that you park safely and legally, avoiding driveways, restricted areas, and spaces designated for residents. In particular, **Jones Place car park is for residents only and must not be used by parents and carers**. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping good relations with our neighbours and ensuring the safety of our children. Thank you for your support in making drop-off and pick-up times smooth and respectful for everyone.

Year 5 Faraday Institute Workshop – Contributions Appreciated

On Wednesday, 5th March, Year 5 took part in an engaging and thought-provoking workshop led by the Faraday Institute. This fantastic opportunity allowed pupils to explore the connections between religious beliefs and scientific discoveries, enriching their learning experience.

We are incredibly grateful to the parents and carers who have already contributed towards the cost of this workshop. Your support helps us continue to provide valuable learning experiences for the children.

If you have not yet made a contribution, we kindly ask that you do so by Friday, 4th April. Every contribution, no matter the amount, helps cover the cost of these enriching activities. Thank you for your support!

Neuro Diversity Week

Next week we will be celebrating Neurodiversity Week, which runs from the 17th - 23rd March. The aims of Neurodiversity Week are to increase acceptance and understanding, provide education about neurodiversity and celebrate it! Over the course of the week all of our assemblies will focus on this theme. Following that, PSHE sessions in the last 2 weeks will focus on teaching the children what neurodiversity is and that each individual has different needs.

We will be using the Learning About Neurodiversity at School (LEANS) programme in Key Stage 2, a resource that aims to help children understand brain-based differences in how we think, feel, and learn, and promote inclusive attitudes and actions. Through stories, videos, and activities, all classes will explore issues such as 'learning and thinking differently'.

This is an excellent opportunity for your child and their classmates to learn about and reflect on who we are and how we can support each other better. We hope your child will talk to you about some of the stories and activities they take part in.

If you would like further information about neurodiversity and about the LEANS resources, you can visit: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/salvesen-research/leans>.

A Heartfelt Thank You to PEM for Their Generous Donation

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with our school community! The Bellbird Primary School has recently received an incredibly generous donation of five laptops from PEM, and we want to express our deepest gratitude to Miss Hayden and the entire PEM team. Also many thanks to Mrs Lian Jordan who so kindly organised the donation. With school budgets stretched thin, this donation comes as a tremendous help and will have a direct impact on the quality of education we provide, benefiting both our staff and pupils alike. We truly appreciate PEM's kindness and commitment to supporting our school.

The 2025 Sawston Fun Run – Saturday 11th May

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome **Sini Rinne-Kerridge**, organiser of this year's **Sawston Fun Run**, who shared exciting details about the upcoming event. The Fun Run is a fantastic opportunity to stay active while raising funds for Sawston schools, local organisations, and charities. This event also sets the stage for the launch of **Mr Puxley's KS2 Running Club**, which kicks off on **Friday, 25th April**—a great way for our young runners to get involved and build their fitness. More details will follow soon!

Whether you're running for fun, fitness, or a fantastic cause, the Sawston Fun Run is an event not to be missed. Lace up your trainers and get ready to support our community while having a great time!

Easter Church Performance

For our Easter Services on Tuesday 1st April, we are in need of parent volunteers to accompany children to St. Mary's Church please. Due to restricted numbers, on this occasion, the Easter services will be for pupils only. Parent volunteers will however be welcome to watch the children perform. If you are able to assist, please email our school office: office@thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk Performance times will be 9.45 – 10.15am and 10.45-11.15 am.

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

As our school's parent-teacher association, we are 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 have 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 would 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 would love to have you on board!

Escape from the Hive – Maths Adventure! Flyer attached

Join us on Wednesday, 26th March for a thrilling escape room-style maths session - where puzzles, clues, and numbers come together for an unforgettable experience! Hosted by Family Learning, this fun-filled event will give you a sneak peek into what your child is learning in their maths lessons. It is the perfect way for you and your child to team up, crack codes, and solve challenges together.

When: After school — a 2-hour session of brain-teasing fun!

Who: Open to all **KS2 families**.

Spaces are limited — do not miss out! Book your spot now using the email or QR code on the attached flyer.

We cannot wait to see you there!

National College guide Top Tips for Using Technology to Boost Reading Skills (attached)

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy.

To help struggling readers, many digital platforms offer tools that enhance readability by making text more accessible and engaging.

There's also a broad range of accessibility features available, such as screen customisation and text-to-voice technology, which may help children and young people improve their literary confidence. This free guide offers ten top tips on how you can help young readers engage in text and foster a love for reading.

Reading for Pleasure Events at The Bellbird

Mrs Hines, English Lead writes:

Over the past few weeks all of the children have had the opportunity to engage with a broad activities which are designed to promote a love of reading. The first of these events was our on Monday 24th February. Around the school, the teachers have seen quite a few children 'You Choose books' by Pippa Goodhart and having rich discussions linked to these

The children have clearly enjoyed completing the reading challenges and we would like to thank parents for their support with this. We never cease to be amazed by our children's creativity. Reading challenges have been displayed all around the school.

During our book week, the children enjoyed sharing and recommending their favourite books

peers and some of the key stage 2 children took part in a 'Footy Booky' Quiz which was organised by the National Literacy Trust.

We are delighted to have more reading volunteers in school following our plea for more help earlier in the year. If you have an hour or to spare and would like to support some of our children with their reading, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



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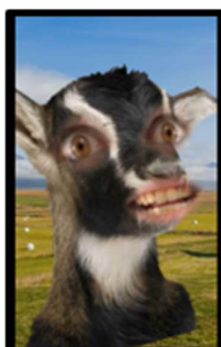
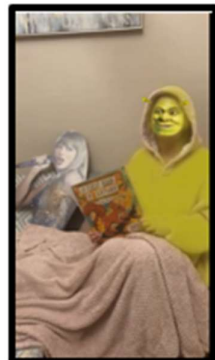
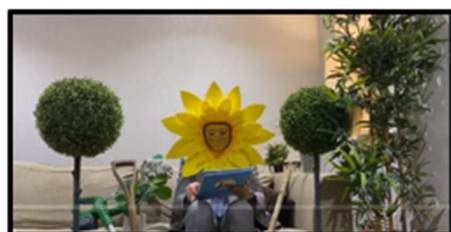
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On Tuesday, our Reception children had an enjoyable time at the Sawston library. They listened to stories and browsed the wonderful collection of books.



We would also like to thank all of the parents who visited the Harts book shop on Thursday. It was great to see

so many children enthusiastically exchanging their world book day tokens for one of the special £1 world book day books. The vouchers need to be redeemed by **Sunday 23rd March**. As part of our celebration of reading, the children across the school have been enjoying watching masked reader videos made by some of our members of staff. They have enjoyed using the clues to uncover the readers' true identities. Parents at home might like to have a go at identifying some of these strange looking readers.



Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
FABS Disco KS2	Friday 21 st March 5.30-7.00pm
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
Sawston Fun Run	Saturday 11 th May
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