



The Bellbird
Primary School

16.05.25

The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

For those who took part in last Sunday's Sawston Fun Run—whether you ran, jogged, or supported from the side-lines—I hope you are now free from any aches and already looking forward to the next one. It was wonderful to see so many members of our school community involved in such a spirited event.

This week, I would like to take a moment to commend our Year Six pupils. They have shown real resilience, focus, and maturity as they completed their end-of-key-stage assessments. The calm and determined manner in which they approached each test has been truly admirable, and we are all extremely proud of them.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the Year Six teaching team for encouraging and supporting the children so positively throughout the week. Special thanks must also go to Mrs Collins, who organised the assessment schedule with great care and attention, ensuring everything ran smoothly and that those children who required additional support received it in the best possible way.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

URGENT: Parent Working Party – TOMORROW, Saturday 17th May, 9am–12pm at School

We need your help tomorrow morning! Mr Foster and I are running a Parent Working Party from 9am to 12pm, and we are urgently calling on as many of you as possible to join us at school. Our classrooms, corridors, and outdoor equipment are in desperate need of a refresh – and with the school budget stretched, we simply cannot make it happen without your support. Even just half an hour of your time will make a big difference. Whether you are a DIY pro or just happy to lend a hand, every bit of help counts in giving our children a brighter, more welcoming space to learn and play.

We will provide all the materials, endless cups of tea, and (if we can find a volunteer) maybe even a bacon roll or two!

Children are very welcome, and if you are able to join us, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Let's come together tomorrow to give our school the lift it urgently needs – thank you!

New Deputy Headteacher Appointed for September 2025

It gives me great pleasure to now be able to reveal that Mrs Rosie Komodromos will succeed Mrs Dix as the next Deputy Headteacher of The Bellbird Primary School, starting in September 2025.

Mrs Komodromos brings with her a wealth of senior leadership experience and is also a highly skilled class teacher. We are confident that she will be a fantastic addition to the leadership team and will continue to build on the strong foundations already in place. Over the final few weeks of this academic year, Mrs Komodromos will be working closely with Mrs Dix to ensure a smooth and effective handover.

At the same time, it is only right to acknowledge the incredible contribution that Mrs Dix has made to The Bellbird Primary School over the course of her remarkable career. Her unwavering dedication, warmth, and professionalism have left a lasting impression on the whole school community. She will be an extremely hard act to follow, and when the time comes, we wish her every success and happiness in her well-earned retirement.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Komodromos and celebrating the legacy of Mrs Dix in the weeks ahead.



A Huge Thank You to Birketts, Cambridge

We are delighted to share our heartfelt thanks to Birketts Cambridge for their incredibly generous donation of high-quality cabinets to The Bellbird Primary School. At a time when school budgets are increasingly stretched, this thoughtful gift has made a real and immediate difference. The new cabinets have helped transform our learning environment—classrooms and corridors are now noticeably more organised and tidy, creating a more pleasant and effective space for both pupils and staff. Even our children have been commenting on how smart everything looks! We are truly grateful to Birketts for their kindness and support of our school community. Your generosity has had a positive impact, and we can't thank you enough.

Fathers' Day Celebrations – Friday 13th June at 2.30pm

We are very pleased to invite all fathers and father figures to join us for a special Fathers' Day celebration on Friday 13th June at 2.30pm. This is a lovely opportunity for dads, grandfathers, uncles, or another special family member to spend some time in their child/ren's classroom.

During the visit, guests will be able to take part in a craft activity or enjoy looking at books with their child. Light refreshments will be available, and everyone will be offered a biscuit.

To help ensure a smooth end to the school day, we kindly ask all visitors to leave the classrooms at 3.00pm. This will allow teachers to prepare for a calm and orderly dismissal, and fathers can then collect their children from the usual collection points.

We look forward to welcoming many of you into school for this happy occasion.

Gardening Club Returns!

We are delighted to announce that Dr Tim Wreghitt, our very kindly Chair of Governors, will once again be running the school's annual Gardening Club. This wonderful club has proved so important in teaching the children about the joys of gardening and helping them to understand how our food grows. The club will run every Wednesday from 4th June – 16th July, inclusive, 3.30-4.15pm. (Please note that for w/c 9th June, the club will take place on Tuesday 10th, NOT on the Wednesday). The Gardening Club is free to attend, with Dr Wreghitt generously donating all of the materials needed. During the club, pupils will have the opportunity to grow – and no doubt sample – a wide variety of vegetables and crops. It promises to be a truly rewarding and hands-on experience for all involved.

We look forward to another brilliant season of growing and learning!

Footwear Reminder – Keeping Our Pupils Safe

As the weather gets warmer, we understand the temptation to choose lighter footwear. However, we kindly ask that parents and carers do not send children to school in Crocs or open-toe sandals.

Although they may seem comfortable, these types of shoes are not suitable for school activities. Open-toe sandals leave feet unprotected, increasing the risk of stubbed or injured toes during play. Crocs, while easy to slip on, do not provide enough support and can easily come off, making them a trip hazard—especially when children are running or playing outdoors.

To help keep everyone safe and active throughout the school day, we ask that all children wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes that stay securely on their feet. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school a safe place to learn and play.

The Importance of Good Attendance at School

At The Bellbird Primary School, we are dedicated to supporting every child to reach their full potential—both academically and socially. One of the key factors that contributes to a child's success is regular attendance at school. Children who attend school consistently not only make stronger academic progress, but also develop more secure friendships, build greater self-confidence, and feel a stronger sense of belonging within the school community. While missing the odd day might seem harmless, these absences can quickly add up and create gaps in learning. For instance, a child who misses just one day every two weeks will have lost an entire term's worth of education by the end of their primary school years.

Frequent absence from school can result in:

- Gaps in understanding essential concepts in literacy and numeracy
- Reduced confidence and increased anxiety about catching up
- Challenges in maintaining friendships and feeling part of the class
- Fewer opportunities and reduced outcomes in the long term

We would also like to remind all families that holidays during term time **cannot be authorised**. Such absences significantly disrupt children's learning and undermine the consistency that young pupils need to flourish.

We ask for your continued support in ensuring that your child attends school every day, arrives on time, and is ready to learn. By working together, we can provide all our pupils with the strongest foundation for future success.

If you are experiencing difficulties related to attendance, please speak with Mrs Klimke. We are here to listen, support, and work with you to find positive and constructive solutions.

Cross Country Club – Volunteers Welcome!

The Cross-Country Club, led by Mr. Puxley, meets every Friday afternoon from 3:20 to 4:20 pm. We warmly invite parents and carers to join us — whether you would like to run alongside the children or assist with supervision. Your support would enable us to take the children on exciting runs beyond the school grounds. If you are interested in helping, please speak to me directly at the school gate or contact the school office.

Summer Sports Day at The Bellbird – Save the Date!

Get ready for a day of fun, excitement, and friendly competition! The Bellbird's much-anticipated **Summer Sports Day** is set to take place on **Tuesday, 10th June**, with **Wednesday, 11th June** as our back-up date in case of bad weather. Exact timings for the day, to be announced closer to the date. We warmly invite parents and families to come along and cheer on the children as they take part in a variety of events, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and determination. From sprints to relays, and even some classic fun races, there will be plenty to enjoy. And for those who are feeling brave—there might even be a parents' race! So, dust off your trainers and be ready for a little friendly competition of your own. We look forward to seeing you there for what promises to be a fantastic day of sporting spirit and school community fun.

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

As our school's parent-teacher association, we're a dedicated team of parents and staff committed to organising fundraising events and supporting school activities. Our mission is to unite children, families, and the wider community through exciting events while raising funds for essential resources and learning opportunities. Thanks to our fantastic volunteers, we've enhanced the school library, hosted author visits and theatre performances, funded swimming lessons for Years 2, 4, and 6, and installed a new PA system in the school hall. If you'd like to get involved, leave a message for Mr. Andy Irons at the school office or speak with the School Leadership Team at the gate—we would love to welcome you to the team!

Calling All Parents – We Need Reading Helpers!

At The Bellbird Primary School, we believe that reading is the key to learning – it opens doors to imagination, knowledge, and confidence. That is why we want every child to develop strong reading skills as early as possible.

But with the demands on teacher time increasing, we need your help to give every child the time and attention they deserve when learning to read.

Could you spare just an hour or two each week to listen to children read?

You do not need any special training – just a love of books and a willingness to support our young learners as they build this essential skill. Whether you can come in weekly or even just occasionally, your time could make a world of difference.

Why become a reading helper?

- Help children grow in confidence and ability
- Make a direct, positive impact in the classroom
- Be part of the school community in a meaningful way

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact [Teacher/Office Name] at [email/phone number], or drop by the school office.

Together, we can help every child become a confident reader. Thank you!

National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – Fostering a Sense of Belonging (attached)

Creating a strong sense of belonging is essential for children's emotional wellbeing and academic success. This guide explores ten simple and effective strategies, such as encouraging participation, celebrating diversity, and addressing bullying, that help schools build inclusive environments where every child feels valued and connected.

We've created this free guide offering parents and educators effective solutions to build inclusive, nurturing environments that help children and young people feel a strong sense of belonging.

Key dates for your diary:

| Event | Date |
|---|---|
| Year 1 Class Assembly | Wednesday 21 st May @ 9:15am |
| Sports Day | Tuesday 10 th or Wednesday 11 th June |
| Fathers' Day Session | Friday 13 th June 2.30-3.00pm |
| Year 2 Class Assembly | Tuesday 8 th July @ 9:15am |
| Y6 Production | Tuesday 8 th and Wednesday 9 th July - timings TBC. |
| Y6 Leavers' Assembly | Tuesday 22 nd July |
| Final Day of Summer Term | Tuesday 22 nd July |
| Staff training (inset) – no childcare provided | Wednesday 23 rd July |

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.