



The Bellbird
Primary School

18.07.25

The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into the final days of the summer term, there is a real buzz of excitement around the school. With so much going on – from joyful music events and the ever-popular Balloon Debate to class celebrations and end-of-year activities – it truly is a special time at The Bellbird.

Our Year 6 pupils, having recently wowed us all with their brilliant play, are now focused on delivering a Leavers' Assembly to remember. It promises to be a heartfelt and celebratory farewell to their time at primary school.

Despite the exhausting sunshine, spirits remain high and there is a wonderful sense of achievement and togetherness as we approach the finish line for the academic year 2024–2025.

As this is the final newsletter of the year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our pupils, staff, governors, and parents for making my first two terms at The Bellbird Primary School so very enjoyable. Your warmth, enthusiasm, and commitment have made it a true pleasure to be part of this vibrant community.

Here's to a fantastic end to the year – and may there be many, many more terms to come!

The Bellbird Balloon Debate – A Soaring Success!

On Wednesday 16th July, our Key Stage 2 pupils took part in the much-anticipated Bellbird Balloon Debate – and what an afternoon it was! The children had a fantastic time, showcasing their speaking skills, creativity and ability to think on their feet in front of an engaged audience.

The event, brilliantly organised by Mr White, saw pupils take on the roles of famous people, fictional characters or influential figures, each arguing why they should remain in the metaphorical balloon while others were "thrown out" to save it from crashing! The audience – made up of KS2 pupils – listened carefully, posed thoughtful questions, and ultimately cast their votes to decide who would stay airborne.

Balloon debates are a wonderful way to develop a wide range of essential skills. Pupils practise persuasive writing, public speaking and critical thinking, while also building confidence and learning to respectfully challenge the views of others. Listening skills are also honed as children engage with speeches and questions before voting thoughtfully and fairly. A huge thank you to Mr White for planning and leading such a valuable and enjoyable experience – and to all staff who supported with supervision and vote counting. It was a brilliant example of teamwork, learning, and fun coming together at The Bellbird. We cannot wait for next year's debate!

Music concert and Young Voices

This week we enjoyed a fantastic music concert where the choir and musicians got to perform. Thank you to all those who attended, I'm sure you will agree that the children did an amazing job! The concert has helped raise money for the coach to the choir's trip to Young Voices at the O2 next year. You can still donate on school gateway if you would like to. All of KS2 choir will be learning the songs next year and our older children (Y5 and Y6) will get to perform the songs at the O2. If your child is keen to join choir next year, they will be able to sign up in September. If they can't wait until then, you can sign up to Young Voices Music Room to access the resources over the summer by clicking on the link

here: <https://yvmusicroom.com/auth/parent/login>

This will be a great way to get them familiar with the songs so we can hit the ground running in September: there is a lot to learn! Thank you! – Mrs Collins

Megson Music Concert – A Truly Magical Musical Experience

Today, The Bellbird Primary School was filled with the joyful sounds of folk music as we welcomed the award-winning duo Megson to perform for our pupils. With two engaging concerts – one for Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, and another for Key Stage Two – the children and staff were treated to a truly unforgettable musical experience.

Megson's performances were wonderfully interactive, blending traditional and original folk songs that had everyone clapping, singing, and moving along. Their warm, authentic style and rich harmonies captivated our audiences and brought the magic of live music to life for children of all ages.

Both children and staff had a wonderful time and left feeling truly inspired. Events like these are so important for enriching our curriculum, sparking creativity, and introducing children to the power of performance.

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Collins, as always, for organising such a fabulous event. It was a perfect way to celebrate the end of term and share the joy of music together as a school community.



A Huge Thank You to Our Gardening Club Leaders!

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Dr Tim Wreghitt, our Chair of Governors, and Mrs Ford for leading this term's Gardening Club with such enthusiasm and dedication. The children have had a fantastic experience, learning first-hand how to nurture, grow and harvest their own food.

Today marked a wonderful milestone as the children picked tomatoes, redcurrants, potatoes, and lettuce – all planted and cared for by our brilliant young gardeners. They also harvested their very own wheat, which they will be using to make bread next term – something the children are already looking forward to!

Gardening offers children so much more than just time outdoors. It teaches them where food comes from, encourages healthy eating, fosters responsibility and teamwork, and builds a real appreciation for nature and the environment. It also supports wellbeing, giving children a sense of calm, achievement, and connection to the natural world.

Well done, gardeners! Your hard work is truly blooming. We can't wait to see what the children will grow next year!

Staying Safe and Healthy in the Sun: Urgent Reminder During Extreme Heat

With the current extreme temperatures, it is absolutely vital that all pupils are protected from the risks of sun exposure and heat-related illness. Please help us to ensure your child stays safe, healthy and comfortable throughout the school day by following the guidance below:

Sun Cream Is Essential

Children *must* arrive at school with sun cream already applied. Given the intensity of the current heat, it is imperative that they are protected from harmful UV rays from the start of the day. Pupils may bring a named bottle of sun cream to school so that they can reapply it later, especially if they will be outdoors for extended periods. For safety reasons, we kindly ask that children do not share sun cream with others.

Cool Clothing and Hydration

Loose, cool clothing and sun hats should be worn to help pupils stay comfortable and prevent overheating. Please ensure your child brings a full water bottle each day. They will be encouraged to refill it regularly throughout the day. Staying hydrated is essential in these extreme conditions.

Personal Hygiene in the Heat

As part of our PSHE curriculum and our unit on *Looking After Yourself and Body Changes*, we are also reminding pupils—particularly in Years 5 and 6—about the importance of good personal hygiene during hot weather. We ask that older pupils wear deodorant to support their own wellbeing and that of their classmates.

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone in our school community safe, healthy, and sun-smart during this period of extreme heat.

Have Your Say – The Bellbird 2025 Parent Survey

At The Bellbird Primary School, we are always striving to provide a nurturing, inclusive and high-quality learning environment for every child. One of the most powerful ways you can support us in this goal is by sharing your views through our 2025 Parent Survey. Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to grow. It also directly informs our school development planning and supports us as we prepare for future Ofsted inspections. This year, we have refreshed the survey to align more closely with the latest Ofsted Parent View questions. In response to previous feedback, we have also removed the homework question, which often received mixed responses and provided limited actionable insights.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and is available online here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BukiHJURJG>

A printable version is also attached if you prefer to complete it by hand.

Please submit your responses by Wednesday 23rd July.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support – your voice really does make a difference.

Support for Pampisford Families – Uniform Grants & More

As we start thinking ahead to the new academic year, we're pleased to share some helpful news for families living in Pampisford. *The Pampisford Relief In Need Charity* offers a £250 annual grant to help with the cost of school uniform and other essentials for primary school-aged children living in the village. This grant is not means tested and can be claimed once per academic year. If you live in Pampisford or know someone who does, please spread the word so families can benefit from this support. The charity is also happy to consider requests for help with the cost of school trips or extracurricular activities if finances are a barrier. Schools can apply on a child's behalf if needed, and all applications are treated in confidence. To apply or find out more, email: PRIN@axiom-e.co.uk

Thank you to the Pampisford Relief In Need Charity for their continued support of our local families.

School Meals – Price Increase from 1st September 2025

We regret to inform parents and carers that, due to rising costs of food products and staffing, the price of school meals will increase to £2.80 per day starting 1st September 2025.

This decision has not been taken lightly. However, in order to continue offering healthy, nutritious, and high-quality meals for all our children, this small increase has become unavoidable.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support.



Record-Breaking Cake Sale Raises Funds to Help Save Angel Sharks!

This week, our school community came together for a very special cause — and what a sweet success it was! On Thursday 17th July, four passionate pupils hosted a cake sale to raise money for the Marine Conservation Society, specifically to help protect the critically endangered Angel Shark.

The result? An incredible £179.50 raised so far, with even more donations expected through our online fundraiser!

The tables were packed with beautifully handcrafted cakes, lovingly made by the children themselves. From colourful cupcakes to ocean-themed treats, the creativity and care that went into each bake were clear to see — and clearly irresistible to buyers, as we recorded our best-ever cake sale in terms of sales! The children organising the sale shared their passion for protecting sea life and highlighted how the Angel Shark population has plummeted by up to 98% in recent decades due to habitat destruction and fishing practices. Their enthusiasm was contagious, and the support from pupils, staff and families has been truly heart-warming. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes, bought a treat, or contributed online. It was a great result for both fundraising and awareness — and a brilliant example of pupil-led action making a difference. Stay tuned for the final total once online donations are in!

Nut-free Reminder

We would like to remind you that The Bellbird is a nut free school. Yesterday evening some wrappers for chocolate snacks containing nuts were found in the dust bins in the year 2 toilets. The children are provided with fruit every day for their snack and parents can also send in a piece of fruit for their child.

We have children with nut allergies in both key stages 1 and 2.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Summer Reading Challenge 2025 – Library Assembly Visit

The Summer Reading Challenge is a nationwide initiative designed to encourage children to enjoy reading during the long summer holiday. It is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to stay engaged with books, maintain their reading progress, and discover new favourite authors and stories – all while enjoying themselves.

The library team delivered an engaging and energetic presentation, explaining how children can take part by visiting their local library, borrowing books to read over the summer, and collecting rewards along the way. The pupils responded with great enthusiasm and were inspired to get involved.

We would like to thank the Cambridgeshire Libraries for their visit and encourage all families to visit Sawston Library this summer and take part in **The Story Garden** challenge.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

School Uniform Reminder for September

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the school and to share a reminder about our school uniform expectations. From September, we will be closely monitoring adherence to the school's uniform policy. The Governing Body has set a clear policy to ensure consistency, fairness, and a strong sense of belonging among all pupils. We believe that wearing the correct uniform supports a positive school identity and helps create a sense of pride in our learning community. We understand that many parents and carers will be purchasing new uniform items over the summer holidays, so please find below a reminder of our school uniform requirements:

Daily School Wear

White or blue polo shirt – preferably with the embroidered school logo and name

Blue sweatshirt or cardigan – preferably with the embroidered school logo and name

Black or grey school trousers or shorts; black or grey skirt or pinafore

Black shoes and plain coloured socks or tights (black, grey or white)

Blue gingham dress (for summer)

Sports Clothing (PE Kit)

Blue T-shirt – preferably printed with the school name

Plain black or navy-blue shorts (above the knee)

Tracksuit (plain black, navy blue or dark grey) for outdoor PE in colder weather

Plimsolls or trainers (ideally black) for outdoor PE

Clothing with the school logo is optional, but preferred for sweatshirts and cardigans.

If your child has any physical difficulties or sensory sensitivities connected to wearing elements of the school uniform, please do let us know. We are committed to working with families to ensure that all children feel comfortable and included. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping all children come to school dressed appropriately, ready to learn, and proud to represent The Bellbird Primary School.

Calling All Parents – We Need Reading Volunteers!

At The Bellbird Primary School, we believe that reading is the foundation of all learning – it unlocks imagination, knowledge, and confidence. This is why we are committed to helping every child develop strong reading skills as early as possible.

However, with increasing demands on teachers' time, we need your support to ensure each child receives the attention they need while learning to read. Could you spare 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 encourage our young learners as they develop this vital skill. Whether you are able to come in weekly or only from time to time, your involvement could make a significant difference.

Why volunteer as a reading helper?

Support children as they gain confidence and improve their reading ability

Make a meaningful and positive contribution in the classroom

Become a valued part of the school community

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact [Teacher/Office Name] at [email address/telephone number], or visit the school office.

Together, we can help every child become a confident and capable reader. Thank you for your support!

National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – AI Enabled Scams

AI isn't just transforming the way we learn and work, it's also reshaping the tactics scammers use online. From generating convincing phishing emails to fabricating influencer videos, criminals are using AI to make their scams more convincing than ever. Young people, who often embrace new tech quickly, can be especially vulnerable.

This guide highlights several AI-enabled dangers – including romance scams, deepfake audio and video impersonations, and fake job offers – and explains how to spot and report them. With clear tips for verifying content, thinking critically, and using trusted platforms, it's essential reading for parents and educators to help young people stay one step ahead of the scammers.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Yr 6 Leavers Party	Mon 21st July 4.30pm - 6pm Parents volunteers needed, please email us if you can help
Y6 Leavers' Assembly	Tuesday 22 nd July from 2pm. 2 adults per child.
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.

