



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

We hope that all our pupils, parents, and staff enjoyed a restful and refreshing Easter break. It is lovely to see everyone back and ready for what promises to be a busy and exciting summer term!

We have an action-packed few weeks ahead, with highlights including the Year 6 SATs tests, our much-loved Sports Day, the FABS quiz night, and a Parent Working Party. And that's just the beginning — there's plenty more to look forward to as we head towards the end of the academic year.

Stay tuned for key dates, reminders, and updates in this week's edition!

Welcome to Laura Klimke – Our New Pastoral Lead

We are delighted to announce that Laura Klimke will be taking on the role of **Pastoral Lead** at The Bellbird Primary School from the beginning of the summer term.

Although Laura is already a familiar face in our school community, serving as our Deputy SENDCo, she will now also be working 3.5 days a week in this new position. Her key focus will be on supporting pupil attendance and overseeing aspects of child safeguarding, helping to ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and ready to thrive.

We are thrilled to have Laura stepping into this important role and wish her every success as she continues to make a positive impact across the school.

The Importance of Good Attendance at School

At The Bellbird Primary School, we are committed to helping every child achieve their full potential—both academically and socially. One of the most important factors in a child's success at school is good attendance.

Children who attend school regularly not only make better academic progress, but they also build stronger friendships, develop greater confidence, and feel more connected to their school community. Missing days here and there may not seem significant, but even small gaps in learning can quickly add up. For example, a child who misses just one day a fortnight will have missed an entire term's worth of school over the course of their primary education.

High levels of absence can lead to:

- Gaps in understanding key concepts in literacy and numeracy
- Lower confidence and increased anxiety about catching up
- Difficulty maintaining friendships and feeling part of the class
- Reduced long-term outcomes and fewer opportunities later in life

We also want to remind all families that holidays during term time will not be authorised. These absences have a serious impact on children's learning and disrupt the consistency that young learners need to thrive.

We ask for your support in ensuring that your child is in school every day, on time, and ready to learn. Together, we can give our pupils the best chance to succeed—both now and in the future.

If you are facing challenges with attendance, please speak to Mrs Klimke. We are here to help and work with you to find positive solutions.

Y5 Maths Challenge Success

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news that our Year 5 pupils achieved outstanding results in this year's Maths Challenge!

Competing against seven other local schools, our team demonstrated not only exceptional mathematical skills but also great teamwork and determination. The event took place at The Bellbird Primary School, where the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement and healthy competition.

Mathematics continues to be one of the key focus areas in our School Development Plan. We firmly believe that developing strong numeracy skills lays the foundation for success across all areas of learning. Events like the Maths Challenge are a wonderful opportunity for pupils to apply their knowledge in a fun and competitive setting, and we are incredibly proud of how well our children represented our school.

We are now eagerly looking forward to the next round of the challenge. We know our team will continue to do their best and build on the excellent progress they have already made.

Well done Year 5 – your hard work and enthusiasm for maths truly shines!

A Kind Request to Our School Community: Keeping the Air Clean for Our Children

We kindly ask for your support in keeping the air around our school clean and healthy for our children. Recently, we have noticed some individuals smoking near the school entrance, and while we understand this is a personal choice, we are concerned about the impact of second-hand smoke on our pupils. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of smoke, and we want to ensure they have a safe and fresh environment as they arrive and leave school. With this in mind, we kindly ask that if you need to smoke, please do so away from the school gates and surrounding areas.

Your cooperation and consideration mean a great deal to us and, most importantly, to the well-being of our pupils. Thank you for helping us create a healthier environment for everyone!

The 2025 Sawston Fun Run – Saturday 11th May

The Sawston 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.

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!

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!

Parent Working Party – Saturday, 17th May

I am excited to invite parents to join both myself and Mr Foster for a Parent Working Party on Saturday, 17th May, from 9 am to 12 pm. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the school, we'll be repainting the remaining sections of the corridors and starting to repaint individual classrooms. In addition, we will be giving our outdoor equipment a much needed lick of paint, and we need your help! All painting materials will be provided, and we'll keep you fuelled with as much tea as you can manage. There might even be a bacon roll, if we can find someone to make them! Due to a tight budget, your support means more than ever. It's a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference in our school environment. If you are able to assist, even for half an hour, please let a member of the office team know. Children are more than welcome to attend.

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 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 about Health and Fitness Apps (attached)

Over time, more and more fitness apps have been finding their way into circulation. Usually free to download – at least initially – these apps claim to offer helpful advice and assistance in routine management to those looking to lead a healthier lifestyle.

While these platforms can be useful, they do present several safety concerns. These issues become more significant when we consider that children and young people can use these apps to stay active – whether out of concern for their own health or for reasons of body image. Our free guide breaks down the risks of health and fitness apps and offers expert advice on how to address these concerns to safeguard younger users.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
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
Sports Day	Tuesday 10 th or Wednesday 11 th June
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

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.