



## The Bellbird Newsletter

### Dear Parents and Carers,

What a scorcher of a week it has been – quite possibly the hottest of the year so far! Thankfully, our recent investment in a fleet of fans has brought some much-needed relief and helped keep classrooms cool and learning on track.

Hot on the heels of last week's fantastically successful Summer Fête (a huge thank you again to our brilliant FABS team), the school has remained buzzing with activity. I am still finding bits of sponge and mystery debris in my ears following my time in the stocks – all in the name of fun, of course!

Despite the sweltering weather, our Year 3s enjoyed a brilliant visit to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens – do scroll down for a few highlights. We were also pleased to host our annual Transition Morning on Wednesday. It was lovely to see the excitement and curiosity as children met their new teachers. A particularly warm welcome goes to Mrs Komodromos and Miss Reece, who will be joining our Year 3 team and were delighted to meet their new classes.

With just two and a half weeks remaining until the end of term, there is still plenty to look forward to – and as always, thank you for your continued support

### Could You Help Keep the Friends at Bellbird School Magic Alive?

The Friends at Bellbird School team worked incredibly hard to organise this year's hugely successful Summer Fete—and not just that, they have been busy throughout the year hosting a variety of events that our children and wider school community have truly enjoyed. But we need your help!

A large number of our current committee members will be stepping down at the end of this academic year, and we now face an urgent need for new volunteers to join the Friends at Bellbird School and help keep the momentum going.

The Friends at Bellbird School is our school's parent and teacher association, made up of a dedicated group of parents and staff who give their time to raise vital funds and bring people together through fun, inclusive events. Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we have:

Enhanced the school library

Hosted visiting authors and theatre groups

Funded swimming lessons for pupils in Years 2, 4, and 6

Installed a brand-new public address system in the school hall

We know how much these opportunities mean to our children—and we would love to continue providing them in the future. If you can spare a little time, whether to help run events or join the committee, you will be making a real difference to our school. Interested? Please leave a message **for** Mr Andy Irons via the school office or speak to a member of the School Leadership Team at the school gate. We would be delighted to welcome you to the Friends at Bellbird School.



### Reception's Fun-Filled Farm Adventure!

On Thursday, our Reception children enjoyed a sunny and exciting trip to South Angle Farm. The day began with great excitement as the children boarded the coach—an adventure in itself for our 4 and 5 year-olds!

At the farm, our young explorers took part in an animal handling session where they had the chance to meet and learn about a range of small animals. Highlights included stroking a blue-tongued skink, marvelling at a millipede, and holding guinea pigs, rabbits—and for the brave ones—a corn snake! The children were also intrigued by a tenrec, a sleepy creature resembling a tiny hedgehog.

Later, they met some larger farm animals including alpacas, goats, sheep, donkeys, ducks, and Wilber the enormous pig. After a picnic lunch in the shade, everyone enjoyed some playtime on the combine harvester in the farm's play area.

The day ended with a peaceful coach ride home—complete with a few well-earned naps! A big thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers, and a huge well done to Wrens and Robins—you were fantastic ambassadors for our school!

– Mrs Lovewell, Miss Meechan and Mrs Hunt

### **Y3 Trip to the Botanic Gardens, Cambridge**

On Monday 30th June, the year 3 children went on a trip to the Botanic Garden in Cambridge to consolidate their learning about plant adaptations and pollination. We were fortunate that the garden provided lots of shade on the hottest day of the year so far! The children completed a photo scavenger hunt and enjoyed keeping a tally of all the wildlife they could find in the garden.

‘What I liked about the Botanic Gardens was the grass maze and we had to find 5 stamps. The other thing I liked about the gardens was I saw a deer sleeping. I don’t think anyone else saw it but I loved it so much.’ –Amy

‘My favourite thing was being followed by a duck when we were having lunch.’ –Grey

‘I liked the muntjac deer. I saw three of them. The water fountain had loads of dragon and damselflies that were beautiful.’ – Amira

‘The Botanic Garden is the best place to go on a nice Summer’s day. There are booklets, scavenger hunt, bee stamps to collect, tropical glasshouses, moorhens, ducks, muntjac deer, fountains and more!’ -Fletcher

### **Year Five Trip to Challis House – A Step Back in Time**

On Thursday, Year Five had the incredible opportunity to visit Challis House and the Victorian Museum, and what a memorable experience it was! From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with warmth and enthusiasm. The children were absolutely fascinated as they explored the house and delved into the world of the Victorians. One of the highlights was getting to see and handle genuine Victorian artefacts — including carpet beaters, gaudy Cavalier King Charles dog statues, bed warmers, oil lamps, and, as one Year Five pupil described it, a “creepy” china-faced doll! We learned all about Mary Challis and her remarkable legacy, as well as what life would have been like for a Victorian schoolchild. The exhibits and stories really brought the era to life, and the children were captivated throughout. We also gained new insights into local industry and commerce in Sawston, which added a rich layer of understanding to our topic in class. The hospitality and expert knowledge we received made the visit truly special, and we are so thankful for the time and care given to us. A huge thank you once again to everyone involved — we are already looking forward to our next visit, especially exploring the gardens! Y5 team

### **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.

### **Year 6 Production – What’s the Crime, Mr Wolf?**

We are delighted to announce this year’s Year 6 production, *What’s the Crime, Mr Wolf?*, a witty and whimsical courtroom drama set in the heart of Fabletown. Under the watchful eye of Lord Feathers of Eiderdown, the Forest Court brings charges against the infamous Mr Wolf. With a colourful cast of characters, including Johnny Mole (secret agent), the Three Little Pigs, and Red Riding Hood, this clever tale will keep you guessing – are our favourite fairy-tale figures really who they appear to be?

**Performance Dates:** Wednesday 9 July at 6:00pm, Thursday 10 July at 6:00pm

**Venue:** Main School Hall

**Running Time:** To be confirmed, but approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes

Each family will be allocated **two tickets** for their child's performance. Once these allocations have been confirmed, additional tickets may be available upon request. Younger siblings will have the opportunity to watch the performance during school hours.

**Please note:** All Year 6 children are required to attend both performances and **must be collected by an adult** at the end of each evening.

Further details regarding costumes and arrival times will be shared in due course. We are very much looking forward to showcasing the talents of our Year 6 pupils in what promises to be a thoroughly entertaining production.

### **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 Reading Books**

#### **Key Stage 2**

During the week starting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July, the teachers in key stage 2 will be collecting in Star reading books, colour banded books and library books. They will also be collecting in the children's reading record books.

#### **Reception and Key Stage 1**

Little Wandle reading books will not be issued to children from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July and the children's reading record books will be collected in on this day. All colour banded books in year 2 will also be collected in on this day.

**At the end of the term, from Reception to Year 5, the children's current class teachers will be sorting out the children's first reading book for September 2025.**

Please have a good look around at home and send back into school any school reading books. There may be a few previously read books lurking under beds or on the top of shelves.

From the 7<sup>th</sup> July, there will still be books in the class reading areas and the children will have access to these books during reading time in class.

### **The Summer Reading Challenge 2025**

This year's Challenge is about nature, the outdoors, storytelling and reading! Children can collect their own sticker booklet to start their Challenge from the library. Libraries will be hosting themed events and activities over the holidays for children and families taking part, with lots of opportunities to find new books and have fun learning about nature. Download an information pack here:

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



### **Non-Uniform Day – Friday 11th July**

On Friday 11th July, we will be holding a non-uniform day to help raise funds towards the Year 6 Leavers' Party. We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 per child to take part. All funds raised will go towards making the leavers' celebration extra special – including activities like bouncy castles, games, food and possibly a photo booth, similar to last year. To pay simply visit <https://www.paypal.com/pool/9g9KAnDfXV?sr=anco>  
We'd love to make this a whole school event, and every £1 raised will make a big difference!  
Thank you so much for your continued support.

### **Bring in 2 Carrier Bags – Friday 18th July**

As we approach the end of term, we will be sending home all of your child's exercise books and work from this year. To help with this, we kindly ask that all children bring in two carrier bags on Friday 18th July. These bags will make it easier for your child to carry everything home safely and keep all their wonderful work protected. Thank you for your support!

### **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 – Nintendo Switch 2**

Nintendo's long-awaited Switch 2 has finally arrived, blending fresh hardware with fan-favourite franchises. From Mario to Pikachu, the familiar mascots are back – but so too are evolving online features, in-game purchases, and potential exposure to mature content. As ever, it's essential that parents and educators understand the risks to young players. Among these are GameChat voice communication, camera-based gaming, and potential access to mature-rated titles. This guide outlines what to watch out for and how to keep children safe, engaged and having fun.

#### **Key dates for your diary:**

Event	Date
Year 2 Class Assembly	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July @ 9:15am
Y6 Production	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July - timings TBC.
Pupil Books Return	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July
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 <sup>nd</sup> July from 2pm on Tuesday 22nd July. 2 adults per child.
Final Day of Summer Term	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Staff training (inset) – no childcare provided	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.