



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and that any Victory in Europe Day celebrations you may have attended were memorable. Another four-day week has certainly been a welcome treat, though we know it may take a little time to re-adjust to the rhythm of a full five-day school week!

Looking ahead, next week marks SATs week for our Year 6 pupils. This is an important milestone, and while we encourage our pupils to approach the week with a positive mindset, we are also keen for them to remain calm and relaxed. To support them fully, we kindly ask that pupils avoid any non-urgent medical appointments or unnecessary absences during this time. The school team is fully committed to making this week as smooth and enjoyable as possible for all our pupils.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Urgent Call for Help – Parent Working Party, Saturday 17th May

We urgently need your help! On Saturday, 17th May from 9am to 12pm, Mr Foster and I will be leading a Parent Working Party, and we are calling on as many of you as possible to join us.

Our corridors and classrooms are in real need of fresh paint, and our outdoor equipment is looking very tired – but with our budget stretched to its limits, we simply cannot do it without your support. Whether you can spare the full morning or just half an hour, your time will make a real difference to the environment our children learn and play in every day.

We will provide all the materials – and keep the tea flowing! There might even be a bacon roll or two if we can rope in a willing volunteer.

Please let a member of the office team know if you can help. Children are very welcome to come along. Let us come together and give our school the refresh it desperately needs!

FABS Quiz Night Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the fantastic FABS Quiz on Friday, 2nd May 2025. It was a brilliant evening full of fun, laughter, and some fierce competition!

We were delighted to welcome our superb quizmaster, Dr Tim Wreghitt – our very own Chair of Governors – who hosted the evening with his daughter, Zillah. Together, they kept the event running smoothly and added a lovely personal touch.

Congratulations to *The Oldies* team, who emerged victorious after a closely fought contest. The Bellbird team – School's Out for Quiz Time - put in an impressive performance and claimed a well-deserved second place.

A great night was had by all, and thanks to your generous support, we raised an amazing £470 for the school. Thank you again to everyone who came, helped, or donated – we could not have done it without you!

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. Dr Wreghitt can accommodate up to 15 pupils this year. Pupils should be in Y2 or above. If you are interested in your child joining the club, please let the school office know as soon as possible. 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.

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 – Sunday 11th May

The Sawston Fun Run is a fantastic opportunity to stay active while raising funds for Sawston schools, local organisations, and charities. 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! Details are on posters around the village

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 the teacher or the School Office

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

Unwanted Chairs

We are giving away some chairs. If anyone wants the following, for free, do let us know:



Two available



Four available – different colours

National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Making Friends Online (attached)

As technology becomes increasingly embedded in young people's lives, it's common for them to form friendships entirely online. These connections can provide companionship and community — but they also bring potential dangers that parents and educators need to be aware of.

From online grooming and privacy breaches to exposure to upsetting content, meeting people on the internet isn't without risk. This guide explains the possible hazards of online friendships and gives parents and educators essential advice on helping children build safe, positive relationships online.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Y6 SATS Examinations	Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May
Sawston Fun Run	Sunday 11 th May
Y6 SATS Week	W/c 12 th May
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

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.