



The Bellbird  
Primary School

12.09.25

# The Bellbird Newsletter

## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

At least this week has spared us the spectacular downpours of last week—although I am sure several of you were secretly grateful for the opportunity to test whether your child's new coat was truly "waterproof." (The answer, as always, is "not if they jump in puddles that size.") Fortunately, the children have now settled into their new routines and classes, and the school feels less like Heathrow Terminal Five at rush hour and more like... well, a school.

Our Harvest service with Reverend Kathryn will take place on the sixth of October. It is always a wonderful occasion and a reminder that autumn is well and truly here. And of course, once the pumpkins appear, you know what is coming next. Yes, brace yourselves, because Christmas is sneaking up behind us with jingles on its feet.

## **'Helping your child at home' Reception and KS1 parent meetings**

Parents / carers of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to attend a session aimed at supporting parents to help their child at home. We will help you to understand how we teach phonics, early reading and maths at school and giving you useful tips and suggestions as to how you can support your child to soar to success. The year 2 meeting will focus on how parents can support with English and Maths. There will be a presentation and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. While we would encourage you to attend if possible, we will ensure we send out a copy of the presentation should you be unable to come.

**Reception:** Tuesday 30 September, 5-6pm in the Hall.

**Year 1:** Thursday 2 October, 5-5:45pm in Sparrows classroom

**Year 2:** Wednesday 1 October, 5-5:45pm in Goldfinches classroom.

## **Meet the Teacher – Thank You**

A big thank you to all parents and carers who attended last week's Meet the Teacher sessions. These are always popular and informative events, giving families the chance to hear more about the year ahead, classroom routines, and ways to support learning at home. If you were unable to attend, please don't worry — a copy of the presentation has been shared so that you can still access the key information. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to working together throughout the year.

## **Parent Working Party – Saturday 11th October, 9.00am–12.00pm**

We are delighted to share that our next Parent Working Party will take place on Saturday 11th October from 9.00am to 12.00pm. For those who are new to the school, each term parents, carers and pupils come together with Mr Foster and myself on a Saturday morning to complete maintenance tasks or work on special projects. At a time when schools across the country are facing financial challenges, these mornings have become a highly effective way of saving money, while also strengthening our school community.

This term, our focus will be on supporting Miss Meechan's exciting project to establish a Forest School. A Forest School is an outdoor learning environment where children are encouraged to explore the natural world, develop practical skills, and build confidence through activities such as den building, fire lighting, tool use and nature-based crafts.

The benefits of a Forest School for children are wide-ranging. It provides opportunities for hands-on learning, fosters resilience and problem-solving, and supports teamwork and communication. Spending time outdoors also promotes physical well-being, improves concentration, and encourages a lifelong respect for the environment. All pupils will enjoy access to the Forest School area on a timetabled basis, ensuring that everyone has the chance to benefit from this wonderful resource.

We warmly invite you to come along and join us on the 11th October, even if only for an hour. Your time and support will make a real difference in helping us to create the very best learning environment for our pupils.

### **Parent Forum – An Invitation to Get Involved**

We are very pleased to announce the launch of a Parent Forum at our school. The Parent Forum will consist of one parent volunteer from each class who will act as a class representative. These representatives will meet with the Head Teacher once a term to:

Share ideas and discuss future plans for the school

Debate current aspects of school life

Bring forward comments, questions, or concerns from the wider parent community

The Parent Forum is an excellent way to strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensuring that parents have a clear voice in shaping the ongoing development of our school. If you are interested in becoming a class representative, please either email the school office or speak to a member of our office team. The first Parent Forum meeting of this year is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd October at 5.30pm and will last for one hour. We look forward to working together with our parent representatives to make our school the very best it can be.

### **Parent Survey Highlights – Thank You**

A big thank you to everyone who completed our recent parent survey. Your feedback is so important in helping us celebrate what's going well and focus on where we can do better.

We were delighted to hear how many of you value our caring staff, the way pupils are happy, safe and making progress, and the importance placed on wellbeing and support. It was also encouraging to see positive feedback about leadership and the impact of strong SEND provision.

You also shared areas where we can improve. Key themes included:

More consistent support at lunchtimes and playtimes

A wider range of clubs, enrichment and challenge for all learners

Greater consistency in SEND and behaviour approaches

Clearer, more streamlined communication with families

Practical improvements, such as meals, toilets and uniform options

We are listening carefully and will use this feedback to shape our next steps. We'll keep you updated as we make changes, and we really value your continued support in helping our school grow and thrive.

### **School Uniform Reminder – September**

As we prepare for the new academic year, thank you for your continued support. From September, we will be monitoring uniform closely in line with the Governing Body's policy, which promotes consistency, fairness and a strong sense of belonging. Wearing the correct uniform helps children feel proud of their school and ready to learn.

#### **Daily Wear**

White or blue polo shirt (logo optional, preferred)

Blue sweatshirt or cardigan (logo optional, preferred)

Black/grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore

Black shoes, plain black/grey/white socks or tights

Blue gingham dress (summer)

#### **PE Kit**

Blue T-shirt (logo optional, preferred)

Plain black or navy shorts (above the knee)

Plain black, navy or grey tracksuit for outdoor PE

Plimsolls or trainers

If your child has any physical or sensory needs affecting uniform, please let us know so we can support them. Thank you for helping children come to school dressed smartly, comfortably, and ready to represent The Bellbird Primary with pride.

### **After-School Sports Clubs – Starting Next Week**

A reminder that our exciting new range of after-school sports clubs, led by our Sports Leader Mr Max Pauley and other staff members and parents, will begin next week (w/c 15th September). Clubs will run until 4:30pm at a cost of £3 per session (£39 per term) and include: netball; gymnastics; tag rugby; girls' football; multi-sports and cross country

These will run alongside the existing Premier Sports clubs and non-sporting clubs such as choir and Coding Club.

Confirmation emails for places have been sent today. Funded places are available for pupils on the pupil premium register.

Please note: after-school clubs are designed for sports and enrichment, not childcare. For childcare, Wraparound can be booked separately.

### **Coding Club Returns!**

Although not included in last week's clubs letter, we are delighted to confirm that the popular Coding Club will be running again this term, thanks to the generosity of Mr Yousuf Sait. Mr Sait, a parent at The Bellbird and an expert in computer coding, has kindly offered his time to lead the club each week, starting w/c 15th September.

Learning to code helps children develop problem-solving skills, creativity, logical thinking, and resilience — all essential skills for the digital world they are growing up in.

If your child would like to join (or re-join) Coding Club, please let the school office know.

### **Gardening Club – Reminder**

Please note that there will be no Gardening Club on Wednesday 17th September. Sessions will resume as normal the following week (Wednesday 24th September).

### **School Gardener Vacancy**

The Bellbird Primary School is seeking a School Gardener to help keep our grounds looking their best. The role is for 5 hours per week, with the possibility of additional hours in spring and summer. All equipment will be provided and the rate of pay is negotiable. Duties include: general garden maintenance, planting, weeding, pruning, watering, and looking after our wildlife and environmental areas. The position will commence on 1st November 2025. If you are interested, please contact the Office Team for further details.

### **Good Attendance Matters**

At The Bellbird Primary School we believe that attending school every day gives children the very best start in life. Good attendance means children learn more, feel more confident, and build stronger friendships.

#### **Why it matters:**

Missing just one day every two weeks adds up to a whole term of learning lost by the end of primary school.

Absences can create gaps in reading, writing, and maths that are hard to catch up on.

Regular attendance helps children feel secure, confident, and part of the school community.

#### **Please remember:**

Children should only be absent if they are too unwell to attend.

Routine medical appointments should be arranged outside of school hours whenever possible.

Term-time holidays will not be authorised and may result in a government fine.

By working together to prioritise attendance, we can ensure every child has the best possible chance to succeed and enjoy all the opportunities that school life offers.

### **Could You Be Our Next Teaching Assistant?**

The Bellbird Primary School is looking to welcome a new Teaching Assistant to our friendly and supportive team. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who is caring, enthusiastic, and passionate about helping children thrive.

Our Teaching Assistants play a vital role in supporting pupils across the school – working with individuals and small groups, helping children with their learning, and encouraging their confidence and independence.

We are proud to be a welcoming and inclusive school at the heart of the Sawston community, and we would love to hear from parents, carers, or friends who may be interested in joining us.

#### **The role at a glance:**

Part-time or full-time, starting from October 2025

Fixed-term contract initially

Salary: FTE: £25583 – £25989

Training and development opportunities provided

If you know someone who is caring, patient, and keen to make a difference in children's lives, please encourage them to apply.

Applications should be made online via MyNewTerm (search for *The Bellbird Primary School*).

<https://mynewterm.com/jobs/135132/EDV-2025-BPS-33034> The closing date is **Friday 19th September 2025 (9:00am)**, with interviews on **Tuesday 23rd September**.

We look forward to welcoming new members to our team!

### **Staff Training (Inset) Days – Academic Year 2026–2027**

We would like to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of our planned staff training (INSET) days for the coming academic year. On these days, school will be closed to pupils while staff take part in professional development activities. The dates for the 2026–2027 academic year are as follows:

**Tuesday 1st September 2026**

**Wednesday 2nd September 2026**

**Friday 27th November 2026**

**Monday 4th January 2027**

**Thursday 22nd July 2027**

We hope that by sharing these dates well in advance, families will be able to plan ahead and make any necessary arrangements. Thank you for your support

**National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – Promoting Physical Wellbeing** (See attached information sheet)

This guide offers expert advice on how to impress the importance of physical wellbeing on children and young people.

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

Event	Date
Helping your child at home meetings	<b>Tuesday 30 Sept:</b> EYFS Helping your child at home meeting 5-6pm (Community Hall / Hall) <b>Wed 1 Oct:</b> Year 2 Helping Year Child at Home Meeting 5-5:45pm (year 2 classroom) <b>Thurs 2 Oct:</b> Year 1 Helping Year Child at Home Meeting 5-5:45pm (year 1 classroom)
Harvest assembly led by Reverend Kathryn Waite – pupils only	<b>6 Oct 10:30am</b>
Reception Performance	<b>Thurs 9 Oct – 2:45pm</b>
Parent consultation sessions	<b>Tues 21 Oct</b> Morning in school 8:30-11:30am <b>Parent Consultations</b> <b>Thurs 23 Oct</b> afternoon on Zoom 3:30pm-7pm
Y2 Trip to Braintree Museum	<b>Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> – timings to be confirmed
Y4 Class Assembly	<b>Weds 19th Nov</b> – 9.15am
Choir Young Voices trip	<b>Weds 21st Jan.</b> Timings TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	<b>Thurs 12 Feb</b> – 9.15am
Y5 Class Assembly	<b>Tues 3 March</b> – 9.15am
Mother's Day Celebrations	<b>Fri 13th March-</b> Books and Biscuits 2:30-3pm
Y1 Class Assembly	<b>Weds 25 March</b> – 9.15am
KS2 SATs Week	<b>Mon 11- Thurs 14 May</b>
PGL Year 6 Residential	<b>Mon 1- Weds 3 June</b>
Father's Day Celebrations	<b>Fri 19 June</b> -2:30- 3pm Books and Biscuit
Y2 Class Assembly	<b>Tues 7 July</b> – 9.15am

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.