



The Bellbird
Primary School

19.09.25

The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week here at school, with senior leaders and teachers deep in pupil progress meetings. These are the times when we put on our best “serious thinking faces” and look closely at how well the children are getting on, as well as who might need a little extra support to help them shine even brighter. Thankfully, no crystal balls were required, although there may have been one or two extra cups of tea along the way.

The term has started very positively, and it is lovely to see all pupils settling so well into their new classes. The buzz of learning is very much alive across the school.

Please do read on for details about the Parent Working Party as we begin the exciting task of creating our new Forest School area. Miss Meechan is currently working hard on the design, and we are looking forward to seeing this wonderful project come to life.

'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.

Exciting News – Our Forest School Project!

Over the next few months, we are delighted to be developing a brand new Forest School here at The Bellbird. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn, explore and thrive in the great outdoors – whether that is building dens, discovering minibeasts, or enjoying the magic of stories around a fire pit.

As with any great adventure, we need a few supplies to get us started. If you are able to donate any of the following items, we would be extremely grateful:

Ropes (multiple packs – perfect for wobbly bridges, rope swings and other woodland engineering!)

Tarpaulin and clips for making dens and shelters (several packs would be wonderful).

Pots, pans and utensils (our staff have made a great start, but more would be very helpful).

Logs or tyres for seating around our planned fire pit and as a base camp before exploring.

Matches, big flasks and plastic cups – these will help us create those treasured Forest School moments, such as hot chocolate after a busy session.

Saws for woodwork projects.

Wooden pallets for building a “mud kitchen” (thank you to those who have already promised some!).

Magnifying glasses and bug maps to fuel some exciting discoveries.

Natural materials, such as sticks and pine cones (perfect for collecting when you are out and about).

Gardening tools – spades, trowels and forks, especially in child-friendly mini sizes.

Every contribution, big or small, will help us create an inspiring outdoor learning space for our pupils. If you have any of the above items at home, please do bring them in – our Forest School will be all the richer for your generosity.

Thank you in advance for your support. We are so excited to see this project come to life, and we cannot wait to share it with the children.

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.

Reminder about Safe and Courteous Parking

For the safety of all our children and families, please can we remind everyone not to park on the yellow chevrons outside the front of the school. These markings are in place to keep the area around the crossing clear so that children, parents, and staff can cross safely at busy times. We kindly ask for your consideration in avoiding parking in restricted areas during drop-off and pick-up. Even a short stop on the chevrons can block visibility and create a hazard for those using the crossing. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community safe.

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.

School Gardener Vacancy

The Bellbird Primary School is seeking a School Gardener to help keep our grounds looking their best. The role is for 8 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 follow the following link: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/135132/EDV-2025-BPS-53372>

We are hiring!

The Bellbird Primary School is looking for a part-time Forest School Assistant (3 hours per week, £13.26 per hour) to work alongside our Forest School Leader in delivering inspiring outdoor learning. The day of working is to be confirmed and if training is required, it will be funded by the school.

Closing date: **Monday 20th October 2025 (9:00am)**

Interviews: **Wednesday 22nd October 2025**

Start date: **November 2025**

For full details and to apply, please visit: mynewterm.com/jobs/135132/EDV-2025-BPS-19127

Library Volunteers

Reading for pleasure is at the heart of all our learning at The Bellbird School and we are lucky to have a well-stocked library which children from across the school enjoy using.

Each week, the children have an opportunity to visit the school library with an adult volunteer and select a book to take home and share with their family. Some volunteers have come forward and library sessions for these classes will be starting soon. We would love to recruit more library volunteers. All volunteers will need an up to date DBS check. The role generally takes approximately one hour a week.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more about the role and how the school library is organised, please sign up to one of the library volunteer sessions which are being run by the school's English Lead, Mrs G. Hines. The sessions will last for approximately 30 minutes and are taking place on the following days:

Thursday 25th September – 3:40 pm

Tuesday 30th September – 9:15 am

On arrival at the school, volunteers will need to report to the school office.

Please sign up for a session by completing the form using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/2Eb78c5T8g>

Correction to Staff Training (Inset) Days – Academic Year 2026–2027

We would like to apologise for an error in last week's newsletter regarding the end of the Summer Term in 2027.

According to **Cambridgeshire County Council's published term dates**, the Summer Term will officially finish on **Wednesday 21st July 2027**. As a result, our **Professional Day** will now take place on **Wednesday 21st July 2027**, and not on Thursday 22nd July as previously stated. For reference, the term dates can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council website: [Cambridgeshire County Council – School Term Dates](#). Thank you for your understanding, and we apologise again for any confusion caused. The inset dates for 2026-7 are therefore:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Friday 27th November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – Setting Boundaries around Video Gaming (See attached information sheet)

This online safety guide looks at the benefits of setting boundaries around video gaming to help young people learn healthy online habits.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Helping your child at home meetings	Tuesday 30 Sept: EYFS Helping your child at home meeting 5-6pm (Community Hall / Hall) Wed 1 Oct: Year 2 Helping Year Child at Home Meeting 5-5:45pm (year 2 classroom) Thurs 2 Oct: Year 1 Helping Year Child at Home Meeting 5-5:45pm (year 1 classroom)
Harvest assembly led by Reverend Kathryn Waite – pupils only	6 Oct 10:30am
Parent consultation sessions	Tues 21 Oct Morning in school 8:30-11:30am Parent Consultations Thurs 23 Oct afternoon on Zoom 3:30pm-7pm
Y2 Trip to Braintree Museum	Tues 11th Nov – timings to be confirmed
Y4 Class Assembly	Weds 19th Nov – 9.15am
Choir Young Voices trip	Weds 21st Jan. Timings TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	Thurs 12 Feb – 9.15am
Y3 Class Assembly	Tues 3 March – 9.15am
Mother's Day Celebrations	Fri 13th March- Books and Biscuits 2:30-3pm
Y1 Class Assembly	Weds 25 March – 9.15am
Y4 trip to West Stow	Thurs 26th March
KS2 SATs Week	Mon 11- Thurs 14 May
PGL Year 6 Residential	Mon 1- Weds 3 June
Father's Day Celebrations	Fri 19 June -2:30- 3pm Books and Biscuit
Y2 Class Assembly	Tues 7 July – 9.15am

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.

