



The Bellbird
Primary School

05.09.25

The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all pupils and families after what I hope has been an enjoyable and refreshing summer break. It has been lovely to see the children return with such energy and enthusiasm, ready for the year ahead.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Early Years cohort, whose excitement and joy at starting school has been wonderful to witness. We are also very pleased to welcome new members of staff to our school community: our new deputy headteacher, Mrs Komodromos; our new Year 3 teacher, Miss Reece; Mr Pauley, who takes on the role of sports leader and Mrs Severts and Miss Taylor, who join us as teaching assistants.

I am confident that this academic year will be even more successful than the last, and I look forward to seeing the achievements, growth and happiness of all our pupils. As always, I very much look forward to meeting as many parents, both new and existing, at the school gate in the mornings and afternoons.

'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 Meetings

Parents / carers of children from Year 1-Year 6 are welcome to attend a 'meet the teacher' session with your child's class teacher. In this session, you will be able to find out more about what your child will be learning about, the classroom routines and about how to support your child at home. 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. Parents of children in Reception will have been sent a date and time for a 1:1 'meet the teacher' session with Miss Osborn or Miss Meechan. Do let the office know if you need reminding of your timeslot.

Year 1: Wednesday 10 Sept, 4-4:30pm in Sparrows classroom.

Year 2: Tuesday 9 Sept, 4-4:30pm in Goldfinches classroom.

Year 3: Thursday 11 Sept, 4-4:30pm in Doves classroom.

Year 4: Wednesday 10 Sept, 4:30-5pm in Swifts classroom.

Year 5: Tuesday 9 Sept, 4:30-5pm in Kingfishers classroom.

Year 6: Monday 8th Sept, 4:30-5pm in Owls classroom.

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.

Have Your Say – The Bellbird 2025 Parent Survey

At The Bellbird Primary School, we are always striving to provide a nurturing, inclusive and high-quality learning environment for every child. One of the most powerful ways you can support us in this goal is by sharing your views through our 2025 Parent Survey. Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to grow. It also directly informs our school development planning and supports us as we prepare for future Ofsted inspections. This year, we have refreshed the survey to align more closely with the latest Ofsted Parent View questions. In response to previous feedback, we have also removed the homework question, which often received mixed responses and provided limited actionable insights.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and is available online here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/BukiHJURJG>

A printable version is also attached if you prefer to complete it by hand.

We have extended the deadline, so please submit your responses by Monday 8th September.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support – your voice really does make a difference.

School Uniform Reminder for September

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the school and to share a reminder about our school uniform expectations. From September, we will be closely monitoring adherence to the school's uniform policy. The Governing Body has set a clear policy to ensure consistency, fairness, and a strong sense of belonging among all pupils. We believe that wearing the correct uniform supports a positive school identity and helps create a sense of pride in our learning community. Please find below a reminder of our school uniform requirements:

Daily School Wear

White or blue polo shirt – preferably with the embroidered school logo and name

Blue sweatshirt or cardigan – preferably with the embroidered school logo and name

Black or grey school trousers or shorts; black or grey skirt or pinafore

Black shoes and plain coloured socks or tights (black, grey or white)

Blue gingham dress (for summer)

Sports Clothing (PE Kit)

Blue T-shirt – preferably printed with the school name

Plain black or navy-blue shorts (above the knee)

Tracksuit (plain black, navy blue or dark grey) for outdoor PE in colder weather

Plimsolls or trainers for outdoor PE

Clothing with the school logo is optional, but preferred for sweatshirts and cardigans.

If your child has any physical difficulties or sensory sensitivities connected to wearing elements of the school uniform, please do let us know. We are committed to working with families to ensure that all children feel comfortable and included. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping all children come to school dressed appropriately, ready to learn, and proud to represent The Bellbird Primary School.

A reminder that the school only has limited stock remaining so please place uniform orders via Brigade

<http://www.brigade.uk.com/parents/>

Support for Pampisford Families – Uniform Grants & More

As we embark on 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.

Exciting New After-School Sports Clubs at The Bellbird

Further to this week's communication, we are delighted to announce a wider range of after-school sports clubs this autumn, thanks to our new Sports Leader, Mr. Max Pauley.

Clubs will run until 4:30pm at a cost of £3 per session (£39 per term). Activities include netball, gymnastics, tag rugby, girls' football, multi-sports, and cross country, alongside the existing Premier Sports clubs. The new clubs will begin **week commencing 15th September** and run until the end of term.

Places can be requested by completing the online form by **Tuesday 9th September**. (Link in Thursday's letter from Mrs Collins). If clubs are oversubscribed, names will be drawn at random. Confirmations will be emailed by **Friday 12th September**. Funded places are available for pupils on the pupil premium register. Please note: after-school clubs are for sports and enrichment, not childcare. For childcare needs, Wraparound can be booked separately.

Join the Friends at Bellbird School (FABs) and make a difference!

As our school's parent-teacher association, we are 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 have 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 would 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!

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.

Nut-free Reminder

We would like to remind you that The Bellbird is a nut free school. Yesterday evening some wrappers for chocolate snacks containing nuts were found in the dust bins in the year 2 toilets. The children are provided with fruit every day for their snack and parents can also send in a piece of fruit for their child.

We have children with nut allergies in both key stages 1 and 2.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

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!

National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – Top Tips on Supporting Children with Self-Regulation (See attached information sheet)

As infants, we all rely completely on adults to help us resolve situations that are causing us to become upset or stressed. This is known as co-regulation. The next phase, once autonomy has begun to develop, is called self-regulation: this is when children start to become capable of exercising more control over their impulses and behaviour, and managing their own emotions.

This vital developmental milestone, however, isn't reached spontaneously. Learning to self-regulate requires sensitive guidance from trusted adults – simply talking with children about their thoughts and feelings, for instance, can ease the route to self-regulation. This #WakeUpWednesday guide has some expert tips for supporting children to reach this goal.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
September – Meet the Teacher sessions	Mon 8th Sept Meet the teacher Year 6: 4:30-5pm Tues 9 Sept Meet the Teacher Year 2: 4-4:30pm Year 5: 4:30-5pm Wed 10 Sept Meet the Teacher Year 1: 4-4:30pm Year 4: 4:30-5pm Thurs 11 Sept Meet the Teacher Year 3: 4-4:30pm
First spelling lists of the autumn term will be sent out	Friday 12th September
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

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.