



The Bellbird  
Primary School

3.10.25

# The Bellbird Newsletter

## Dear Parents and Carers,

As the mornings and evenings grow darker and the temperatures drop, we find ourselves well and truly in the autumn term. Harvest Festival will soon be upon us, and the usual round of autumn sniffles has already started to make an appearance. Nevertheless, spirits remain high at school!

The children seem to have endless energy – far more than the adults who are still adjusting to darker mornings and stronger coffees! Classrooms are buzzing with learning, playgrounds full of laughter, and the sense of excitement for the term ahead is very much alive.

## **Urgent Appeal – FABS Needs You!**

*We are making an **urgent appeal** for new members to join our PTA – FABS (Friends At Bellbird School). At the moment, we are critically short of committee members. Without new volunteers, it is very unlikely that we will be able to run the big events that: Our pupils love and look forward to every year, and raise vital funds for the school. These events make a huge difference to school life – both in terms of fun and in providing resources and opportunities for all our children.*

*If you are able to help, please let the school office know or speak directly to Mr Puxley. We urgently need your support – even a small amount of your time can make a big difference. Thank you, The Bellbird School & FABS Committee*

## **New Chromebooks**

The children are loving using the new class set of Google Chromebooks launched this week that was bought with a sizeable donation from FABS. They are thrilled to now have individual machines to use in lessons, which give them twice as much opportunity to learn and will allow teachers to assess their progress more easily. They can also logon to their Google accounts from home (details can be found in your child's reading record).

## **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 adventures).

**Tarpaulin and clips** for making dens and shelters.

**Pots, pans, and utensils** (staff have already begun collecting these, but more would be very helpful).

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

**Wooden pallets** for building a “mud kitchen” (some have already been promised, thank you!).

**Natural materials**, such as sticks and pine cones (ideal for collecting when out and about).

**Gardening tools** – spades, trowels, and forks, especially 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 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 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 still urgently looking for parent representatives for certain year groups. The role of year group representative is not onerous, but your thoughts, opinions, and feedback are vital in helping us to further improve The Bellbird Primary School.

If you are interested in becoming a representative, please email the school office or speak to a member of the office team. Our first Parent Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 October at 5.30pm and will last for one hour.

#### **Can You Help Us with Bid Writing?**

Each year, many companies and organisations offer schools the chance to apply for extra funding. These grants can make a real difference, but they do require applications and bids to be written in order to secure them. We are keen to tap into this opportunity and would love to hear from any parents or carers who have experience in writing bids, or who feel they could lend their skills to help us in this area. Your support could help us access valuable funds to further enhance the opportunities and resources available to our children. If you are interested in helping, please speak to the school office or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Many thanks in advance for your support.

#### **The Importance of Being Collected on Time**

We kindly remind all families of the importance of collecting children promptly at the end of the school day. Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of late collections, with some parents arriving as much as 15 minutes after dismissal. Late collection can be unsettling for children, as they may feel anxious when waiting, and it also places additional pressure on staff who are supervising beyond school hours.

If you know in advance that you will be late, please contact Premier Education so that you can book your child into their after-school provision. This ensures your child is safe, supervised, and happy until you arrive.

We do recognise that emergencies occasionally occur, and in these rare situations we will always make alternative arrangements. However, regular late collection should be avoided wherever possible.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep all children safe and cared for at the end of the school day.

#### **School Photographs – Monday 20th October**

We are pleased to let you know that Kittle Photography will be visiting school on Monday 20th October to take individual and sibling group photos.

Please note that sibling photographs can only be taken where all the children are pupils at our school. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate younger siblings or children who attend other schools.

If you **do not wish for your child to have their photograph taken**, please inform the school office in advance.

#### **Reading at Home Across the School**

Reading for pleasure is at the heart of our learning at The Bellbird. Reading with accuracy, fluency and with a good understanding is a focus for reading lessons across the school. To support your child with the development of their reading skills, we would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to listen to your child read and discuss the content of their reading at least three times a week and write your initials in your child's reading record book to indicate to school staff that home reading has taken place. Every Friday, the children's reading record books are checked and house points are awarded to all of the children who have completed their three reads. We greatly appreciate how busy parents are but your support with the above will have a real impact on the children's progress.

#### **Harvest Festival – October 6th**

We are looking forward to celebrating our Harvest Festival on Monday 6th October. This year, there will be two pupil-only services in school – one for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2 – both of which will be led by Reverend Catherine from St

Mary's Church. As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are asking families to kindly donate items which will be distributed to those in need within our community through the John Huntington Trust.

Suggested donations include: tinned or powdered potatoes, part baked bread/rolls, jams, washing up liquid, tea bags, tinned vegetables, small jars of coffee, sugar (500g or 1kg), tomato ketchup, cooking oil, soup, baked beans, long life milk, pasta sauce, tinned meat/pies/hot dogs, pot noodles, cereal, dog food, shower gel, biscuits/sweet treats, crisps, toilet rolls, and tinned meat.

Please note: we are unable to accept any out-of-date items. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting this important cause. Together, we can make a real difference to members of our local community.



#### **Harvest Bread – A Wonderful Community Effort**

Great news – the Harvest Bread is now being made by Dr Wreghitt, Chair of Governors, together with our hardworking Gardening Club! This year, two giant sheaves and eleven rolls have been baked using the very corn that the Gardening Club nurtured and raised over the summer months. Last week, Dr Wreghitt carefully led the milling of the flour, before the children set to work baking. The result is the beautiful loaves and sheaves of bread that you can see before you – a real symbol of teamwork, patience, and celebration. As shown in the photo, these Harvest Breads will be proudly presented at next week's special Harvest Assembly, led by Reverend Kathryn. A huge thank you goes to Dr Wreghitt and the Gardening Club for their dedication and effort – what a fantastic achievement to share with our school community!

#### **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](https://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 25<sup>th</sup> September – 3:40 pm**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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>

#### **Uniform Stock – Half Price Sale**

We have been running our school uniform stock down for the past year and will now be selling the remaining stock for half price. The Gateway App has been updated to reflect our remaining stock. We only have limited items left in most sizes and these will be sold on a first come first served basis.

### October Active Challenge

In KS2 assembly this week, we spoke about the importance of keeping active especially as the evenings draw in. Mrs Rickcord shared some active games that you can play at home just using a few pairs of SOCKS!

Here is the link the October Active Challenge: [Get Set 4 Education - quality Music and PE primary curriculums](#)

Click Home Learning - Active Families.

We LOVED playing **Dodge or Catch, Crabs and Scorpions, All Four I Score** and **Colour Command**.

Have fun and keep active!

### Weekly Newsletter Moving to Sway

From Friday 7 November (the first week after half-term), the headteacher's weekly newsletter will move to a new format: Microsoft Sway. **What is Microsoft Sway?** Sway is an online tool that lets us share news in a more visual way. It allows us to include photographs and celebrations of learning in an attractive format that works on any device. **Why the change?** More photographs of exciting school life; easy to view on computer, tablet or phone; quick access with one simple link. Less printing, supporting our environment. **How to access the newsletter** Each Friday, a link will be emailed to you. The same link will also be on the school website. Click the link and the newsletter will open in your internet browser – no downloads or accounts needed. We look forward to sharing school news in this new, more engaging way!

**National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – Kindness Matters** (See information sheet on website)

As part of the 'kindness matters' theme for Mental Health Awareness week, we have produced this free guide on why kindness matters and to remind ourselves of the benefits of helping others, which is also good for improving our own mental health and wellbeing.

### Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Harvest assembly led by Reverend Kathryn Waite – pupils only	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 10:30am
FABS EYFS and KS1 Magic Show	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 5.30-7.00pm
Parent consultation sessions	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct Morning in school 8:30-11:30am Parent Consultations Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct afternoon on Zoom 3:30pm-7pm
Firework Night – Sawston Parish Council	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> November - timings TBC
FABS Sip and Paint	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct timings TBC
Y2 Trip to Braintree Museum	Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov – timings to be confirmed
Y4 Class Assembly	Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 9.15am
Y1 Trip Shepreth Wildlife Park	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov – all day
KS2 Disco	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov Yrs 3 & 4 5pm-6pm; Yrs 5 & 6 6:30pm-8pm
Y5 trips to Challis House	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> and Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Y3 Trip to sing for community groups at St Mary's Hall	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> December (Swallows), 11 <sup>th</sup> December (Doves)
Reception Nativity Play	Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> and Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 9.45am
Christmas Fair	Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 12.30-3.30pm
Christmas Lunch and Father Christmas Visit	Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec afternoon
Y1 Toy Making Day	Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – all day
Choir Young Voices trip	Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan - Timings TBC
FABS Bingo – adults only	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb - Timings TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb - 9.15am
Y5 to watch theatrical performance at The Perse	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Timing TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> March – 9.15am
KS1 Disco	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March 5:30pm-7pm
KS2 Disco	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> March Yrs 3&4 5pm-6pm, Yrs 5&6 6:30pm-8pm

<b>Mother's Day Celebrations</b>	<b>Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March</b> - Books and Biscuits 2:30-3pm
<b>Y3 trip Colchester Castle</b>	<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Y1 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Weds 25<sup>th</sup> March</b> – 9.15am
<b>Y4 trip to West Stow</b>	<b>Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>FABS Quiz</b>	<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May 7-10pm</b>
<b>Sawston Fun Run</b>	<b>Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May</b> - Timings TBC
<b>KS2 SATs Week</b>	<b>Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May</b>
<b>Y3 Those History People Egyptian Day</b>	<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>
<b>PGL Year 6 Residential</b>	<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup> - Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>
<b>Father's Day Celebrations</b>	<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June</b> -2:30- 3pm Books and Biscuit
<b>Summer Fair</b>	<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b> 5pm – 7.30pm
<b>Y2 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Tues 7<sup>th</sup> July</b> – 9.15am

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.

