



## The Bellbird Newsletter

### Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy and exciting week in school! On Monday, we enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Festival led by Reverend Kathryn – a truly special occasion that reminds us the run-up to Christmas has begun. Tomorrow, we are looking forward to our Parent Working Party (please see the article below), which is always a fantastic opportunity to come together as a community.

There is lots happening in school at the moment, and we are eagerly anticipating the launch of our new website. Photographer Keith was in this week, capturing images of school life (only of those children we have permission to photograph), and we can't wait to share the finished results with you soon.

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

Tomorrow morning we'll be holding our next Parent Working Party. These mornings are a fantastic way to save money on school maintenance while building our community.

This term, we'll be supporting Miss Meechan's exciting project to create a Forest School – an outdoor learning space where pupils can explore nature, learn practical skills and build confidence.

Children are very welcome too – please join us tomorrow, even if just for an hour. Your help will make a real difference!

### **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

### **Introducing Mrs Klimke**



We would like to introduce Mrs Klimke, our Deputy SENCo and Pastoral Lead. This role has been created to provide dedicated support for pupils and families, with a focus on attendance and wellbeing.

We are committed to ensuring every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. By working together, we can give each child the best chance to succeed.

Mrs Klimke offers guidance to parents and carers who may be experiencing difficulties or need signposting to other services. Parenting (and life!) can be challenging, and we are here to help without judgement.

Whether you need advice about parenting, special educational needs, housing, relationships, or attendance, Mrs Klimke can point you in the right direction.

If you would like to talk things through—whether over a cup of tea or in a scheduled appointment—Mrs Klimke is available for informal chats, and every conversation is treated with care and confidentiality.

To arrange a meeting, please contact the office or catch her on the gate!

### **Important Notice: Spy Dog Children's Books**

We would like to make parents and carers aware of an issue affecting some copies of the *Spy Dog* children's books by Andrew Cope. A website link printed in certain editions has been taken over by a third party and now directs to an adult site.

The publisher, Puffin, and the author have stopped sales and distribution of these books and are taking legal action to remove the site. They recommend that all copies be withdrawn. If you have a *Spy Dog* book at home, please check and remove the page containing the web address.

This is also a timely reminder to talk to children about safer internet use and to encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they ever see something inappropriate online. It is also a good opportunity to stay involved with your child's reading.

You can read more in the BBC report: Spy Dog: Children's books pulled over explicit weblink – BBC News

### **Studybugs – Our absence reporting System**

The Bellbird Primary Schools uses an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence, called **Studybugs**.

If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>)

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs

1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health.

(<https://studybugs.com/about/schools>)

\* Please remember - all absences must be reported for **each day of absence**, therefore, each day your child is ill, you must inform the school\*

### **Healthy Snacks at Break Time**

We would like to remind all parents and carers that children should bring *only healthy snacks* for break time. Snacks such as fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, or plain rice cakes are ideal choices that help keep pupils' energy levels steady and support their concentration in lessons. Please avoid sending in items high in sugar or fat, such as chocolate, biscuits, cakes, crisps, or sweetened pastries, as these are not considered healthy snacks for school. We would also like to remind everyone that The Bellbird Primary School is a **nut-free school**. This includes all nut products such as peanut butter, Nutella, cereal bars containing nuts, or any other snacks that may contain traces of nuts. We have pupils with severe nut allergies and your cooperation helps us keep everyone safe. We understand that a small number of pupils have specific dietary or medical needs, and alternative snacks may have been agreed with the school. If this applies to your child, please ensure that your class teacher is aware so that we can support them appropriately. Thank you for helping us promote healthy habits and a safe environment for all our pupils.

### **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!

### **Reading in KS2**

Most parents will be aware that in KS2, children use the renaissance learning platform to complete comprehension quizzes (often referred to as Star Reading quizzes). These quizzes help children to reflect on what they have read and develop their comprehension skills. Previously, these quizzes have been done in class but children are now able to access these from home as well as in class time. They will have a copy of the following website address and QR code in their reading record. Children's login details are also in their reading records.

<https://tinyurl.com/Bellbirdreads>



Please encourage your child to take a quiz once they have finished their reading book. Children are able to flick back through the book to help them but they should complete the quizzes independently so teachers can get true reflection of what the child has understood from the text.

#### **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.

#### **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**

On Monday 6th October, we were delighted to celebrate our Harvest Festival in school. This year, we held two special pupil-only services – one for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2 – both beautifully led by Reverend Kathryn from St Mary's Church. The children sang, shared prayers and reflected on the importance of giving thanks and helping others. We were once again overwhelmed by the generosity of our families. The donations received will go to the John Huntington Trust to support those in need within our community. From store cupboard staples to sweet treats and toiletries, every item will make a real difference to local families.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed, and to Reverend Kathryn for leading such meaningful services. It was a wonderful way to mark the season of Harvest and to remind us all of the value of kindness, gratitude and community.

#### **Welcome to Our New Gardener**

We are delighted to announce that, following a very successful interview, Katie Holloway has been appointed as our new school gardener. Katie will officially begin her role in November, and we are excited to see the positive impact she will have on our school grounds. We know she will bring energy and expertise to caring for and developing our outdoor spaces, ensuring they remain vibrant and welcoming for our children.

At the same time, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Ekaterina, who has been such a valued part of our school for the past couple of years. She has worked with great dedication and care, and her efforts have made a real difference to our environment. As she moves on to pursue other interests, we wish her every success for the future.

### **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 pop in to the school office.

### **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 – Conflict Resolution** (See attached information sheet)

Conflict can arise through personal differences between individual pupils, problems which occur outside school life and are brought into school, or from difficulties arising from the breakdown of relationships between individuals or groups of pupils. This guide will provide you with the basic steps you can take to help pupils resolve conflict and develop the necessary skills to deal with difficulties which arise.

### **Social Media**

Over the next few weeks we will be working on launching our social media platforms. We aim to use this space to enable us to advertise upcoming school events, share information throughout the year which is relevant to our school community and inform you of local events within the Village itself. We will also share photos of any exciting activities/trips which the pupils have been involved in. Instagram launch date is 3 November!

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

Event	Date
<b>FABS EYFS and KS1 Magic Show</b>	<b>Fri 17th Oct - 5.30-7.00pm</b>
<b>Parent consultation sessions</b>	<b>Tues 21th Oct Morning in school 8:30-11:30am</b> <b>Parent Consultations</b> <b>Thurs 23rd Oct afternoon on Zoom 3:30pm-7pm</b>
<b>Firework Night – Sawston Parish Council</b>	<b>Saturday 1st November - timings TBC</b>
<b>FABS Sip and Paint</b>	<b>Fri 7th Nov - timings TBC</b>
<b>Y2 Trip to Braintree Museum</b>	<b>Tues 11th Nov – timings to be confirmed</b>
<b>Y4 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Weds 19th Nov – 9.15am</b>
<b>Y1 Trip Shepreth Wildlife Park</b>	<b>Fri 21st Nov – all day</b>

<b>KS2 Disco</b>	<b>Fri 21st Nov - Yrs 3&amp;4 5pm-6pm; Yrs 5&amp;6 6:30pm-8pm</b>
<b>Y5 trips to Challis House</b>	<b>Mon 1st and Tues 2nd December</b>
<b>Y3 Trip to sing for community groups at St Mary's Hall</b>	<b>Thurs 4th December (Swallows), 11th December (Doves)</b>
<b>Reception Nativity Play</b>	<b>Tues 9th and Weds 10th Dec - 9.45am</b>
<b>Christmas Fair</b>	<b>Sat 13th Dec - 12.30-3.30pm</b>
<b>Christmas Lunch and Father Christmas Visit</b>	<b>Weds 17th Dec - afternoon.</b>
<b>Y1 Toy Making Day</b>	<b>Tues 13th January 2027 – all day</b>
<b>Choir Young Voices trip</b>	<b>Weds 21st Jan - Timings TBC</b>
<b>FABS Bingo – adults only</b>	<b>Fri 6th Feb - Timings TBC</b>
<b>Y5 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Thurs 12th Feb - – 9.15am</b>
<b>Y5 to watch theatrical performance at The Perse</b>	<b>Fri 27th Feb – Timing TBC</b>
<b>Y3 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Tues 3rd March – 9.15am</b>
<b>KS1 Disco</b>	<b>Fri 6th March - 5:30pm-7pm</b>
<b>KS2 Disco</b>	<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March Yrs 3&amp;4 5pm-6pm, Yrs 5&amp;6 6:30pm-8pm</b>
<b>Mother's Day Celebrations</b>	<b>Fri 13th March - Books and Biscuits 2:30-3pm</b>
<b>Y3 trip Colchester Castle</b>	<b>Thurs 19th March</b>
<b>Y1 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Weds 25th March – 9.15am</b>
<b>Y4 trip to West Stow</b>	<b>Thurs 26th March</b>
<b>FABS Quiz</b>	<b>Fri 1st May 7-10pm</b>
<b>Sawston Fun Run</b>	<b>Sun 10th May - Timings TBC</b>
<b>KS2 SATs Week</b>	<b>Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May</b>
<b>Y3 Those History People Egyptian Day</b>	<b>Thurs 21st May 2026</b>
<b>PGL Year 6 Residential</b>	<b>Mon 1st - Weds 3rd June</b>
<b>Father's Day Celebrations</b>	<b>Fri 19th June - Books and Biscuit 2:30- 3pm</b>
<b>Summer Fair</b>	<b>Friday 26th June 5pm – 7.30pm</b>
<b>Y2 Class Assembly</b>	<b>Tues 7th July – 9.15am</b>

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.