



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I continue to be amazed by how wonderful our school grounds look following the recent parent working party – thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help. Please see below for more details and photos of their fantastic work.

Secondly, it is hard to believe that the warm, dry weather of last weekend has already given way to the wet and blustery days we have had this week! The autumn chill has certainly arrived. However, the grey skies have done nothing to dampen the children's spirits – their enthusiasm and cheerful energy continue to brighten up the school each day.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined our Parent Working Party!

Last Saturday, 11th October, saw an incredible turnout for our Parent Working Party – and I was genuinely overwhelmed by how many parents, carers and children came along to help. The difference made in just one morning is absolutely phenomenal. The outdoor equipment, benches and picnic benches in both the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 playgrounds has been beautifully repainted, bringing the play areas back to life. A very special thank you goes to Peter and his sidekick, Tom, who bravely took to the scaffolding and washed the entire front of the school – it looks so much cleaner and brighter thanks to their hard work. Inside, the Community Corridor has been glossed and now feels fresh and welcoming, and outside, the new fence around the Forest School pond has been completed – just in the nick of time! As an added bonus, the Jigsaw playhouses have also been built, ready for the children to enjoy. When I went to make teas and coffees, I was amazed by the length of the list of volunteers – it truly reflected the strength of our wonderful school community. On behalf of Mr Foster and myself, thank you so much to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to make such a visible and lasting difference to our school.



A Huge Thank You to Rob and the GR8 Tool Hire Company, Saffron Walden

This week, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Rob and all of the team at GR8 Tool Hire Company in Saffron Walden for their incredible generosity and support of our school.

Thanks to their very kind discount on the hire of a hole borer and their fantastic service, we were able to complete a much-needed project at our Forest School pond. With the help of some brilliant parent volunteers, we successfully constructed a new fence around the pond area — an important improvement that helps keep our Forest School safe and ready for even more outdoor learning adventures.

At a time when school budgets are under increasing pressure, acts of kindness like this make a real difference. GR8's generosity meant we could complete the project for next to nothing, allowing us to make a lasting improvement to our school environment for the children.

On behalf of all the children, staff, parents and the entire Bellbird community, a heartfelt thank you to Rob and everyone at GR8 Tool Hire Company. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Visit from our Local MP – Pippa Heylings

On Friday 17th October, we were delighted to welcome our local Member of Parliament, Pippa Heylings, to The Bellbird Primary School. Her visit was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn more about democracy, leadership, and how their voices can make a difference in shaping a better, more sustainable future.

The morning began with a special assembly for all Key Stage Two children, where Pippa spoke about her role as an MP and the importance of looking after our local environment. She was then treated to a short coffee break in the staffroom before meeting a small group of pupils for a question and answer session in the Design Technology room.

The children taking part were members of our Eco Committee, alongside a few additional pupils who share a keen interest in environmental issues. They asked thoughtful, well-prepared questions about topics such as sustainability, renewable energy, and how communities can take action to protect the planet. Pippa was very impressed by the children's confidence, curiosity, and depth of understanding — a real credit to our school.

A huge thank you goes to Miss Osborn, who leads our Eco Committee, for organising and coordinating this special visit. Her enthusiasm and commitment to promoting environmental awareness at The Bellbird ensured the event ran smoothly and provided a valuable experience for all involved.

We are very proud of our young environmentalists and grateful to Pippa Heylings for taking the time to visit, listen, and inspire the next generation of changemakers here at The Bellbird.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Magic Show – Tonight!

Just a reminder that tonight (5.30-7.00pm) is our Early Years and Key Stage 1 Magic Show, and we cannot wait! We are sure the children will be *dazzled, amazed*, and thoroughly entertained by the marvellous wizardry and wonder on display. It promises to be an evening full of laughter, surprises, and wide-eyed excitement as our youngest pupils enjoy a touch of magic to brighten up these darker autumn days. We hope everyone attending has a truly magical time! ♡

WANTED - School Librarians

The school is very grateful for all of the adults who have come forward to volunteer as school librarians.

Nearly all of our classes now have a library volunteer but the following class still need an adult to come in once a week to support the children:

Eagles – Year 6

It takes about one hour to change the books for a class. If you feel that being a library volunteer is something that you would be able to assist with, please contact the office and an induction session with Mr. Puxley can be arranged.

The Bellbird Book Giveaway – Tuesday 21st October 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

We are constantly updating our book stock and we have a few books which are quite dated and no longer fit into our reading programmes. These books will be available on a table at the front of the school for children to browse and take home before and after school on Tuesday 21st October. Parents are welcome to make voluntary contributions for the books but there is no expectation that parents and carers do this. Donations can be made via the School Gateway under the 'Book Payments' section.

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.

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.

To ensure everyone looks their best, please could all children wear their full, smart school uniform on Monday, not their PE kit. If your child has PE on Monday, they should still come to school in their school uniform — they will be able to take part in their PE lesson as normal in this.

Parent Consultation Appointments – Please Book Now

Just a reminder to all parents and carers to **book your appointment** for next week's **Parent Consultation sessions**, if you have not already done so. These meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and talk about next steps for the year ahead. Please check your emails from the school office for booking details and instructions.

Parent Consultation Sessions:

Tuesday 21st October: Morning in school, 8:30 – 11:30am

Thursday 23rd October: Afternoon and evening on Zoom, 3:30 – 7:00pm

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing all the wonderful learning and progress that has been happening so far this term. If there are any problems, please contact the school office.

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

We're Looking for a New Midday Assistant!

We are looking for a friendly and reliable Midday Assistant to join our team from Monday 10 November. The role involves working one hour per day, Monday to Friday, helping to support our children during the lunchtime period.

Our Midday Assistants play a vital part in school life — helping to make lunchtimes a safe, happy, and positive experience for all pupils. The job includes supervising children while they eat, supporting play on the playground, and helping to create a calm and welcoming lunchtime environment. If you enjoy working with children, have a caring nature, and would like to be part of our fantastic team, we would love to hear from you! Please speak to the School Office if you are interested in applying. An advert will also be available soon on My New Term.

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 – Rosenshine's Principles (Attached)

As teachers' instincts naturally lead them seek out innovative ways to improve outcomes for their students, Barak Rosenshine's principles of instruction have received an increased level of attention in recent years. Some educators, however, can feel slightly daunted by the Rosenshine model and are uncertain how to start applying the theory in the real world of the classroom. Our information guide explains, however, that – since many of Rosenshine's suggestions take a distinctly common-sense tack – teachers are often already following the majority of these principles in their work every day. Read our tips to see how the connections between these principles could help you to approach your teaching in a more evidence-informed way.

Social Media

With the upcoming launch of our social media we will be sending home with all children a permission slip which needs to be signed and returned to the School. Photos will be uploaded on both these platforms and completing the slip will give permission for any photos the include your child to appear on both Instagram and Facebook.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
FABS EYFS and KS1 Magic Show	Fri 17th Oct 5.30-7.00pm
Parent consultation sessions	Tues 21st Oct Morning in school 8:30-11:30am Parent Consultations Thurs 23 Oct afternoon on Zoom 3:30pm-7pm
Firework Night – Sawston Parish Council	Saturday 1st November - timings TBC
SEND parent consultations	Tuesday 4th November - 3.30-6.00pm
FABS Sip and Paint	Fri 7th Nov timings TBC
Y2 Trip to Braintree Museum	Tues 11th Nov – timings to be confirmed
Y4 Class Assembly	Weds 19th Nov – 9.15am
Y1 Trip Shepreth Wildlife Park	Fri 21st Nov – all day
KS2 Disco	Fri 21st Nov Yrs 3&4 5pm-6pm; Yrs 5&6 6:30pm-8pm
Y5 trips to Challis House	Mon 1st and Tues 2 nd December
Y3 Trip to sing for community groups at St Mary's Hall	Thurs 4th December (Swallows), 11th December (Doves)
Reception Nativity Play	Tues 9th and Weds 10th Dec. 9.45am
Christmas Fair	Sat 13th Dec 12.30-3.30pm
Christmas Lunch and Father Christmas Visit	Weds 17th Dec - afternoon.
Y1 Toy Making Day	Tues 13th January 2026 – all day
Choir Young Voices trip	Weds 21st Jan - Timings TBC
FABS Bingo – adults only	Fri 6th Feb - Timings TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	Thurs 12th Feb - 9.15am
Parent Consultations after school on zoom	Tues 24th Feb- 3:30-7pm
Parent Consultations morning in person	Thurs 26th Feb – 8:00-11:30am
Y5 to watch theatrical performance at The Perse	Fri 27th Feb – Timing TBC
Y3 Class Assembly	Tues 3rd March – 9.15am
SEND parent consultations	Thurs 5th March - 3:30-6pm
KS1 Disco	Fri 6th March - 5:30pm-7pm
KS2 Disco	Fri 20th March Yrs 3&4 5pm-6pm; Yrs 5&6 6:30pm-8pm
Mother's Day Celebrations	Fri 13th March - Books and Biscuits 2:30-3pm
Y3 trip Colchester Castle	Thurs 19th March
Y1 Class Assembly	Weds 25th March – 9.15am

Y4 trip to West Stow	Thurs 26th March
FABS Quiz	Fri 1st May 7-10pm
Sawston Fun Run	Sun 10th May Timings TBC
KS2 SATs Week	Mon 11th - Thurs 14th May
Y3 Those History People Egyptian Day	Thurs 21st May 2026
PGL Year 6 Residential	Mon 1st - Weds 3rd June
Father's Day Celebrations	Fri 19th June -2:30- 3pm Books and Biscuit
SEND parent consultations	Tues 23rd June 3:30-6pm
Summer Fair	Friday 26th June 5pm – 7.30pm
Y2 Class Assembly	Tues 7th July – 9.15am

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.