



The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding first half of the autumn term, I think it is fair to say that pupils, staff, and indeed the whole school community are ready for a well-deserved break. The energy, enthusiasm, and hard work that everyone has shown over the past few weeks have been wonderful to see, and I am so proud of all that has been achieved so far this term.

With the half-term holiday approaching, I hope that everyone takes the opportunity to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. As Bonfire Night draws near, we would also like to remind all children to stay safe and remember the key messages shared in this week's assemblies about firework and bonfire safety. Enjoy the celebrations, but please do so responsibly.

Sawston Annual Bonfire and Firework Display

The annual Sawston Parish Council Bonfire and Firework Display will take place on Saturday 1st November 2025 at Huckridge Hill. Gates open at 6.00pm, with prize giving at 6.45pm, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. There will also be a Best Dressed Guy for the Bonfire competition, and refreshments will be available. Entry is free.

This is always a fantastic community event and a great way for families to enjoy an evening together. We would love to encourage as many Bellbird families as possible to go along and join in the fun. Importantly, this event also helps to support our school, as Sawston Parish Council kindly donates a share of the proceeds to The Bellbird Primary School. Your attendance not only promises an exciting evening of fireworks but also directly benefits our children and school community. We hope to see many of you there enjoying the evening and showing your support.

Y4 Maya Day

This week, we had a fantastic Maya Day to bring our history learning to life! The children came to school in brilliant Maya-inspired costumes and really embraced the theme. They enjoyed tasting hot chocolate made using a traditional-style recipe — it was much more bitter than they expected! Everyone had great fun creating clay hieroglyphs and colourful masks inspired by Maya art. We even finished the day with a lively game of Pok-a-Tok, testing our teamwork and coordination just like the ancient Maya! (Written by Mrs Rickcord)



Parent Consultation Meetings – Thank You for Attending

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Parent Consultation meetings this week. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to talk with you about your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and discuss next steps for the term ahead.

If, for any reason, you were unable to attend your scheduled appointment, please contact the school office as soon as possible to arrange an alternative meeting with your child's class teacher. It is very important that every parent has the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to share information about how their child is getting on at school, find out how they can be supported at home, and work together to ensure the best outcomes for their learning and wellbeing. We really appreciate your continued partnership and support. Working together makes a real difference to your child's progress and success.

SEND Consultation Meetings

A reminder that the SEND consultation meetings will take place on Tuesday 4th November from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. If this is relevant to you, please make sure that you have booked an appointment. These meetings provide an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and any additional support in place. If you have any difficulties booking or need further information, please contact the school office.

BBC 500 Word Writing Competition 2025

Over the last few weeks, some of the children in years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been planning and writing stories of no more than 500 words. Teachers have provided the children with lots of opportunities to discuss ideas for their stories and they have supported the children with the planning of the stories. The children have had to create a theme, a problem and a resolution. Teachers have submitted some of these stories to our Governors' writing competition and the winners of this will be announced in the second half of the autumn term. Some of the children will be bringing home their stories to share with you. If your child would like to submit their story to the BBC 500 Word competition, then parents can register and submit stories no later than 9:00 pm on Friday 7th November.

Details on how to do this can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk#zsfk239>

We know that we have some amazing story writers at The Bellbird and we hope that you enjoy reading the children's stories. Mrs Hines

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.

Christmas Cards – £830 Raised So Far!

We are delighted to share that The Bellbird has already raised £830 through the first round of Christmas card orders — a fantastic result!

There will be a second opportunity to place Christmas card orders between Thursday 21st November and Sunday 1st December if you missed out the first time. A reminder will be sent out nearer to the date with details but if possible please keep hold of the original card and code for your child's artwork to make the ordering process easier.

Welcome to Our New Forest School Assistant – Katie Holloway

We are delighted to announce that Katie Holloway has been appointed as our new Forest School Assistant here at The Bellbird Primary School. Katie will be working alongside Kate Meechan, who will lead our Forest School provision.

Katie will be running weekly Forest School sessions for children right across the school, from Early Years through to Year Six, helping them to explore the outdoors, develop new skills, and enjoy hands-on learning experiences in nature.

In addition to her Forest School role, Katie will also be taking on the position of school gardener from November, helping us to make the most of our outdoor spaces and involving pupils in growing and caring for plants throughout the year.

Katie brings a wealth of experience to The Bellbird team, having spent many years working as a teacher herself. We are thrilled to welcome her on board and look forward to all the exciting outdoor learning opportunities she will help to create for our children.

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 and a half hours 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 – Dealing with Challenging and Traumatic Events

When children and young people experience traumatic or difficult life events, their emotional world can be shaken, and the impact may show up in their behaviour, mood, or relationships. Whether it's bereavement, a family breakdown or witnessing something distressing, the support of trusted adults can be key in helping them feel safe again. This guide looks at how to create a nurturing environment to help young people process difficult feelings.

It also shares clear, actionable strategies to promote recovery – from building emotional literacy and creating a predictable routine to recognising signs that further help may be needed. Sensitive language, patience, and presence all play a part in empowering children to move forward at their own pace. With the right support, they can rebuild a sense of security and resilience.

Social Media

With the upcoming launch of our social media platforms, please can we remind you to sign and return the permission slip to the school office.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Firework Night – Sawston Parish Council	Saturday 1st November – gates open at 6pm
SEND parent consultations	Tuesday 4th November - 3.30-6.00pm
FABS Sip and Paint	Fri 7th Nov – 7:30pm
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 great half-term break,

James Puxley, Headteacher.