



The Bellbird
Primary School

26.09.25

The Bellbird Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another successful week here at school, and I am delighted to share with you some important updates. Please do take a moment to read the article below about Friends at Bellbird School (FABs). We urgently need new starters and helpers to continue their valuable work, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, I ask that you keep Saturday 11 October free for our Parent Working Party. This will be led by Miss Meechan, alongside myself and our site manager, Alan Foster. Together we will be setting up the Forest School area, and we would be very grateful for as many willing hands as possible to help make this project a success.

Finally, for your convenience, I have included at the bottom of this newsletter a list of upcoming events, including trips and class assemblies, so that you can plan ahead.

'Helping your child at home' Reception and KS1 parent meetings – NEXT WEEK

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.

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.



Fun at Gardening Club – Grinding the Corn!

Our boys and girls had a fabulous time at Gardening Club on Wednesday afternoon, grinding the corn they have grown with such care over the past few months. With expert guidance from Dr. Tim Wreghitt, our Chair of Governors, the children were amazed to see just how much flour could be made from the wheat they had planted, nurtured, and harvested themselves.

There was lots of excitement (and a bit of muscle power!) as the corn was transformed into flour right before their eyes. A big thank you to Dr. Wreghitt for leading such a memorable and hands-on session – the children loved every minute. Who knows? Hovis might soon be knocking on our door for their flour supplies – freshly produced by The Bellbird Primary School!

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.

A Polite Reminder to Parents and Carers

We kindly ask all parents and carers to help us keep our school environment healthy, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Please be courteous to others by refraining from smoking directly outside the school gates. Not only does this set a positive example for our children, but it also ensures that families waiting at drop-off and pick-up times are not exposed to smoke.

We also ask for your support with parking at pick-up times. Recently, staff have found themselves blocked in by cars using the school car park, and this has created safety concerns around the gates with vehicles reversing in a busy area. To help keep everyone safe and to ensure staff can leave promptly, please do not use the school car park at the end of the school day. We would be grateful if families could park considerately in the surrounding area and walk the short distance to the school gates.

Your cooperation with both of these requests will make a real difference to the safety, health, and smooth running of our school community. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

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.

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.

Year 4 Parents' Invitation

The Year 4 team would like to warmly invite all Year 4 parents into school on Wednesday 1 October from 9.00am to 9.15am to share and celebrate our work on narrative and graphic novels.

If you are unable to attend in the morning, you are very welcome to pop in at the end of the day instead.

On the morning visit, please drop children off as usual and then wait at reception, where a member of staff will meet you. The Year 4 team are very much looking forward to seeing you and sharing the children's fantastic work.

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.

School Gardener Vacancy

The Bellbird Primary School is seeking a School Gardener to help keep our grounds looking their best. The role is for 8 hours per week, with the possibility of additional hours in spring and summer. All equipment will be provided and the rate of pay is negotiable. Duties include: general garden maintenance, planting, weeding, pruning, watering, and looking after our wildlife and environmental areas. The position will commence on 1st November 2025. If you are interested, please follow the following link: <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/135132/EDV-2025-BPS-53372>

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

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 25th September – 3:40 pm

Tuesday 30th 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>

Correction to Staff Training (Inset) Days – Academic Year 2026–2027

We would like to apologise for an error in last week's newsletter regarding the end of the Summer Term in 2027.

According to **Cambridgeshire County Council's published term dates**, the Summer Term will officially finish on **Wednesday 21st July 2027**. As a result, our **Professional Day** will now take place on **Wednesday 21st July 2027**, and not on Thursday 22nd July as previously stated. For reference, the term dates can be found on the Cambridgeshire County Council website: [Cambridgeshire County Council – School Term Dates](#). Thank you for your understanding, and we apologise again for any confusion caused. The inset dates for 2026-7 are therefore:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Friday 27th November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

National College guide What Parents and Educators Need to Know – Conflict Resolution (See attached information sheet)

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.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Helping your child at home meetings	Tuesday 30 Sept: EYFS Helping your child at home meeting 5-6pm (Community Hall / Hall) Weds 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)
Celebration of Y4 work on narrative and graphic novels.	Weds 1st Oct 9.00-9.15am
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
Y4 Class Assembly	Weds 19th Nov – 9.15am
Y1 Trip Shepreth Wildlife Park	Fri 21st Nov – all day
Y5 trips to Challis House	Mon 1st and Tues 2nd 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
Y1 Toy Making Day	Tues 13th January – all day
Choir Young Voices trip	Weds 21st Jan. Timings TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	Thurs 12 Feb – 9.15am
Y5 to watch theatrical performance at The Perse	Fri 27th Feb – Timing TBC
Y5 Class Assembly	Tues 3 March – 9.15am
Mother's Day Celebrations	Fri 13th March- Books and Biscuits 2:30-3pm
Y3 trip Colchester Castle	Thurs 19th March
Y1 Class Assembly	Weds 25 March – 9.15am
Y4 trip to West Stow	Thurs 26th March
KS2 SATs Week	Mon 11- Thurs 14 May

Y3 Those History People Egyptian Day	Thurs 21st May 2026
PGL Year 6 Residential	Mon 1- Weds 3 June
Father's Day Celebrations	Fri 19 June -2:30- 3pm Books and Biscuit
Y2 Class Assembly	Tues 7 July – 9.15am

Have a good weekend,

James Puxley, Headteacher.

