



The Bellbird
Primary School



“This is a
good school.”
Ofsted 2015

ANNUAL GOVERNORS’ REPORT

2017/18

The Governors of The Bellbird Primary School are the group of parents, staff and members of our community that decide on school policies, hold the Headteacher to account for the school’s performance, and ensure that the school’s budget and other resources are best used. The Governors meet as a full group each half term, with some additional subcommittee meetings. Every year we provide a report to parents to tell you about the things that the Governors have been involved in during the year. This is our report covering the 2017/2018 academic year.

A VERY GOOD YEAR



**Dr Tim Wreghitt,
Chair of Governors**

The last year has been a very good year for The Bellbird School, with our new Headteacher and very good results in SATs tests as well as prizes such as the Cambridge News “Best Science Project” award. The Local Education Authority has supported the school by facilitating the enlargement of the school, with 4 new classrooms being built over the next year to make our school a two-form entry school. The Governors have been busy supporting the school in many ways, including running a Science Club and supporting Outdoor Learning in the allotment area. All in all, a very good year! Let’s keep it up!

Dr Katie Graham	Community Governor
Mr John Rimell	Community Governor
Mr Phil O’Dell	Community Governor
Mrs Eileen Wheatley	Community Governor
Mrs Jane Woodstock	Community Governor
Mr Henry Weir	Local Authority Governor
Mrs Sarah Jarvis	Staff Governor
Mrs Diane Baslington	Clerk to Governors

Governors. We welcomed Henry Weir as our new Local Authority Governor this year but very sadly one of our very active Parent Governors, Steve Skinner, died in July. He will be sorely missed having contributed enormously to the life of the school over the last two years. In his memory, we have inaugurated an annual Steve Skinner Bellbird School Photograph competition. We had many entries and the winner was Kit Davies. [\(picture with trophy!\).](#)

HEADTEACHER’S REPORT



It has been a very exciting year at The Bellbird.

The Governors and staff have worked closely together to ensure that the

school has continued to thrive and opportunities are constantly being sought to ensure that our pupils achieve highly in all aspects of school life.

FABs have continued to host a wealth of amazing fundraising events throughout the year, providing crucial funds for the refurbishment of the Early Years outdoor area, amongst many other things.

Vital relationship between school and parents have been developed further this year with the introduction of a Parent Forum group who meet termly to discuss concerns and/or changes.

GOVERNORS

Dr Tim Wreghitt	Chair
Mr Duncan Macfarlane	Vice Chair
Mrs Katie Kendall	Headteacher
Mr Nick Silk	Parent Governor
Dr Tracy Assari	Parent Governor
Mrs Emma George	Parent Governor

There are currently two vacancies for Parent Governors.

Among our Board of Governors, we have various members who take a lead in key areas, including:

Finance	Mr Phil O’Dell
Safeguarding	Mrs Eileen Wheatley
Property and Safety	Mr Nick Silk
Parent Consultation	Mr Duncan Macfarlane
Environment	Dr Tim Wreghitt
FLASH and FABS	Dr Katie Graham

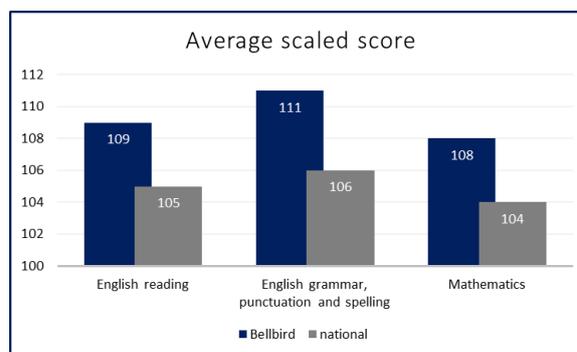
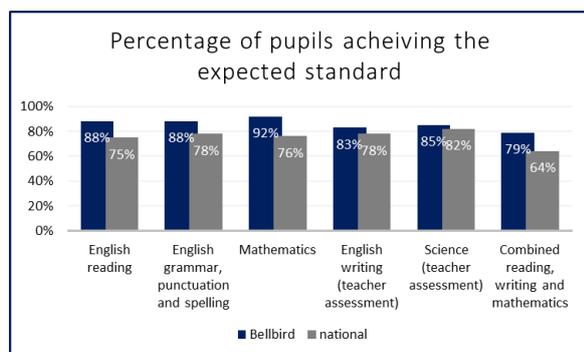
Liz Smith resigned as a Governor in September 2017 and we thank her for her contribution to the work of the

The Bellbird School is an expanding school which constantly seeks to fulfil its motto of ‘Soaring to Success’.

Our rich and creative curriculum enables children to excel in a wide range of skills whilst still attaining excellent outcomes in Maths and

English; our 2018 SATS results were significantly above both local and national figures – please see below for details.

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard:		Average scaled score:	
	The Bellbird	nationally	The Bellbird	nationally
English reading	88%	75%	109	105
English grammar, punctuation and spelling	88%	78%	111	106
Mathematics	92%	76%	108	104
English writing (teacher assessment)	83%	78%	N/A	N/A
Science (teacher assessment)	85%	82% (2017 data)	N/A	N/A
Combined reading, writing and mathematics	79%	64%	N/A	N/A



FRIENDS & FUNDS

The school parent fundraising committee called ‘Friends at Bellbird School’ (FABS) has worked as hard as ever this year to raise an astonishing £xxxx. As well as running the ever-popular Christmas and Summer Fairs and quizzes, FABS have added the family fun day and family bingo to the calendar. These events enable families to get together to enjoy fun activities whilst raising money for the school. Evening events such as bingo and quiz night give parents’ a chance to socialise and the children’s discos are always packed. They also raise the profile of the school by running stalls at the Sawston fete, Christmas shopping night, Huckeridge Hill fireworks and for the first time this year the Sawston Fun Run. The money raised has been spent on new picnic benches, swimming lessons, author visits, theatre company productions in school, cycle helmets, books and some furnishing for the library as well as contributions to classes for trips or

other resources. The main beneficiary this year was £5000 towards the EYFS outdoor area. A huge thank you to the whole FABS team who not only raise money but help at a lot of the school events such as sports day, harvest festival, Christmas lunch, Easter breakfast. Thank you to everyone who supports FABS by attending the events and making donations to the fairs without this the money could not be raised to help provide all the added extras that FABS contribute to the school.

MONEY MATTERS

The school now spends around £1.4m per annum, with around 90% of this being funded by the government via the county council. The key aim for the governors as we compiled the budget for 2018 and the years ahead was to continue with 12 classes from September 2018 but make financial provision for our much-needed move to 13 classes from September 2019. This proved more challenging than we

had hoped but we have still managed to do it, assuming that there are no significant changes to our finances over the next year. It is well known that Cambridgeshire schools have been under-funded for years by successive governments and although this has been gradually addressed in recent years, a late change this year meant that we lost £35k of our expected funding. We also have increasing budget pressures from the growing number of Education, Health and Care Plans required for some pupils, where we incur the first £6000 of costs before receiving council funding.

As always, we looked closely at new ways to save money without affecting the pupils and once again were helped by our fantastic support within the community and especially by FABS, who work hard and make a terrific contribution to the school.

We remain a well-resourced school and try to plan and manage our finances in an efficient and effective

way for the benefit of our current and future children. We consistently meet the requirements of the County Council, the Government and Ofsted in the way we set our budgets and administer our finances. We thank our staff for their work in these areas.



A parent governor is the chair of the FLASH committee that oversees the management of the breakfast and after school club. Due to the increase in pupil numbers FLASH is busier than ever and this year has had to introduce a waiting list on some nights. The weekly spaces are advertised in the office. Thank you to all those who have donated items or supported Flash fundraising. Donations of toys, books, games and den making materials are always much appreciated.

FEEDBACK



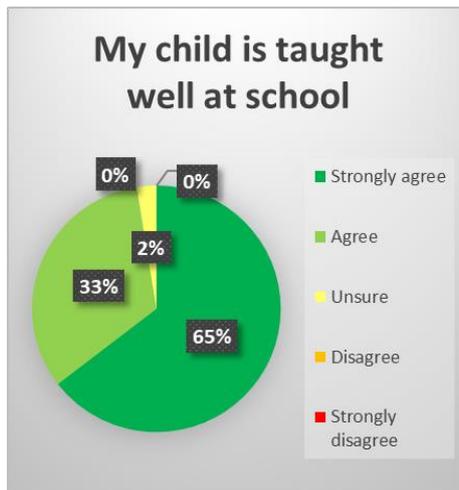
It is my third year performing the lead feedback governor role and it is great to get an appreciation of the consistency of feedback over this

period.

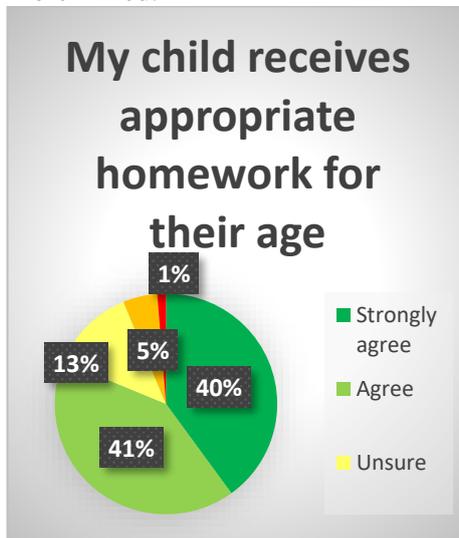
This year's parent survey included the addition of a small number of yes/no questions to help provide more context to the other responses.

"It is great to get an appreciation of the consistency of feedback"

Highlights from this year's survey show that the view of the standard of teach is high and similar to last year...



...and that the view of the appropriateness of homework is a little more mixed.



I am intending to make further small additions to next year's survey to help us understand this.

SHARING

A key feature of our Governor meetings is hearing presentations from subject leaders so we can understand more about what goes on in the classroom each day. This enables us to understand the challenges the staff face such as embedding new curricula and other educational initiatives and looking how this can be enriched at The Bellbird. We are always particularly keen to discuss resource

matters with the teachers and how any additional funds we might manage to afford can be put to best use to help the children.

GREAT OUTDOORS

The Governors have worked with teaching staff, parents and children to improve the Outdoor Learning environment of the school in order to enhance the learning opportunities from this important school resource. The school and FABs have worked together to revamp the Early Learning Years outdoor play space with new artificial grass which has greatly enhanced the area for the children. The Bug Hotel has some interesting guests. Again this year, children have grown their own wheat, which they have threshed, ground into flour and made bread into rolls and sheaves for the Harvest Festival, thus completing the "farm to fork" food cycle. The school won the **Cambridge News "Science Project of the Year"** for this initiative.



THANK YOU

The Governors would like to thank all the school staff who have worked tirelessly over the last year to make The Bellbird School an excellent successful environment for learning, resulting in excellent SATs results. Their achievements are plain for all to see and they are a credit to the school.



HOW TO CONTACT US

Governors are contactable via the School Office and website. Any matters regarding day to day issues, including complaints, should be discussed with either your child's Class Teacher or the Headteacher.