



March 4th
2019

Newsletter No. 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

Some of our governors have been thoroughly enjoying reading the entries for the writing competition, Winners will be announced in Friday's assembly this week and awards presented. They have been thoroughly impressed by the standard of both content and presentation and I know that it has been very difficult to reach a final decision.

Well done to all of the children for their hard work in learning their words for the Spellathon and thank you very much for all of the sponsorship money raised. Once there has been a final count up, the children will get an opportunity to help choose some new equipment for the playground.

Both Year 1 classes enjoyed a school trip into Cambridge last week, using the local bus service. Behaviour was impressive and the tutor who delivered the workshop at the Museum of Anthrophony at the Sedgewick Site, complimented us on the interest and knowledge of the children. We were lucky to have beautiful sunshine for both trips, which made the whole day out even better.

We have an exciting week ahead with World Book Day on Thursday. I can't wait to see all of the imaginative outfits again. Your child should come home with a £1 book chosen from a selection purchased through school. Do have a look on Twitter for photos of the dressing up too.

Our website has recently been updated and is now available as a mobile friendly version. All of the classes have recently submitted beautiful artwork of their class birds, which you can see on the class pages. The original work will soon be on display in the Atrium. We hope that you find the calendar of events on the website useful too; an easy way to keep up to date with upcoming events, including FABS events. You may have already noticed the new photos on the both the main and staff pages with the lovely children's drawings. We will continue to develop our website, keeping all of our families well informed. The next project is the development of the Curriculum page; more on this at a later date.

Building work is going very well on the extension especially as the roof is now being installed. Thank you to some parent volunteers who are in the process of carrying out some artwork on the temporary partition outside of Doves classroom – this is appreciated and will certainly go a long way to brighten up a darker space!

We have been overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of homework projects being submitted and hopefully you have enjoyed seeing photos of these on our Twitter page. It is clear that children and families have thoroughly enjoyed engaging in this work. The children really love to share and talk about this work with teachers and class mates.

Belby has enjoyed his first few visits to school and has proved himself to be calm and gentle with the children. He will be starting formal puppy training at the beginning of April.

With kind regards,
Mrs Kendall | Headteacher

**Are you facing challenges with your child/children?
Would you like a friendly person to chat to, someone who really does
understands the difficulties that many of us face based on her own personal
experience.**

Please do read below the information written by one of our parents.

Hello, my name is Rebecca and some of you will know me as mum to two girls in reception and Year Three. I have lived in Sawston for over 20 years and my older children have all been to The Bellbird School, or its previous schools, John Falkner and John Paxton.

My family have faced many challenges over the years. Our four older children who are now wonderful young men in their late teens and early twenties, have disabilities. These are various levels of Autism, and one has Cerebral Palsy, hemianopia (partial blindness), epilepsy and learning difficulties.

My husband and I have spent many years supporting our boys and our younger gorgeous children. I was fortunate in that I had trained as a teacher and my experiences helped me to develop their skills. I have worked with children with Additional needs which I enjoyed immensely, I have also worked for The Ormiston Charity working to support families in difficult circumstances, I was a project worker for children and families with John Huntingdons Charity, and I was Chair of The Roundabout Opportunity Group for many years, which supported families with children with additional needs.

I would like to offer support to any parent who may have children at the Bellbird, who have children with additional needs. I can see the issues from the point of view of a parent and as a teacher. I know how terrifying it can be to trust that your vulnerable child will be safe. I know how wonderful it can be when things go well and your child is developing and enjoying school, and how devastating it is when it does not. I know how much you hope for such simple things like your child to make friends or to read that first book, or to sit in assembly.

My boys are now doing very well, my eldest is a successful games designer, and the others are studying with full time support,

If you would like a chat about anything I am happy to help.

If you wish to meet with Rebecca, please contact the office so we can arrange swapping of contact details.

Please support us!

Unfortunately I have received a variety of complaints from parents and members of the community recently on various different issues which I hope that you will support us to reduce.

- ⇒ Smoking directly outside the school gates during drop off and pick up times creates an unpleasant environment for our pupils passing through at this time. We would be grateful if people who wish to smoke would either move away from the school entrance or wait until after the prime times when children are likely to be there.
- ⇒ Please be mindful that swearing is offensive to many people as well as being inappropriate in front of children.
- ⇒ Local residents in Chapelfield Way are still having difficulties parking outside their own properties and have specifically asked me to help put an end to this.



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday March 5th	Y2 History Off the Page visit—dress up
Wednesday March 6th	Class assembly for parents of Wrens & Robins 9:10 am
Thursday March 7th	World Book Day—Whole school dressing up
Thursday March 7th	Parent forum meeting 6:15pm
Friday March 8th	Governors Writing Competition award ceremony (celebration assembly)
Friday 29th March Change of date	MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST 8am
Friday 29th March	School Reports out
Tuesday 2nd April	Parent Consultations 8 am -11 am
Wednesday 3rd April	Parent Consultation 3:45 pm — 7pm
Friday 5th April	Easter Breakfast for children
Friday 5th April	Last day of Spring term
Wednesday 5th June	Sports day & picnic KS1 am KS2 pm