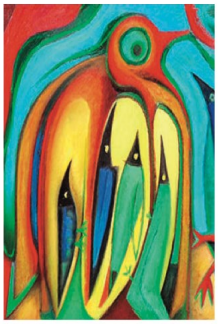


The Bellbird Primary School

June 13th 2019

Newsletter No. 15

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you very much indeed to all of our families for joining us for our wonderful Sports Day event last week. It was a lovely occasion and so nice to see so many people taking the time to join in with the family picnic too. We are certainly relieved that we were so lucky with the weather, as this week would not have been half so pleasant!

We are getting very excited about our upcoming International week, especially the International Evening. We have been overwhelmed by the number of offers to either provide food for the evening or come in and share stories in different language through out the week. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderfully diverse community and we look forward to celebrating that all together.

We are delighted with the progress of the pupils taking swimming lessons this term. Swimming is an important life skill and through our swimming programme we aim for as many pupils as possible to be able to swim at least 100m confidently by the time that they leave The Bellbird School.
The teachers at the pool have been impressed by the determination and perseverance of our children so far.

Next week our Year 6 pupils will be involved in Heart Smart 'Save a Life' training which is delivered by volunteer medical students. Yet another vital life skill that we believe is important for our pupils to gain before they leave us and move on to Secondary school.

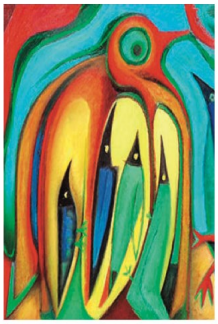
Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered to help out on school trips and walking to and from the swimming pool (despite the torrential rain!) - it really is an enormous help and hopefully enjoyable too.

On the note of school trips, we have struggled to cover the costs of several trips recently due to a low number of parents sending in the suggested voluntary contributions for these events. As I am sure that you are aware, school budgets are tighter than ever and these shortfalls have to be covered by the school. Unfortunately, if we continue to receive insufficient funds to cover the costs of these trips we shall have to consider cancelling them. This would be a tremendous shame as they are such a vital part of the children's learning.

In staffing news, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr White, who has been doing the Maternity Cover for Mrs Gleed Owen this year. Mrs Gleed Owen will return as the class teacher for Mondays to Wednesday in Swallows class from Monday 8th July. Do not worry however, Mr White is not going away for very long as he will be returning to our staff in September for 4 days a week!

Our teaching team in Wrens and Robins from September will be Mrs Rix, Mrs Osborn and Mrs Waddingham. They are looking forward to meeting the new children in 'Getting to know you sessions' over the next few weeks.

All of the children will meet their new teachers and TAs on moving up morning on July 3rd. Obviously some children will not have the session in their new classroom as the extension is not ready just yet!



The Bellbird Primary School

June 13th 2019

Newsletter No. 15

After careful negotiating and planning, we are finally able to share with you the excellent news that from September, we will be able to run a 14 class school structure. This means that we will no longer have a mixed year group class but instead have 2 year 5 classes and 2 year 6 classes. Both classes will have an average of 20 pupils. Obviously careful thought will go into how the pupils will now be split across the classes but I'm sure that parents of these children will be delighted to hear this news. More details will be revealed closer to the end of term and of course on 'moving up' morning.

As part of the year 6 team, Mrs Sarah Macfarlane will be delivering the French curriculum and Mrs Eleanor Clapp will teach Science to both classes.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Katherine Percival to our team of Teaching Assistants from September also. Mrs Percival is currently a midday supervisor at The Bellbird and is already well known by many of the children.

We are very proud of all of our hard working team at The Bellbird and particularly delighted that 3 of our TAs have enrolled on a training programme next year to become Higher Level Teaching Assistants. This will provide them with support and training to take on greater roles of teaching responsibility within the school. Well Done and Good Luck to Miss Bush, Mrs Hasell and Mrs Khan.

Life never stands still at The Bellbird as we have also recently appointed Mrs Louise Harrison to the post of Manager of FLASH and Breakfast Club. Mrs Harrison has already being instrumental in establishing a successful new online booking system for the club and has exciting ideas ready for the move into the larger space in the new part of the building in September.

As The Bellbird grows, job opportunities arise frequently so do keep your eye out on the school website, School Comms and our Twitter page if you are interested in finding out more. Currently we are seeking to fill vacancies as an after school cleaner (15 hours a week) and as a playworker in the FLASH club. Do come and find out more at the office if you are interested.

Residents of Chapelfield Way have contacted me again recently, imploring parents to find alternative parking for drop offs and pick ups. The sign does clearly state 'Access for residents Only', which although not legally binding, is causing upset, particularly in the recent poor weather, when residents have not been able to park outside their houses.

Please can you make sure that children do not hang around and play on the school field at the end of the day. Unfortunately during this time we have had damage to trees from children climbing them and also to school equipment which stays out all of the time. Thank you for your support with this.

As you may see, it has been rather an eventful fortnight since the half term break, hence the somewhat extended newsletter page! We aim to keep you up to date as much as we can.

With kind regards,
Mrs Kendall | Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 12th June	6pm New EYFS parent presentation evening
Friday 14th June	KS1 & KS2 Disco 5—8:30pm—FABS event
Monday 17th June	Y5 taster day at SVC
Thursday 20th June	Music/ Drama workshop by the Young ‘Uns for KS2 and Y2
Friday 21st June	Class photos
Friday 21st June	Year 6 Safety training
Friday 21st June	NO FRIDAY ASSEMBLY
Thursday 27th June	International evening of food & music
Wednesday 3rd July	Moving up morning & EYFS visit
Friday 5th July	School Fair 6—8pm—FABS event
Monday 8th July	CCC—recycling stand after school
Tuesday 9th July	6:30pm Y6 production
Wednesday 10th July	6:30pm Y6 production
Friday 19th July	Leavers BBQ and disco
Monday 22nd July	Dictionary presentation assembly—Y2 parents invited.
Tuesday 23rd July	Levers Assembly 9:15am —Y6 parents invited
Tuesday 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM