



The Bellbird Primary School

'Soaring to Success'

Headteacher: Mrs. Katie Kendall
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. C Dix and Mrs J. Martin

Link Road,
Sawston
CB22 3GB
Tel: 01223 833216
Email: office@thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk

English Newsletter – February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Bellbird's First Ever Spelling Bee

This year we are holding our first ever whole-school Spelling Bee and it promises to be an exciting event. Before Easter, children will be given a list of words to learn in addition to their weekly spellings. Children will be tested on the words in three spelling tests after Easter. The children with the highest average score over the three tests will be chosen to represent their team (Amethyst, Emerald, Ruby or Sapphire) for the School Final in May. Following the results of the School Final, a team of four Key Stage 2 children will be chosen to represent The Bellbird at the Network CB23 Grand Final Spelling Bee Competition. The final will be held after school at Sawston Village College on **Wednesday 10th June**. We are hoping that the event will be great motivation for children to learn their spellings! We will send out more information about the event over the next few weeks.

The School Library – New Books

During February and March, a range of new picture books and non-fiction books will be available in the school library for the children to borrow. The new books have been funded by FABS and we are very grateful to all of the families who support the many fundraising events which take place throughout the school year.

Author Visit – Wednesday 15th January 2020

The children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 enjoyed meeting and working with the children's author and illustrator Matty Long. Some of Matty's illustrations are displayed in the library alongside some the children's illustrations. Author visits inspire our children to create and illustrate stories and we are very grateful to FABS for funding these wonderful experiences for our children.

The Governors' Writing Competition

Some of the governors are in the process of judging writing that has been submitted for the annual governors' writing competition. Two pieces of writing from each class will be selected and these children will receive a prize during the Friday celebration assembly on Friday 13th March.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2020

The theme for this year is 'Share a Story.' Spending **just 10 minutes a day** reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their outcome and it's fun for all involved. You can read together **anywhere and everywhere, from breakfast to bedtime!** In the park, on the train, on the sofa, on a plane – reading and sharing stories can happen anywhere at any time. The world book day web site, www.worldbookday.com has a list of 100 to stories for you to share.

During this week, there will be a range of activities taking place to encourage children to read for enjoyment. Heffers Children's Book Shop from Cambridge will again be supplying the £1 books for schools so that the children can exchange their £1 book token for a book.



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World Book Day Rocks!

We know that at The Bellbird we have some highly creative and talented artists. This year we are inviting all of the children to bring a pebble into school painted on a book theme. The pebble needs to resemble a character from a children's book or it could have a quote on the theme of reading for pleasure. A suitable location in the school grounds will be chosen by each class. Please ensure that your child has marked their name either on the front or the base of the pebble.

If your child chooses to decorate a pebble, then it will need to be in school by Friday 13th March.



Thank you for your support with all of the English Events that take place throughout the school year.

Geraldine Hines and Emma Davies
Year 2 Teachers and English Leads