

Frequently Asked Questions

This page will contain questions from parents/carers and our responses. If you have a question, please email: office@thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk

Any questions of a specific or personal nature will be responded to on a case by case basis.

Is it possible to drop off the children by car? I understand that going to school on foot or by bike is preferred but if I then need to go to work immediately afterwards it becomes challenging. Are there parking places and is it actually feasible and safe for all children?

Current covid rules mean that the car park is closed to allow for safer access and social distancing for all families at present. There are places to park nearby and walk, for example the co-op car park just around the corner from the school.

Is the wraparound care provided for all children, including reception children? Is there a waiting list? If yes, what is in general the expected waiting time before being able to access the after school care?

We normally have before and after school provision in the form of our FLASH club. Due to current covid planning and the need to group children differently to keep them in their bubbles our provision is after school only. There is currently space for Reception children but a waiting list would operate if the facility became oversubscribed. We are reviewing the provision on a termly basis in line with covid guidance and our staffing levels.

How did the school respond to the lockdown challenge? Was it possible to deliver online classes and still have engagement from the pupils? Was this feasible also for reception and year 1? I am interested to ask because I think the challenges of COVID are not all overcome and there might be further periods of adjustment.

The school team responded positively to the covid challenge and this continues to be the case. You can view our current provision outline for self isolation <https://www.thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk/self-isolation-support/> and bubble closures <https://www.thebellbird.cambs.sch.uk/bubble-closure/>

Our plans have been signed off by the local authority and offer a mix of online time with the class teacher, time to complete activities and time to review learning with the teacher towards the end of the school day. We have only had one partial bubble closure so far but this model received positive feedback.

Was the school able to offer places for children of key workers during lockdown?

Yes, we were able to offer support for all key worker families during lockdown as soon as guidance allowed.

What does the school offer in terms of 'extra curricular' activities, for example languages, music lessons etc.?

Currently we have a company, Rockademy, who provide music lessons within the school day and parents liaise directly with them. Ordinarily, we run a wide range of extracurricular clubs before and after school which include: sports, knitting/ sewing, hula hoop, yoga, Bollywood dance etc. Once the covid situation has calmed and we can relax our risk assessment we will seek to re-engage with the adults who have previously provided these

clubs to get them re-established. We are constantly seeking possibilities for other clubs that may be of interest to our children.

How do you manage unwanted or difficult behaviour?

As a whole school we follow the STEPS approach to behaviour management which is mainly concerned around de-escalation techniques and strategies to prevent difficult situations arising. All Staff follow our behaviour policy for any general cases of difficult behaviour which outlines a clear set of guidelines of consistent sanctions used across the whole school, by all staff members. Some pupils may have individual behaviour plans which are shared with staff in order that children are managed consistently, and in more severe cases of behavioural difficulties we seek support from the Special Educational Needs Team in county. Parents are clearly an important part of this process and we would involve parents at an appropriate point when a child's behaviour became a concern.

What's your view on rewarding children for good behaviour?

As with our clear sanctions for unwanted behaviour, we also have systems in place to acknowledge good behaviour which could consist of good learning behaviour, politeness and respect to others, amongst many other things. We believe that children thrive when they understand what success looks like specifically, so staff are always very explicit in why a child might receive a reward. By being clear, other children can also understand how to be successful in their behaviour too and often make positive changes in their own behaviour as a consequence.

How do you deal with bullying?

Clearly bullying is not something we tolerate and much of our work in our PSHE lessons (Personal, Social, Health and Emotion) will be based around understanding what bullying is and how differently it can look, respect for others and how we might show this, understanding self and how our behaviours may affect others. Please do look on our website at the Curriculum policy for greater details of PSHE. If we have problems where bullying is suspected or any unpleasantness between pupils, the class teachers will address the situation in the first place, ensuring that all parties get a fair hearing. If the matter cannot be resolved in class then a member of the senior management team would become involved and parents of all children would be contacted so that a common plan of action can be agreed and shared. Monitoring would be ongoing until we were satisfied that the situation was totally resolved.

How much time do the youngest children spend outside?

As part of the EYFS curriculum of continuous provision, the children's learning in all areas across the day will have an element which takes place outside. So there is a fairly continuous flow of children in and out of the classroom. Some children may be working independently outside, to practise skills previously taught, or they may be working in a more specific, focussed group with an adult. There are specific times across the day at lunch and playtimes when the children will engage in free play in the outdoor area too.