



16th July 2021

## Final newsletter of the year

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

As it's the last newsletter of the year this one is a little longer than usual. On the second and third pages you will find a summary of the year's highlights from each year group. It is wonderful to read of all the successes and fabulous events, despite the challenges we have faced.

As we look back on the year, we find it is with mixed emotions. Whilst it has been incredibly challenging, and at points overwhelming, we are so incredibly proud of what we have achieved as a community.

It is staggering that as I write this, despite rising case numbers we have not had a bubble closure since the autumn term. We extend our warmest thanks to all of you; children, parents and staff for the additional support you have given us to achieve this. Your vigilance, support, care and understanding have not gone unnoticed.

The children have made great progress in their learning, despite the many changes to how we have had to deliver the curriculum. School staff have adapted their teaching with great success and parents and carers have juggled school and home commitments to help the children to continue to 'soar to success.' As we look towards next year we have plans to continue to close gaps from time away from school but also to continue to build our wonderful rich curriculum that the children love and the staff are passionate about, more on that overleaf.

As our year six children leave, they have as always been supported by their teachers, TAs and FABs to end the year in style. Due to covid restrictions things were a little different this year but we are confident they had a great time and won't forget their final weeks at primary school! On this note we must extend our thanks to all of the FABs committee for their continued support and a special thank you to Richard Banks who will be moving on as his youngest child flies The Bellbird nest. Richard your support over the years has been invaluable and we will always be grateful for the difference you have made for our children.

It wouldn't be an end of year newsletter without some goodbyes. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Miss English who is moving on to a new post, we wish her every success in her new role. We are also saying goodbye to Miss Barron and Mrs Clapp who are both moving on to teaching courses at the Faculty of Education in Cambridge (primary and secondary respectively). We are looking forward to welcoming them back for their first placements here at The Bellbird in the autumn term though. Miss Simonson is taking up a place at Cambridge University where, like all our leaving staff, we know she will continue to 'soar to success.' Finally, Mrs McGrane is leaving the kitchen team. She has cooked many, many wonderful meals for our children over the years and we wish her every success as she shifts her focus to baking more wonderful cakes! It isn't just children that spread their wings at The Bellbird!

We wish you all a very healthy and happy summer break. To our new families joining reception, we are excited to begin working with you in September. To our existing families we look forward to continuing to support your children in their learning. To our families leaving The Bellbird, thank you and good luck in your next steps.

Thank you for all your support.

**Best wishes,**

**Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney**



## Final newsletter of the year

### Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

#### Robins and Wrens

Reception children in Wrens and Robins have had a fantastic year of playful learning. After settling into School brilliantly the children started learning about various Celebrations. They loved watching Mrs Smith (who made an excellent Guy Fawkes) lighting a small fire inside the outdoor stove. Demonstrating a sensible understanding of fire safety and a keen interest in the history of Bon Fire Night. And Wrens and Robins loved dressing up in class to act out the Nativity Story. Upon returning to School in Spring Wrens and Robins children enjoyed planting potatoes, beans, sunflowers. They took touching care looking after the tadpoles in class and were fascinated watching these turn into little froglets. In the Summer Term Wrens and Robins looked at a range of African animals, explored African drumming and made their own African pots and mud huts. Even with the lock down (and thanks to excellent support from parents) Wrens and Robins children have made excellent progress with their Phonics, Literacy and Mathematics over the year and have demonstrated a friendly caring and affectionate nature towards each other. We are very proud of our Reception children for their wonderful work this year.

#### Sparrows and Wagtails

In Year one this year the children have thoroughly enjoyed their topics, particularly Toys and Transport. They enjoyed making peg dolls and miniature biplanes as 2 of their activities. They all loved the nonsense poem, The Owl and the Pussycat in Spring term and enjoyed creating their own equally ridiculous version! In the Autumn term, the Tiger who came to tea was a memorable unit, with the children really impressing the staff with their retelling skills. In our outdoor area, our capacity work (which involved lots of water play) was very popular and the children have been having lots of fun with their new play equipment. They have also been busy planting up some old tyres, growing plants from seed and looking for fungi during Science week. It's been lovely to see how much our in school learning has inspired so many creative homework pieces this year. Thank you to all the parents who sent them in.

#### Goldfinches and Skylarks

Throughout the year, the children in year two have impressed their teachers with their positive attitude to learning and their high levels of engagement with learning both in school and at home. In the autumn term the children loved playing the steel pans and singing the banana boat song in the outside area. To celebrate World Book Day in March the year two children must have felt very proud when they heard Joseph mention 'The Bellbird' and the names of some of the year two children. In the spring term, the children also learnt about the events that led up to and the impact of the Great Fire of London. They carefully used a range of techniques and materials to create their models of houses from London at the time. Recreating Pudding Lane around the pond area and singing 'London's Burning' was a truly magical moment. The children were also delighted to find that Mr Foster had built a wonderful outdoor area right outside their classrooms. He had included nearly all of the elements that the children had requested. We have some amazing den builders and are sure they can utilise these skills throughout the Summer holidays and beyond.



# Final newsletter of the year

## Key Stage Two

### Doves and Swallows

Year three have had a fantastic year, responding excellently to the challenges of lock down and beyond! Our topics of The Stone Age, Rainforests and The Romans led to quality story writing, non-chronological reports and the shared enjoyment of quality texts. In a creative year, the children have experienced weaving, pottery, mosaic tiles and pointillism painting on canvas to name a few. We also enjoyed developing our mathematical thinking skills on Maths Day, there are some great mathematicians in our year group. Well done Year three. We are very proud of you all and we know you will continue to soar to success in Year four.

### Nightingales and Swifts

What a fantastic year the children have had in Year four. It might not have been the most conventional year for the children but they have all achieved amazing things. We have enjoyed seeing the dedication to their learning both in school and out and loved watching them thrive under such testing times. As a year group, we have explored some pivotal historical subjects such as The Ancient Egyptians and the Anglo Saxons. The children have taken part in many creative activities such as making Mayan hot chocolate, creating their own Bayeux tapestries and designing their own key characters for new stories. We thank each and every one of you for your hard work and we look forward to seeing you on your learning journey in year five. Well Done!

### Kingfishers and Herons

Herons and Kingfishers are two fabulous classes and have both embraced every opportunity and adversity with energy and an impressive maturity throughout year five.

We have engaged in a wide range of activities and learning throughout the year. We have explored the bloody ambitions of Macbeth and the extraordinary fortitude of Shackleton and his 27 brave men. We have failed spectacularly to cook dampers over stoves, negotiated the Daily Mile as part of the post lockdown exercise regime and learned how to prepare and react to an earthquake (Drop, Cover, Hold, in case you need to know one day). We have debated the merits of plastics and studied the impact of Hiroshima. We have learned to survive on an island in Kensuke's Kingdom and explored caricatures through drama. We have even taken part in a world record attempt through the Young Voices programme. But above all, Herons and Kingfishers have been a thoughtful, considerate and caring cohort, blessed with endless curiosity and winning smiles.

### Eagles and Owls

What a busy and exciting year we have had in year six! There have been so many highlights of the year that it has been extremely hard to narrow them down to just a few. Our favourite class read of the year was "Holes" by Louis Sacher; we particularly loved how all of the mysteries come together at the end of the book and tied up all of the loose ends. We absolutely loved learning about World War One and World War Two in history lessons. It was fascinating to find out about life in the trenches, the Christmas Truce and the evacuation of the childhood population during the Blitz. Of course, nothing can top the incredible performance that the children put on in their production of Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies - the entire cast were phenomenal. We are so proud of all of the children in year six and we wish them all the best in their secondary schools.



## Final newsletter of the year

### **NEXT YEAR**

A few diary dates to get us all started!

### **Term dates**

#### **Autumn term 2021**

Professional Day: Wednesday September 1st 2021 (children not in school)

Term Starts: Thursday 2nd September 2021

Half term: 25th October – 29th October, 2021

Professional Day: Friday 19th November and Monday 22nd November 2021 (children not in school)

Autumn term ends: Friday 17th December 2021

#### **Spring term 2022**

Professional Day: Tuesday 4th January 2022 (children not in school)

Term starts: Wednesday 5th January 2022

Half term: 14th – 18th February 2022

Spring term ends: Friday 1st April 2022

#### **Summer term 2022**

Term Starts: Tuesday 19th April 2022

School holiday in lieu of jubilee: Friday 29th April 2022 (children not in school)

May Day bank holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022 (children not in school)

Half term: 30th May – 3rd June 2022

Summer term ends: Thursday 21st July 2022

Professional Day: Friday 22nd July 2022

### **PE Days**

PE days will be sent out by teachers in the new year. We will be continuing to ask children to come to school in their PE kit on PE days. No one will need to wear their PE kit on the first day back.

### **Meet the teacher**

We will have our meet the teacher days as follows

Monday 6th September: Year 3 at 3.30pm

Year 6 at 4.30pm

Tuesday 7th September: Year 2 at 3.30pm

Year 5 at 4.30pm

Wednesday 8th September: Year 1 at 3.30pm

Year 4 at 4.30pm

Wednesday 22nd September: Year Reception at 3.30pm

***More details to follow in the new term.***