



## Welcome back newsletter

### Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome your children back to school over the last two days. There is a wonderful buzz in the school. A feeling of community and togetherness that is everything about The Bellbird. Although we have only had two days so far, there have already been a wealth of opportunities to celebrate. New pupils have been welcomed by their peers across the school and it has been wonderful to see all the children settling in. Our new Reception children have made a fantastic start to their time at The Bellbird, there has been lots of drawing, painting, singing and reading. Break and lunchtimes have been a lovely experience as our children are able to mix with other year groups again and it has been heart warming to see this. We have also witnessed lots of kindness as the children help each other with new routines. Our school library is also back to running fully again and it has been great to see children choosing books and using the lovely seating area to enjoy some quiet reading time.

All of the children displayed exemplary behaviour in our first face to face assembly for over a year. It was truly lovely to have the school together. Following discussion with the Local Authority we are disappointed to inform you that we are not yet in a position where we are able to invite parents and carers in to school. We hope that over the coming months we will be able to invite you back to our Friday celebration assemblies and other events. We are keeping a close eye on case numbers locally and will inform you when this change is allowed. I'm sure you can understand our priority will be following health and safety guidance in regard to this.

Linked to this we are also unable to hold our meet the teacher events face to face as we had hoped to. Please find a document with zoom details for these meetings and a reminder of dates and times attached to this email. Should you need to talk to your child's teacher at any point, please email the school office. We will where possible communicate by phone however if meeting your child's teacher we will ask you to respect social distancing at all times. Your child's teacher may wear a mask (you can also choose to do so). We are sure you will support these efforts to keep everyone fit and well. Can we also ask you to make sure you wait on the playground areas away from your child's classroom and not directly outside the door. Classroom doors are open for ventilation, the teachers will bring the children out to you when they are ready at the end of the day. Ensuring you are stood back from the door means all parents can see their children and vice versa. Safety remains a priority in school, we still have a covid risk assessment which all staff are following. This prioritises ventilation and good hygiene. We will still be reminding the children to wash or sanitise their hands at key points in the day, before lunch and when using the toilet.

We do like to celebrate the children's birthdays at The Bellbird, and as we are now able to hold assemblies, we will reintroduce our weekly Happy Birthday song in our celebration assembly from next Friday. All children who have had a birthday in the previous 7 days are invited to join together at the front, whilst we sing to them. At the beginning of each year, all children make birthday cards in the classes and the 'birthday child' gets to choose one of these special cards on their birthday. In support of healthy eating we ask that you do not send sweets/ cakes etc in to school for your child's birthday as we will not be able to distribute these. In the past, some parents have chosen to buy a class book to send in with their child on their birthday, which can then be shared and kept in the class. This is a lovely idea, but obviously there is no expectation that children need to bring anything at all. Their birthday will be celebrated regardless!

Finally, we know it is useful to have a full list of dates in your diaries so do use the diary dates attached to fill up your calendar. We look forward to working with you and your children this academic year as we all continue to help the children to 'soar to success' in all that they do.

Best wishes

Mrs Kendall and Mrs Pentney