


BELLS FARM PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



September 2014
Issue 9
Monthly

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Welcome Back - Aiming for Excellence!



*Enjoying our learning...
...aiming for excellence.*

Welcome from the Headteacher

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. Such a lot has been going on over the last three weeks we are wondering where the time has gone! Further to my letters earlier in the term, here are a few more updates.

Uniform

Thank you all for your great efforts in ensuring that your children come to school in uniform every day. I have spoken to some of the older children in particular about coming to school in their black shoes and then changing at break and lunch time into trainers if they so wish. It is important that children do not come into school in their trainers as, understandably, other parents will



EXCELLENCE:
Our Year 4
children

wonder whether we have changed the rules. Thank you for supporting us in this.

The new National Curriculum

There have been many changes in the curriculum this year for your children, as the government have

changed the National Curriculum from September 2014. Some of the headline changes are the teaching of French in years 3 to 6; the change to assessment (no more levels after next year! Our current Year 6 and Year 2 are the last classes ever to receive SATs levels from 1 to 5.); Computing; and

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Hard work rewarded in our Star Assembly

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Aiming for Excellence!

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higher expectations in both English and Maths in each year group. We will be organising a meeting for all parents and carers who are interested in finding more out about the new curriculum.

A letter will be following shortly. In the meantime, if you visit the website, click on the Curriculum maps on the home page to have an overview of your child(ren)'s curriculum for the year, plus a curriculum statement we have put together for your information.



SMILING COOKS: Miss Davis and Miss Lakin

Free school meals

I am pleased to report that the provision of free school meals to all children in reception and key stage one has got off to a cracking start.

The standard of cooking by Miss Davis and her team is as excellent as ever, and the children have been enjoying delicious and nutritious meals every day. Their behaviour in the dining hall is just

as we expect it to be and so far we have not encountered problems.

Thanks to all the staff on duty at this time as well as our sensible children for helping everything go smoothly!

Assembly Stars!

We had our first Star assembly of the year last week and the following children gained a place in the Star Book:

Class	Child
Puffins	Khaltum Farah
Toucans	Sophie Swain - Stevenson
Bluebirds	Carley Chetwynd
Robins	Willow Chadney
Kestrels	Jacy Mear
Eagles	Kaitlyn Horton
Sports Star of the week	Reece Andrews (Eagles)

Well done to all of these children for their wonderful work and attitude in and out of school. We look forward to the next Star Assembly on Friday 3rd October. If your child is picked to be a star, we will notify you by text by the Thursday morning at the latest.



Sophie, Khaltum and Carley

Jacy and Kaitlyn

Willow and Reece

Year 3 Bluebirds enjoy Seaside holidays workshop

On 15th September the Bluebirds enjoyed a visit from Freshwater Theatre Company. The whole class took part in a fantastic workshop about seaside holidays in the past and they all learned a lot of new information to help them with their topic this half term. Have a look at their blog to see more photos and find out some interesting facts about how holidays have changed over the years.

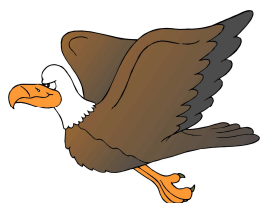
Kitchen rolls appeal

Bluebirds are collecting empty kitchen roll tubes (not toilet rolls). If you have any we would be very grateful if you could send them in to us. Thank you!



Year 6 Eagles trip

The Year 6 trip to the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer is fast approaching. Letters have been sent out to all parents and carers but not all acceptances have been received. This is a reminder to return your acceptance slip and £5.00 deposit (if you haven't already done so) as soon as possible so the trip can be booked. It is an amazing opportunity for your children to take part in a range of outdoor activities such as; High Ropes, Abseiling, Fencing and Archery. If you have any questions or concerns please come and see me.



Breakfast and After School club

We would like to remind parents that fees must be paid weekly/monthly, please put fees into an envelope with your child's name, amount paid and date on the front and post in the collection box.

Breakfast club - £2.00 per morning 8.00am until 8.50am.

After School club £3.00 per hour from 3.00pm until 6.00pm

Twenty four hours' notice is required for cancellations and at



least a weeks' notice is required for session changes.

There are no spaces in either club at this present time.



Bells Farm IT update



On this page we will keep you up-to-date with any ICT news from our school, and highlight any general ICT and e-Safety issues that may affect you or your child.

Promote online safety in the family



Ground Rules

Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what information should be kept private (such as personal information, photos etc) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

Discuss using strong passwords with your child so they understand how they can protect their online accounts. It's important they know they need to keep their passwords safe and not share them with anyone or use the same password for several accounts. If your child's account is "hacked" or compromised then make sure they change their password and report any concerns or suspicious activity.

Antivirus

Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact. Always remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Location

Consider locating your computers and laptops in a family area where children's online activity can be monitored or supervised.

Always supervise the use of webcams and any applications or devices which allow voice or video chat. Also consider the use and location of other devices your child's uses which allow internet access such as mobile phones and games consoles.

Visit www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide for safety information about consoles and devices.

Dialogue

Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together with your child can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.

Always ensure your child knows how to block and report people online who may send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply and to keep any evidence.

Location

See our website for more information www.bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk



Professor McGinty visits Bells Farm

Year 6 recently received a visit from the eccentric Professor McGinty. He's a time travelling detective, and he came along with his mobile museum to kick start our topic this year "What Britain and the 20th Century has done for us".

He was amazing and so entertaining. He taught us all about the 1st and

2nd World Wars. Various artefacts were passed around such as; gas masks and ration books, and the children were allowed to handle weapons (not in working order of course!)

It was an amazing morning and we now have a wealth of knowledge to use in our topic work and writing.

The Robins are settling in well to their new habitat



We have been learning all about 'Where in the World' we live. The children have produced some excellent work which I am sure will continue to impress everyone throughout the year.

We would love it if you could keep an eye on what we are doing on our class blog and comment on some of

our posts. Later this term we will have 2 weeks of swimming lessons and will go on a trip to the Lickey Hills.

Robins Blog

Can I remind Robins and their par-

ents that you should read every night and sign your reading diary as well as working on your spellings in your spelling journals.

An excellent start to the year Robins, keep up the enthusiasm.

Peer Mediators

Well done to our Bells Farm Peer Mediators who did an amazing job showing all the children their new role in assembly on Monday. They have all worked really hard in their new roles and are a credit to our school and parents / carers.

Well done and keep up the good work in the playground, you are doing a great job!!

Thank you from a very proud Mrs Johnson.



Reminders from the office



The office no longer holds any school uniform. All uniform can be purchased from the Tesco website.

As you can imagine the office is a very busy place, if you have money in an envelope or letters/forms to hand in please do so at 8.50am when the doors open and use the post box in the foyer which is emptied every morning.

We are having an overwhelming amount of phone calls at the end

of the school day asking the office staff to go and pass messages to children from parents. We understand that sometimes this is unavoidable but please ensure you have spoken to your child in the morning about any arrangements you have made for them after school.

If you have not returned your personal data forms, home school agreement or ethnicity forms, please can you do so asap.

Macmillan coffee morning



**Friday 26th Sept in the school dining hall
9-11 o'clock all welcome, cake and drink
£1.00 donation**

Donations of cakes would be welcome too!

Read about our school values on our 'Values Blog'.

Go to our Class Blogs section of the school website.



SPORTS NEWS

Kings Norton District 7 a side Boys

Football 17th September 2014

The boys 7 a side football team narrowly missed qualifying for the finals of the Kings Norton District boys 7 a side

football tournament. They played extremely well and displayed a very good team spirit against some tough opposition. A very promising start to the season.

Many thanks to all who supported the event.
Mr Gill - Sports Teacher

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Updates

The new code of practice for SEN came into force in June this year. Bells Farm now has an SEN tab on the website that you can click on to find out information about how we support children with additional needs. More will be added on our new website coming soon.

Phonics Crazy!

Y1, 2 and 3 are going phonic crazy!! From next week we will be having phonic sessions every morning Monday to Thursday from 9 – 9.30am. We appreciate any support you can give your child in helping them to read. To enable you to help at home we suggest some of the following – www.phonicsplay.co.uk plus any

phonics games on the BBC website (cbeebies or bitesize) Have fun!

A letter was sent to parents last week about the phonics. Can we just point out a mistake. 'Mrs Brown' should have read Mrs Jones! Apologies to her and to you for the mistake!



COMING SOON A NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE



Term Planner

Date	Events
22nd September to 3rd October	Y5 Swimming
6th October—17th October	Y4 Swimming
8th October	School Photos—details to follow
8th October	Reception Class eye test with school nurse
27th October—	Half term—school closed
4th November	Reception Class Open Day 2015
13th November	Parents Evening—details to follow
9th December 5pm—6.30pm	Christmas Workshop
11th December	Christmas Lunch for children and Senior Citizens
16th December—9.30am	Reception Nativity
18th December	Christmas parties for the children
19th December 9.30am	Carol Service
20th December	Christmas Holidays—School Closed

After School Clubs

3.00pm- 4.00pm	
Monday	Gymnastics Club Years 4-6 Film Club Years 4-6
Tuesday	IT & Computing Years 3-6 Homework Club Years 4-6 Library Years 4-6 Football Years 3-4
Wednesday	IT & Computing Years 3-6 Hockey Years 4-6
Thursday	Sewing Club Years 4-6 Craft Club Years 1-3 Multiskills Years 1-3
Friday	Football Years 5-6 Dance Years 4-6



Value Words

This Term

Respect
Tolerance
Peace
Thoughtfulness