

BELLS FARM PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



May 2014
Issue 6
Monthly

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Year 6 focus on end of key stage assessments



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



DEDICATION: Year 6 students working during Easter School

Want to see more pictures of this event?
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Welcome back to the Summer term – how quickly this year has flown!

The children made a fantastic start to the term last week, and have settled quickly into their learning. It is a particularly busy time for year 2 and year 6 as they continue to prepare for their end of key stage assessments and we feel confident that their hard work will pay off. There was an amazing turnout

for the year 6 Easter School with 21 of the children giving up the chance of a lie-in for the first week! It is appropriate that our value word for May is PERSEVERANCE!

Thank you for your continued support in making sure your children are well-prepared for their tests this week..

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Year 3 and Year 6 do some Spring Gardening

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Planting and fencing for Spring gardening

Want to see more pictures of this event?
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Spring has arrived, and at last we are able to get outside and start to plant up our vegetable beds. This year, we have used the profits from the farm shop, to buy in a series of baby plants, rather than grow them from seed, as we did last year.

We have used a company called 'Rocket Gardens' who deliver the plants at the ideal stage for planting out and, more importantly, they should also be ready for harvesting during term time rather than in the middle of the holidays!

We also, thanks to Health For Life, have new fence around the growing area. This is a living willow fence, which will continue to sprout shoots and soon become more of a hedge than

a fence. It will help keep the vegetable beds separate to the playground, whilst still allowing the children access. Well done to Mr Evans for planting up the fence and so carefully (and beautifully) weaving the canes.

The gardening club have already been very active in weeding and preparing the beds for planting, so well done Year 6 for all the hard work so far.

We sincerely hope that the plants thrive and flourish, and trust that we will once again be able to open our farm shop with the crops (and eggs), which we have grown ourselves. We will also keep an eye on the vegetables we can pickle or fruits we can turn into jam as the year progresses.



Bells Farm win district football tournament



Bells Farm has won the Small Schools trophy - a competition for schools in the Kings Norton district.

We played matches at home and away against Princethorpe, St Mary's CE and The Orchards and came out on top! . We are so

proud of the whole team. Here is the roll of honour:

- Jervay Beech
- Alex Jones
- Jaabir Farah
- Klaudiusz Zdulski
- Reece Andrews

- Leyton Langstone
- Jacob Larcombe
- Jamie Parker
- Levi Moulton

We will be getting the trophy in the next two weeks to add to our silverware. Well done Bells Farm!

After School Clubs

After schools clubs have once again proved extremely popular with the children and we are sorry if your child was disappointed this time round in not securing a place. The teachers and coaches are working hard to keep widening the possibilities for clubs, and we will be working with School Council to find the best ways forward for next year and to keep improving the provision.





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REMINDER

ICT After School Club
Every Tuesday 3pm
Computing After School Club
Every Wednesday 3pm

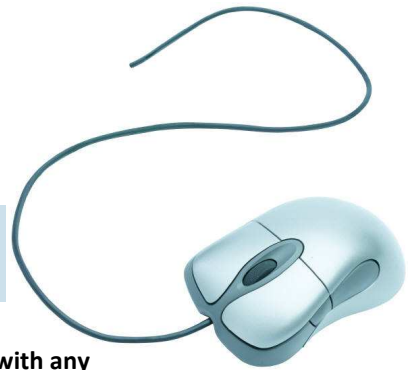
Mathletics for Year 5

Following the success of our Early Bird sessions for year 6 on Mathletics, we are opening this invitation to year 5 children after half term. Mathletics is an online program in which the children complete maths activities and play maths games - often competing against children around the world! It has proved to be highly successful in improving children's maths skills. The sessions will be on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8.30 am. A letter will follow next week.

Access anywhere, anytime!

Your child has a Mathletics username and password, they can use it in school or at home. Parents and carers should encourage their child to use Mathletics at home to improve their numeracy skills. If you need further details on accessing Mathletics at home, please ask your child to see Mr Baddhan.

Bells Farm ICT 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.

The screenshot displays the Mathletics interface. At the top, it says "Operation with Number - Adding Colossal Columns". Below this, a question asks "What is my sum?" with a math problem:
$$\begin{array}{r} 249 \\ + 36 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
 The answer "285" is shown in green boxes with a green checkmark. A timer shows 45 seconds. Below the timer is a progress bar for the equation $2 + 3 = 5$. A leaderboard shows scores for various users: Xander R (8), Mega Brain (6), Brainiac (10), and Average (6). At the bottom, there are buttons for "GO", "M", and "Computer Challenge" (High Score 72). A "Class Challenge" section shows "Online 22" and a "Human Calculator" section with a "Raging Rookie" badge.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Reports

The children's reports will be going out after half term – by 9th June at the latest. You will also have the opportunity to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher on the 12th June should you wish to discuss the report.



New staff

Welcome to Miss Williams (pictured left), our new year 1 class teacher. Welcome also to Miss Drennan who has joined Mrs Sabir in year 2 for the summer term to strengthen our key stage 1 team further.

Reminders from the office

Please make sure you phone the office if your child is absent for any reason. If we do not hear from you, we



then have to make contact with you straight away. If we are unable to contact you on the numbers held in the office, we will then conduct a "safe and well" check at home. This is in the interests of safeguarding. Please ensure that you keep us updated with any change of contact details. Many thanks.

Please ensure that all monies are given to the office in a sealed envelope with your child's details on the front. Can you please make sure that dinner monies are paid on a Monday morning **every week** (£10.25 per week) for your child.

As clubs have started now, please ensure you collect your child on time.

PE Kit

Just in case you are doing some early shopping for September, we have made the decision to keep the future PE kit very simple. For new or replacement kits, a plain white t-shirt, blue or black shorts and black pumps should be worn. We do not expect you to replace the present house colour kit until your child is ready for a new one.

Trips and Visits

As you know we are trying to make sure that all children get as much opportunity as possible to go on curricular trips and visits. We have heavily subsidised all trips, as we appreciate that money can be tight – especially if you have more than one child! However, a contribution payment plan can

be arranged - please just ask at the office.

We appreciate all the support you have given to help ensure that the curriculum remains rich and wide through these visits, but as you will appreciate we may have to cancel a trip if insufficient contributions are received.

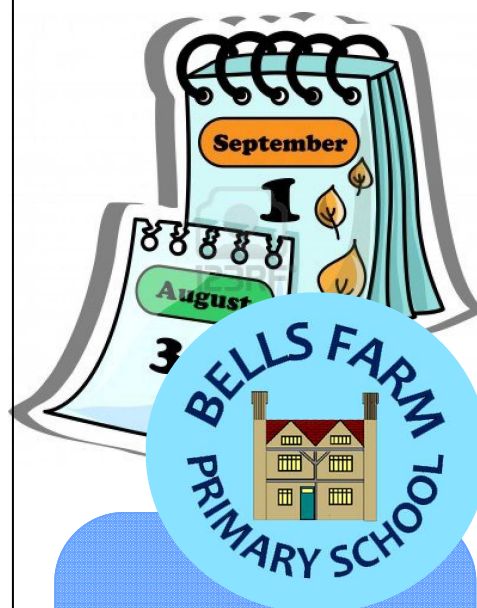
Term Planner

Date	Events
	Farm shop available for produce every Monday 3pm – 3.15pm Parent Volunteer to Y6,Y5 and Y4 for gardening every Tuesday afternoons
12th May	SATs week Year 6
14th May	Wed - Y5 Cricket: Moseley 10 – 2pm
14th May	Wed - Y3/4 Golf: Tidbury Green Golf Course (after school)
19th May	Mon – Y6 transition travel workshop
22nd May	Thu – Closed – Elections
2nd June	Fri – School reports out to parents
9th June	Thurs – Parents’ evening (optional - if you wish to discuss your child’s report)
13th June	Fri – Y6 First aid workshop
16th June	Year 1 phonics screening test throughout the week
19th June	Thurs - Year 4 peer mediation training
27th June	Fri - Sports Day
30th June	Y5 Bikeability all week
1st July	Tue – Full GB meeting
3rd July	Thurs – Year 4 peer mediation training
7th-8th July	New Reception induction
9th July	Wed – Y6 & Y5 to Symphony Hall Music Festival
18^h July	Fri – Last day of term

We break up on Friday 18th July. Children return to school after the holiday on Thursday 4th September.

After School Clubs

3.00pm- 4.00pm	
Monday	Athletics Year 3-6
Tuesday	Cookery – Year 3 ICT – Year 3-6 Art – Reception, Y1, Y2 Choir – Year 3-6 Gardening – Year 6
Wednesday	Multiskills – Year 1-3 Computing – Year 5-6 Gaelic – Year 3-6
Thursday	French Year 1-6 Art – Year 5-6
Friday	Tennis – Year 4-6



Value Words This Term

May - Perseverance
June - Happiness
July - Hope