



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

Bells Farm Primary School
Bells Farm Close, Druids Heath
Birmingham B14 5YG
Tel: 0121 675 8666
Headteacher: Miss T Williams

Value word for January: Tolerance

Behaviour for Learning focus: Independence

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back! I do hope you had a wonderful holiday and are feeling fully refreshed and ready for the new year that's ahead of us. The children are already settled and learning and have made a wonderful start to the new year in their classes. You have received the class newsletters today along with the Knowledge Organisers for our wider curriculum subjects. These are to keep you fully informed on the curriculum being taught in school and to enable you to support your child at home. I will also be updating the curriculum maps for the website next week so you will be able to look, in detail, at what your child will learn in every subject this term.

In school we are very excited to be beginning to be beginning 2025, as we have two new Assistant Heads in place from this term; Mrs Moore and Mrs Hudson. Myself and Mrs Hudson will be available each morning on the back door and Mrs Moore and Miss Hackett will be available each morning on the front door. Mrs Johnson will continue to be around at the beginning of the school day, but she is often needed to support individual children more than she is to speak with parents. As always, please bring any queries or concerns to us on the doors in the morning and we will hopefully be able to solve these for you.

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Swans – 92%

Puffins – 100%

Toucans – 97%

Bluebirds – 87%

Robins – 95%

Kestrels – 97%

Eagles – 93%

Well done to Puffins – **100%** won them the roll on Classopoly!

Medical

We are currently reviewing our medical paperwork and hope to make the consent form for medication more manageable for the future. Please remember, you must fill this form in when bringing medication into school in order for us to administer the medicine correctly.

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Our school nurse visited this week and shared some information we thought would be very useful for parents to know. They run a virtual drop-in clinic every Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 – 5:50. You can find a poster for this service in our noticeboard at the front of school. There is also a poster for 'Chat Health' in the noticeboard. This is a confidential text service which you can use for direct contact with the school nurse regarding health advice. This number is 07480635485 and can be used during working hours. Any messages sent outside these hours, will still be received and responded to. I thought this was an excellent service and definitely worth sharing with you. This does not replace a GP appointment and is more aimed towards longer term health advice or concerns.

Please do keep up updated if there is anything new developing with your child. Sometimes children can develop allergies, asthma or other medical conditions as they grow. If your child is being tested for any of these or anything else we need to be aware of in school then please do let us know.

The final medical reminder is to ensure we have a contact on your child's file who is contactable during the school day. If you wish to update or share a new contact for your child, please do so with the school office in person, by phone or by using the school app.

Clubs

The letter with information about new clubs starting Monday 20th January was sent out this year. You will be notified if your child has been given a place in a club when they have been allocated.

My Happy Mind

This term we start a new unit in My Happy Mind called 'Appreciate'. This unit is designed to support the children to develop 'an attitude of gratitude'. Please remember you can find more details about this program by downloading the app. You can find details of this on the noticeboards at the front and back of school. If you need any support with this, please catch me on the door in the morning and I would be happy to advise.

Updates

The new year brings some exciting new changes at Bells Farm, including changes to our homework policy and our behaviour policy.

We are currently revising our behaviour policy, taking into account feedback from the children, yourselves as parents and staff. We will share the full copy of the new policy, and a new shortened version with you, when these documents have been finalised.

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For now, the major updates for you to be aware are as followed.

Behaviour Policy

Our behaviour badge system will be adapted slightly. The children enjoy receiving their coloured badge as recognition of having demonstrated positive behaviour for a whole half term. However, we appreciate it can be difficult to remove badges and put them on school jumpers again! We are also aware that the children often lose their badge and can then become upset that it has been lost, and be concerned that they won't receive their end of year shield because of this.

We have therefore decided to move to a sticker system, which will remain in school on the 'Good to be Green' chart. At the end of each half term, each child who has sustained good behaviour (no more than one red and yellow or three yellow cards) will receive a sticker on this chart and a certificate which goes home so you as parents are aware they have received this reward. The stickers will be used to track who receives the behaviour shield in assembly at the end of the year.

The relationship between home and school is vital, as we know, and never more so than when working to improve a child's behaviour. In our policy, it does state that following being issued three red cards, parents will be invited in to a meeting with myself and the class teacher to discuss behaviour and further support that can be put in place in school to improve the behaviour. This meeting is intended to be a supportive process for all involved, in order for the child to have the best outcomes.

Previously we have had face-to-face conversations with parents at the end of the day when a child has been issued a red card. We are aware that as parents this can sometimes be uncomfortable; there is nowhere private in the playground to have these conversations and sometimes it is extremely busy as the teacher will often be dismissing the class at the same time. We have decided that from this term all parents will be notified of a red card via a phone call. This phone call will happen as close to the time of the event occurring as is possible. The member of staff who issued the red card will make the phone call or will pass all of the relevant information on to the class teacher so that they can make the phone call. This phone call is simply to inform you of the event that led them to receiving a red card and will also mean that parents can have a conversation with their child as we are doing in school so that the children see parents and school are working together with the same goal in mind. If a child receives their third red card, you will then be invited in for a meeting as described above. These phone calls and meetings are not meant in any way to be a negative experience for parents or for children. It is important that school and home work together to ensure each child can learn in an environment where they can be happy and safe.

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We are also moving towards having the same reward in all classes for when children receive a gold card. From Monday, children who end the day with a gold card will be rewarded with a raffle ticket. These raffle tickets will be entered into a draw every Friday where all lucky winners will visit my office to choose a special prize. We hope to keep a good balance of rewards and verbal praise in order to motivate all children.

Homework Policy

As you will be aware from the consultation I shared with you before all the holidays, homework is slightly changing for all classes from this term. Homework will continue to be issued every Friday and must be returned into school by the following Wednesday. We would strongly suggest all children complete this homework, as the homework has been designed as practice activities of new concepts the children have learned in school. By consolidating these new skills at home, you will be supporting your child's learning and ensuring they don't fall behind their peers.

We discussed as a staff our new reward system for 'Good to be Green' which involves raffle tickets. Every child that completes the homework and returns into school by Wednesday will receive a raffle ticket for doing so. For paper based homework, they will receive a raffle ticket for both pieces (English and maths) and if they choose to complete the online homework as well they will receive an extra raffle ticket for this. This means there will be a total of three raffle tickets rewarded for the gold draw each Friday for homework that is completed. If your child struggles to complete their homework at home, then please do apply for a place in homework club which will commence every Friday from 24th January

Sweets

For some time now in school, we have been discussing the pros and cons of allowing children to bring in sweets to celebrate their birthday. I did highlight these to parents below in a previous letter last year.

We discussed this again as a staff and, in the interest of promoting being healthy, we have decided that from now on children will no longer be permitted to bring birthday sweets into school to share with their class. I know this may not be a popular decision but it really will reduce stress for lots of families and help the children to be a little healthier... every little helps!

Instead, from now on, the children can wear their **own clothes** into school on their birthday! They may wear anything that would be normally permitted on a non-uniform day (no jewellery or high heels!) and we hope this will be a nice way of them being special for the day in the classroom. It will also mean that everyone around school will recognise it is their birthday. If your child's

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birthday is in the holidays or at the weekend, they may have their special own clothes day on the first day back after their birthday.

We are considering other ways of celebrating the children's birthdays in school and will keep you informed of any updates or changes as they occur. Thank you for your understanding with this.

All the information I have shared with you above, was also shared with the children in assembly today and they were all very excited about the changes!

Reminders

- Toast must be booked via the school app. We are unable to accept cash for this so please remember to book if your child wants to continue to have toast. There is a little glitch in the system which will be solved on Monday and you will be able to book for the rest of the year as and when you wish to.
- Please remember you book your child's lunch! You will receive a reminder text if you haven't booked from now on.
- If your child has any new school uniform items, please ensure they are all labelled. Our lost property is already full of unclaimed items with no name.

Kind regards,
Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Friday 17 th January	Young Voices	Choir and Y5 – letters sent
Monday 27 th January	Y2 Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Friday 7 th February	SEN Coffee Morning	Letter to follow
Monday 10 th February	Reception Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Friday 7 th March	Great Fire of London Workshop - Year 2	In school
Monday 17 th March	Book Fair	Details to follow
Friday 21 st March	King Edward's School visiting for music performance	In school

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