



**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 September: Respect
Behaviour for Learning focus: Pride

Dear Parent / Carer,

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Puffins – 95%

Toucans – 96%

Bluebirds – 97%

Robins – 97%

Kestrels – 98%

Eagles – 95%

Star Assembly

Star assembly is always a happy occasion and I really enjoyed seeing the children, families and staff this morning celebrating these wonderful children:

Y6 – Yusuf and Haniya

Y5 – Alexis and Ollie

Y4 – Harijs and Ethan

Y3 – Aisha and Ollie

Y2 – Braxton and Bemenet

Y1 – Gwen and Khaleel

Star of the School – Aidan Y3

Well done to all of these fantastic children for setting excellent examples of our learning behaviours.

SEND Coffee Morning

Thank you to those parents who joined us for this event. It really was lovely to see so many of you! We will be holding more coffee mornings this year, all with a different focus, as all the agencies who came yesterday were very keen to come back and work with you.

My Happy Mind Parent Workshop

Following on from the recent success we have had with parent events, we are going to be running a parent workshop for you to find out more about our 'My Happy Mind' programme. This will run in the school hall on 11th November at 3:00. It will be an opportunity to find out more about what

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and how your child will learn as well as have a full demonstration of the parent app and how you might use it. You are more than welcome to come along whether you are already using the app or haven't even downloaded it yet! I will send a reminder of this event closer to the time.

Holidays

It is really important, as per our attendance policy, that you complete a form requesting leave for a holiday. As you will be aware from my previous communications, I am unable to authorise these holidays under the new framework 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance', but you must still inform us if your child is going away. We always appreciate parents being honest with us and it is important your child knows it is ok to talk about where they have been. Please remember that children will often tell their teachers and friends when they have returned from holiday – regardless of whether they are supposed to or not!

Holiday forms are available from the school office. I would like to remind you that school does strongly recommend that you try, wherever possible, to avoid taking a holiday in term time. I have previously shared with you our attendance policy which sets out the reasons why taking children on holiday during term time can be extremely harmful to their education. Every time a child misses a day in school, that is a days' worth of learning that will likely not be covered again. Children with poor attendance struggle to learn new concepts due to being in and out of school.

A holiday taken is an extended period of time, can impact them educationally even more than poor attendance. This will mean they have missed at least one lesson for each of the foundation subjects, which have been carefully and sequentially designed and planned. For English and maths, it often means they have missed a whole unit of work which will need to be caught up in order that for them to build on for future units. This causes huge issues for teachers, teaching assistants and other children in the class who have to lose time with the teacher so that these gaps can be filled.

I do understand, as I have said before, that as a parent it is extremely difficult to afford a holiday during the school holidays. This is a frustrating system we are all in but I do hope you will take into account the reasons above when deciding whether to take a holiday during school time.

Medical Appointments

Guidance has been provided from Birmingham Local Authority this week about what can be accepted as proof of a medical appointment. The list below is what was shared with us and we **can and will** authorise absence for medical appointments if we receive one of the items below:

- Medical appointment card with one appointment entered

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- Letter from a professional such as a hospital Consultant or Psychologist
- Evidence of a consultation with NHS 111
- Medication prescribed by a GP
- Copy of prescription
- Print screen of medical notes
- Letters concerning hospital appointments
- Slip with date, pupils name and surgery stamp, signed by Receptionist

Items from Home

This term we have had a lot of children bringing in items from home that they really should not be bringing. I would therefore like to ask that you support the school in preventing your child from bringing in items from home. The reason this policy is in place is so that items don't get lost, broken or left behind and we have already had a few cases of upset in the last month due to this. I would therefore like to remind you that the following items should not be brought into school:

- Toys
- Fidget toys
- Keyrings
- Books
- Pencil cases
- Cuddly toys
- Food that is not part of their lunch (sweets, chocolate etc)

If there is a particular reason that you feel your child needs to bring one of these objects into school, then please come and have a conversation with me in the morning on the back door.

There may be particular occasions where teachers ask for children to bring in something specific to aid learning in class. If this has been authorised by a teacher, then this is absolutely fine for your child to do so.



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Reminders

- The flu Immunisation Team will be joining us on the Tuesday.
- Please continue to book your child's lunch.
- Look out for the reply slip for your child's parents' evening slot. It may be that you do not receive the exact time that you asked for, so please do check with the school office if you have not received your time by the end of next week.

Kind regards,
Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Tuesday 15 th October	Flu immunisation	Letter sent
Monday 21 st October	Y1 Reading and Phonics Workshop	9:10 – 10:30 in school hall
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening	Details to follow
Thursday 7 th November	Open day	For children starting Reception in September 2025
Monday 11 th November	Y5 Maths Parent Workshop (morning)	Details to follow
Monday 11 th November	My Happy Mind Workshop 3:00	Details above
Tuesday 12 th November	School photos	Details to follow
Monday 18 th November	Year 6 Maths Parent Workshop	Details to follow
Monday 25 th November	Year 2 Maths Parent Workshop	Details to follow
Monday 25 th November	Year 4 Maths Parent Workshop (2:30)	Details to follow
Monday 2 nd December	Year 3 Maths Parent Workshop	Details to follow
Monday 9 th December	Theatre Trip Palace Redditch Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	Letter to follow
Wednesday 11 th December	Theatre Trip Mac Rec and Yr1	Letter to follow
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Fayre	Details to follow
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Production Christmas jumper day Class parties	Letter to follow

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