



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: Responsibility
Behaviour for Learning focus: Pride

Dear Parent / Carer,

I would like to begin by sharing the following information with you. Due to a change in personal circumstances, Mr Ball will be leaving Bells Farm in September. He would like to thank all staff, parents and children for their support over the last 12 months and wishes everyone the best in the future.

All staff, including myself, are working even harder to cover the roles that Mr Ball leaves behind to ensure the children are not impacted in any way. I am also working closely with our Chair of Governors, Jill Hughes, to plan for the future and we hope to have further information regarding this position to share with you shortly.

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Puffins – 95%

Toucans – 95%

Bluebirds – 93%

Robins – 94%

Kestrels – 96.3%

Eagles – 96.1%

Star Assembly

This week was our very first star assembly of the year and I really enjoyed seeing the children, families and staff this morning celebrating these wonderful children:

Y6 – Oliver and Miles

Y5 – Ayah and Frankie

Y4 – Lorise and Joshua

Y3 – Ryleigh and Matt

Y2 – Ellis and Forrest

Y1 – Max and Paris

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

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Lunch

Thank you for those parents who have managed to get back into the habit of booking their child's school lunch so quickly. It really is much appreciated by our admin team and classroom staff as the children's learning day can begin sooner. I'd like to remind all parents that if you do not book your child's lunch, they will automatically be defaulted to option one on the school menus. If you know your child is a picky eater, or have dietary requirements, it is vital that you sit down with them and book their lunches. It would be really useful, as soon as we have been through the full three weeks and your child knows which options they enjoy, if you could book in advance for the remainder of the term. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

A few parents have recently asked about halal meats. Last year we did investigate further (again, due to parental requests) the possibility of offering Halal rather than treating our children who only eat Halal meat as vegetarians. However, we discovered this is unfortunately something we are not able to offer due to the size of our kitchen facilities. Halal meat needs to be prepared separately, with use of separate utensils, ovens and equipment. Due to the size of our kitchen and cooking facilities, unfortunately this would simply not be possible. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to look at options as and when new ways to provide this occur. In the meantime, we do try to provide a variety of vegetarian options. We are always keen for ideas on improving our school lunches, and would welcome suggestions to improve our offer.

We are hoping this year to have a bigger focus on healthy choices. You may have noticed that our menus includes a Meat-free Monday. This was designed with the idea in mind that all children explore a wider variety of food. There is a lot of research which proves that not eating meat at least one day a week helps the environment and improves our health. We do hope you support us with moving forward with this and will be consulting both parents and children regarding their thoughts and ideas as we move into the next half term.

Medical appointments

As part of the updated guidance from the Department for Education, school now has even more responsibility to ensure that every child attends school, every day, unless they are ill or there are other exceptional circumstances. Today you will receive the document overviewing our policy on attendance and another with our behaviour policy. It is crucial that you read this attendance document to help us to ensure your child's good attendance.

At Bells Farm, our pastoral offer is strong and this was highlighted in our Ofsted in February. It was wonderful to see so many parents join us for our Meet the Team meetings this week. Miss

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Hackett works with families to support at times of need, and this includes anyone who is struggling with their child's attendance.

If your child has a medical appointment, we must now have evidence of this to store in your child's folder at school. This evidence might include: a letter inviting them to the hospital or for a different sort of assessment, a dental card with the appointment time and date on or proof of any appointments arranged via email. If we do not receive this proof of the appointment, your child may be marked as unauthorised absence rather than attending medical appointment. When children attend medical appointments and we have proof that they have done so, we are able to mark them as medical on the register and this does not then count in their end of year attendance figures. At times we understand medical appointments come without written confirmation, but you are able to ask for some sort of proof of their appointment when you attend. Again, thank you for your cooperation with this new government guidance.

Collection Arrangements

The children have all settled well into their new classrooms. At the end of the day when you arrive to pick up your child up, we would politely ask that you don't stand too close to the classrooms and distract the children from their activities by waving or approaching the school the windows. Lessons do not end in class until 3:25 at the earliest, and following this, the classroom environment is extremely busy whilst the children collect all of their belongings for home time. We would really appreciate it if you could remain a little further back from the classroom doors and windows until the teachers open them. Thank you.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding all our children at all points during the school day is our top priority. Those parents who are new to us will not be as familiar with our Arrivals and Collections policy and therefore I would just like to draw attention to a few key facts from that policy in this letter. You can find a copy of the full policy on our school website along with all of our other policies and these have now been updated.

- *At the end of the school day, children will leave via their assigned door. Children will leave once a member of staff has seen a parent/carer.*
- *If parents/carers wish to speak to a member of staff, they will need to wait until all the children have been dismissed or make an appointment via the school office.*
- *It is the policy of the school that no person under the age of 14 years can collect a child without a previous agreement and at the discretion of the Headteacher.*

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- You must inform the school office if you are going to be late as soon as possible. Children who haven't been collected by 3:35 will be taken to the school office where they will wait and parents will be contacted.
- Late children will go to ASC and parents will be charged for this. This also applies after clubs; any child not collected by 4:20 will be considered late for collection and the same procedures will apply.
- In the event of a child not being collected by 6:00 Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) and/or the police will be notified of a non-collection and the matter will be handed over to their care.
- In no circumstances should a child be taken by a person not known by the school.

At this time of year, teachers are trying really hard to get to know a lot of new faces! Our policy states that a child will not be released until a teacher has spotted the collecting adult, called the child and then watched them meet that adult. Obviously, as teachers take time to become more familiar with parents, there may be some delay in children reaching you. Please do be patient and respectful of staff during this time. We do hope you understand the safeguarding reasons behind all of the procedures above.

Access to our educational applications online

We're excited to share that Wonde has upgraded their single sign-on system and rebranded it as MyLogin. This means that your child's old Wonde emoji login will no longer work, but don't worry—your child has already received a new emoji login to access all our educational apps. Please use this new emoji login. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to email us at teacher@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk

Online Safety Tip of the Month

With most children today having their own internet enabled devices, it's vitally important that parents and educators know how to keep young people protected while using them. Between targeted adverts, age-inappropriate content, and other online safety concerns, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to keep on top of.

Parental controls, present on most devices and several apps, can make this job significantly easier – but a certain amount of knowledge is required to use them effectively. Please find attached a guide about using and reviewing parental controls. This will provide you with the information you need to activate and maintain parental controls on children's devices.

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Kind regards,

Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Monday 30 th September	Reception Early Reading and Phonics workshop	Letter to follow 9:10 – 10:30 in the hall
Thursday 10 th October	SEND coffee morning	Details to follow
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening	Details to follow
Tuesday 22 nd October	Whole school flu immunisation	Details to follow
Thursday 7 th November	Open day	For children starting Reception in September 2025
Tuesday 12 th November	School photos	Details to follow
Monday 18 th November	Year 6 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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