



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 October: Respect
Behaviour for Learning focus: Pride

Dear Parent / Carer,

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Puffins – 95%

Toucans – 98.9%

Bluebirds – 98.4%

Robins – 95%

Kestrels – 95%

Eagles – 96%

FUNdraising

It's taken a little time to get our FUNdraising schedule for this year up and running, but we are finally pleased to share the following events happening soon.

For the purpose of our new reception parents, and new families to school, I will just share a little about what FUNdraising Friday is. School budgets are always tight and many schools ask for school fund to supplement the provision available in school. We keep our school fund to a minimum (£5 per family, per term) but this does mean we struggle to provide those extra experiences within the confines of the school budget. After Covid, when we were allowed to do things again, we started FUNdraising Fridays as a way of offering something to look forward to each week whilst enabling us to raise a little extra money for the nice things we do in school that wouldn't be possible without the extra budget.

Last year we used some of our FUNdraising money on buying our school rabbits (Romeo and Juliet) as well as subsidising our yearly trip to the theatre and other events that happen in school throughout the year.

Our program of events will begin with an Autumn Disco after half term on Friday 8th November. I will send a separate letter about the disco later on today so that the arrangements are very clear, but your child can bring £3 for a disco ticket which will include dancing, games and food.

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All the events for FUNdraising have been added to the calendar below and you will see posters appear around school. The 'normal' FUNdraising Fridays will involve something being sold outside of school at the end of the day, normally for a cost of 50p - £1.

If your child attends a club, they will be able to attend the sale with a member of staff, so money can be sent in with your child for them to take after school at the end of the day. Please note that due to the number of staff needed to run the Read and Relax event planned for Friday 29th November there will be no Homework Club on this day. There will also be no Homework Club on Friday 13th December due to the Christmas Fayre.

After School Club

There will be no normal After School Club on Friday 8th November OR 13th of December. When we have big events like the Fayre or a disco it is difficult to staff them and maintain ASC. We do provide a range of activities to suit all children at these events. Please ensure you have arrangements in place if your child normally attends ASC on these dates.

Parents' Evening

We are very much looking forward to seeing you on **Wednesday 23rd October**. You will, by now, have received a letter confirming your time slot if you have requested one. If you have not yet requested a time, you will now need to do so by calling the school office and booking directly with Mrs Hatfield.

This is just a reminder that parents' evening will take place in the school hall. You must arrive for your appointment via the **front** entrance of school. You will not be permitted to enter using the playground entrance as this will be for children in attendance of After School Club.

As mentioned previously, you will have been allocated a 10 minute slot with your child's teacher. A timer will be set to go off every 10 minutes in the hall to remind parents and teachers that the next slot has started. Please ensure you are respectful of the 10 minute slot and other parents who will be waiting for their appointments.

There is a short break built in for the teachers between 5:10 and 5:30. If you are the last appointment at 5:00 please be mindful that teachers only have 20 minutes following this before they begin their next session. I'm sure you understand it is a marathon day for the teachers with constant talking and they will need this short break!

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Homework Consultation

Homework can sometimes be a contentious issue in schools and we are aware of the opposing views parents, teachers and children can have – you probably love it or you hate it! Either way, I would be very interested in parental views about homework as we are due to renew our Homework Policy in the new year. At parents' evening, you will be given a questionnaire on the way in. We would really appreciate it if you could complete this before you leave and pass it back to someone in the front office on your way out.

Theatre Trip

We are delighted to announce that we are continuing with our newly formed tradition of taking the children on a trip to the theatre. We are asking for a contribution of £10 per child towards the cost of the tickets. We are subsidising the cost of the ticket and funding the coach totally from school fund so we do hope you will support us in making this payment.

We will be taking Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 to the Midlands Arts Centre at Cannon Hill Park on Wednesday 11th December to watch Finding Santa and Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will go to the Palace Theatre in Redditch on Thursday 14th December to watch Snow White. We will be having an early lunch and we will leave school at 11:45 and will return around 4:00. This means your child will need to be picked up later than our usual 3:30 for this day. We will be in touch to provide further details of this closer to the time.

We are very excited to be able to offer your child this special experience and do hope you will support us by making the contribution of £10. The payment will need to be made via our school app. You can make two payments of £5 or pay the £10 at once.

We hope your child is looking forward to this enjoyable and memorable experience.

Reminders

- You are welcome to visit Romeo and Juliet when you come in on Parents' Evening!
- Please remember you **must** book for Breakfast Club and After School Club. This is part of the agreement signed to use the clubs.
- Please do not approach teachers directly on the playground in the morning if you see them or after school when the immediate dismissal is happening. This does cause issues when parents want to talk to the teacher and the teacher is trying to dismiss a class of children. We would ask that you are respectful of this and wait until the majority of the class have

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left before approaching the teacher and that **you only do this if it is something that cannot wait**. For queries and questions that may need a longer conversation with teachers (more than a few minutes) then you will need to make an appointment to see your child's teacher with the school office. It is really important that we communicate positively in order to support your child the best we can. Thank you.

- Long hair must be tied back during the school day.
- School ends at 3:30 and your child must be collected at this time. If you are consistently later, we will put your child in After School Club and you will be charged for this. We understand lateness can happen but would really appreciate a phone call to let us know. Children can become quite distressed when parents are late and it calms them if we can say you are simply stuck in traffic.

Kind regards,
Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
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
Friday 8 th November	Autumn Disco	Letter to follow
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
Friday 15 th November	Sweet Sale	3:30 on the school playground
Monday 18 th November	Year 6 Maths Parent Workshop	Details to follow
Friday 22 nd November	Cake Sale	3:30 on the school playground
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
Friday 29 th November	Read and Relax	Letter to follow No Homework Club
Monday 2 nd December	Year 3 Maths Parent Workshop	Details to follow
Friday 6 th December	Tuck Shop	3:30 on the school playground
Monday 9 th December	Theatre Trip Palace Redditch	Letter to follow

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	Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	
Wednesday 11 th December	Theatre Trip Mac Rec and Yr1	Letter to follow
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Fayre	No Homework Club No After School Club Details of events to follow
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Production Christmas jumper day Class parties	Letter to follow

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