



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 May: Friendship
Behaviour for Learning focus: Concentration

Dear Parent / Carer,

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Swans – 98.9%

Puffins – 95%

Toucans – 98.9%

Bluebirds – 95%

Robins – 96%

Kestrels – 93%

Eagles – 98.9%

Well done to Swans, Toucans and Eagles who ALL won a roll on Classopoly!

Online Safety

If you haven't already, do have a look at our latest Online Safety Newsletter available at <https://www.bellsfarm.org/spring-online-safety-newsletter/>

Our Digital Ambassadors are running an "Active Outdoor" photography competition. We can't wait for you to share your wonderful moments outdoors. To take part simply e-mail your two photos along with your name, year group and a short sentence telling us about the photograph to teacher@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk by 5th May 2025. You can find out more about this competition in the Online Safety Newsletter.

SEN reviews 4th and 5th June

Parents of all children on the SEN register will soon be provided with a time for an SEN review meeting with Mrs Hudson and the class teacher and teaching assistant. As there are lots of parents to accommodate, these meetings will be arranged for Reception – Year 5. Unfortunately, we will not be able to rearrange times for these meetings which is why we are giving you plenty of notice for you to rearrange any commitments you may have. It is also crucial that you arrive promptly for your meeting as Mrs Hudson has planned them back-to-back all day in order to fit them in. Thank you for your support with this.

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If your child is in Year 6 and on the SEN register, all the information we have will be shared with their secondary school to allow for a smooth transition. If you would like a meeting with Mrs Hudson, please arrange this separately via the school office.

FUNdraising

Our FUNdraising sale today is a sweet sale which will happen on the school playground and at the front of school at the end of the school day at 3:30. Sweet cones will be available priced £1 each. If your child attends After School Club or Homework Club they can be taken to the sale by a member of staff.

Next week's sale is cheesy pizzas which are to be pre-ordered by Thursday 8th May. There will be no exceptions to this as we will need to purchase the ingredients on Thursday evening. Your child should take their money to their class teacher and their pizza will be delivered to their classroom for them to take home as they leave on Friday 9th. Pizzas will be 50p each.

PE

Mrs Ville has reported around 1/3 of children in each class did not have their PE kit in school this week. This not only delayed the start of PE lessons, it also prevented some children from taking part. We do have a small number of spare PE kits but we do not have enough spare pumps or trainers to provide and we are unable to let children take part in certain games wearing school shoes as this is a potential safety issue. Your child **must** have their PE kit in school (including suitable pumps or trainers) for their PE days. As mentioned previously, it is preferable that children leave their kit in school for the half term to reduce the chance of them forgetting to bring it each week.

Countdown Competition

On Friday 16th May, we will be holding our Countdown maths competition in the school hall 3:45 - 4:45. This is an event for all families of up to 2 adults and 2 children to take part in. Your maths skills will be put to the test as you work as a family to work out how you can make the total number with the numbers you have been given. So if you are a competitive family, who really love maths, then this will be a great event for you to take part in with your child. A £15 Amazon voucher will be awarded to the family who manage to find the total number in the quickest times.

Tickets are sold for the whole family at £4 per family ticket. We have 25 family tickets available so we will be selling these on a first come, first served basis. Please send your child in with £4 or go to the front office to purchase your ticket.

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Trip Payments

At the time of writing this letter we have the following outstanding balances for trip payments:

Reception and Y4: £535 outstanding

Y1 and Y3: £630 outstanding

Y2: £170 outstanding

Y5: £172 outstanding

Y6 Residential: £2265 outstanding

I am providing these numbers to try and help clarify my need to ask you again for payments for these trips. As I have mentioned in previous letters, our school (along with many others) currently has a deficit budget. School therefore **cannot** afford to pay the outstanding balances above for these trips. If we do not receive enough contributions towards these trips over the next 2 weeks, we may be forced to cancel them. This is not something I ever want to do but school simply cannot afford to lose this amount of money and I will therefore be left with no choice but to do so.

The outstanding balance for the residential is extremely high and school cannot afford to pay it. There are still a number of parents who have not yet made any payments towards this. If you do not want your child to attend the residential, please let us know as soon as possible as we have already paid a deposit and will need to pay the final balance this month.

I would therefore urge all parents to pay for their child's trips as soon as you possibly can so that no difficult decisions need to be made. If you are struggling financially, please do come and have a conversation with myself or Mrs Moore / Mrs Hudson and we will be happy to offer a longer term payment plan if needed. We would never exclude a child because of financial need, but likewise it is unsustainable for school to consistently pay the kind of figures above. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Lost Property

We still have three boxes worth of lost property! We left it out at parents' evening for you to check through and each teacher took their class before the holiday for the children to check through. There are no names on any of it and we cannot continue to store it. We are therefore going to set up a table at the front of school at the end of the day each day next week. Please look through and help yourselves to anything your child needs. It is all in very good condition and, with a wash, would be perfect for next year! Anything left at the end of next week will be donated to a clothing bank.

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New Reception Intake

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception class in September – those new to us and siblings of children currently in school. We do still have a few places remaining, so please spread the word about our wonderful school if you know anyone with a child due to start school this September.

Assessments

We are fully into assessment season in school at the moment! I have added the dates for Y1's Phonics Screening Checks and the MTC in Y4 to the calendar below. You will have also been sent separate letters about these by class teachers. Year 6 are revising hard for their SATs and it has been wonderful to see such a large turnout for the morning club. Year 2 will also sit SATs, but they are no longer statutory, so we will be administering them beginning in the week commencing 9th June.

It is absolutely vital that your child has full attendance during test weeks. We would ask that you avoid making any appointments where possible and that they attend every day. It really would also benefit the children if they have a nice early night and a good breakfast during these test weeks... these things really do have an impact!

Clubs

As the lighter evenings have now returned, if you have given permission for your child to walk home (Y6 only) they will now be allowed to do so again after a club at 4:15. All clubs start next week and you will by now have been notified by the school office about whether your child received a place. We do keep waiting lists for all clubs so if your child didn't get a place this time, they will automatically be added to the waiting list and you will be notified when a place becomes available.

Reminders

- Please remember to book your child's lunch. There were lots of children complaining at lunchtime today because they were given cheese pizza but wanted pepperoni! Children will always be defaulted to option 1 when a booking hasn't been made.
- Please remember to close the gates after you when using breakfast club and after school club.
- It is important your child has their water bottle in school every day.
- There will be no normal After School Club or Homework Club on Friday 4th July due to the Summer Fayre taking place on this day.

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- As children may now be wearing shorts and summer dresses, I would like to remind you they should be wearing **plain** white, grey or black school socks.
- Children should not be riding or scooting through the school playground – this includes younger and older siblings. Thank you.

Kind regards,

Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 7 th May, 14 th May, 21 st May, 4 th June	Year 3 go swimming each Wednesday	Letter sent – children must have correct kit
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Friday 5 th May	Pizza Sale	Pre-orders only – details to follow
Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs	Children can arrive from 8:00 for free breakfast!
Friday 16 th May	Countdown	Posters on classroom doors
Wednesday 21 st May	Reception and Y4 visit Think Tank	Details to follow
Thursday 22 nd May	Y5 visit Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery	Details to follow
Friday 23 rd May	Cake Sale	On school playground 3:30
Week beginning 2 nd June	Y6 swimming Y4 MTC	Details to follow Letter sent
Friday 6 th June	Spring Disco	Details to follow
Week beginning 9 th June	Y6 Bikeability Y1 Phonics Screening Check Y4 MTC Y2 SATs	Details to follow Letter sent Letter sent Details above
Wednesday 11 th June, 18 th June, 25 th June, 2 nd July, 9 th July	Year 5 go swimming each Wednesday	Details to follow
Wednesday 11 th June	Y1 and Y3 visit Botanical Gardens	Details to follow
Thursday 12 th June	New Reception parent's meeting SEND coffee morning – Speech and Language focus	Details to follow Details to follow
Friday 13 th June	Read and Relax	Details to follow

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Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th June	Year 6 Residential	Letters sent
Friday 20 th June	Ice lolly sale	Details to follow
Monday 23 rd June	Y5 girls to Kings Norton Girls School	Details to follow
Friday 27 th June	Y2 visit Twycross Zoo Y1 Class Assembly	Details to follow School hall 9:05
Wednesday 2 nd July	Transition Day	Details to follow
Friday 4 th July	Summer Fayre	Details to follow No ASC or Homework Club
Friday 11 th July	Y2 Class Assembly Reports out to parents	School hall 9:05
Wednesday 16 th July	Y6 Leavers' Party	Details to follow
Friday 18 th July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly Children break up for summer	School hall 9:05
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Children return to school	

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