



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,

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Swans – 91%

Puffins – 90%

Toucans – 99%

Bluebirds – 95%

Robins – 98%

Kestrels – 96%

Eagles – 95%

Well done to Toucans! **99%** won them the roll on Classopoly.

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 – Alex R and Skye

Y5 – Esmee and Isla

Y4 – Aria and Archie

Y3 – Evin and Henry

Y2 – Lillie and Maya

Y1 – Dylan and Lashaun

Reception – Alexander and Tamara

Star of the School – Zack (Reception)

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

Clubs

Please remember that if your child attends a club after school, they must be collected promptly at 4:15. After school club have informed me that this week they have had lots of children left over at the end of the club for 10 or 15 minutes. We have not accounted for these children in our ratios and at several points this week we have almost been over our ratio. If your child is not collected, you will be given a slip reminding you of prompt collection and you may be charged for use of

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After School Club. If you are late collecting your child on more than a couple of occasions, your child may not be able to attend a club at the end of the school day. As always, we do understand there are times when circumstances can make you late and we would always support those parents in difficult circumstances. However, we do find it is often the same children left over at the end of the day or after a club which are putting ASC in danger of being over ratio. Thank you for your support with this.

If you need to book your child into After School Club following a club then please ensure you do this via the school app. If they attend a club and you fail to change your booking to a club session, you will be charged as normal from 3:30.

Statutory Testing

Some parents will receive a printed copy of some guidance from the Department for Education which is being sent home with the children on Monday. This guidance is being given to all years where statutory testing has to take place to ensure you are fully informed.

Year 1 will complete their phonics screening check in June and the guidance they are bringing home is relating to this. Year 2 will complete optional stats at the end of the summer term. Year 4 will complete their Multiplication Tables Check in at the beginning of June. Year 6 will complete their SATs in the week commencing 12th May. This guidance comes directly from the Department for Education and explains how the tests are administered and how the results are used to support your child in school. All children who undergo statutory testing will receive the results from these tests as part of their end of year school report.

We hope you find this information useful. You will have the opportunity to discuss these tests with your child's teacher when you attend parents evening at the end of this term.

Behaviour Policy

I have now attached a new version of our school behaviour policy to the school website. You will find a new copy of the shortened version sent out at the beginning of the year attached to this letter. I did highlight all the changes in my previous letter, but the documents are there if you wish to read them again.

Bulls in the City

As you are aware, we are taking part in the 'Bulls in the City' trail this year. We are extremely excited to be part of this wonderful project and are very much looking forward to receiving our calf to decorate and have displayed as part of the trail in Birmingham city centre. You should have

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received Mrs Moore's letter last Friday with all of the details on how you can support us with this wonderful project. It is for the Birmingham Hospice charity which we have supported for many years in school and so we do hope you will show your support by sponsoring your child and encouraging your friends and family to do the same.

The children are very excited already about their Bull Run and preparations are underway to ensure it is as fun (and safe!) as it possibly can be. Thank you to those parents who have been super speedy with their donations! We have already received £87 our Just Giving page: [Bells Farm Primary School is fundraising for Birmingham Hospice \(formerly Birmingham St Mary's and John Taylor Hospices\)](#). If you would prefer to pay before the event then please do so.

Red Nose Day

We will be taking part in Red Nose Day this year which is being held on Friday 21st March. On this day, your child will be able to wear red from head to toe if they wish or just a small red token somewhere on their person as part of a non-uniform day fundraising event. We would ask that all children donate £1 in order to take part in this special non-uniform day and raise money for an amazing charity. I will be meeting with school council over the next couple of weeks to gather their ideas for other fundraising events in support of the comic relief charity, which I will keep you informed of as decisions are made.

World Record Attempt

This week we found out that the World Record poetry lesson that children in Y2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in last term was a successful attempt and we are therefore part of a Guinness World Record! You can watch a video summarising the process and listen to the final poem here: [We've Broken a Guinness World Records Title!](#)

We will be applying for our certificate as a school which we will proudly display in the entrance so our children can share their excitement with you. You can also buy a certificate for your child: [buy a personalised Certificate of Participation](#) It will be A5 size, you can add their photo and name. The discount code KIDS8POETRY will give a 40% discount until the end of February.

Lunch Menu

We have finished our consultations with School Council and have researched the best options to providing your child with a healthy, balanced school lunch. I will upload the new menus to our website on Monday and you can view them on our school website then. These menus will be bookable for after half term. We hope the booking will be live by the end of next week so I will

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update you in my letter then. As before, please ensure you sit down with your child and go through these new menus to ensure you are booking Food you know they will eat. Sometimes we do have children refusing to eat their lunch saying they don't like it. we always encourage children to eat enough to keep them going throughout the school day and would inform you if we are having regular problems with your child eating their school lunch. So please be assured no child is going hungry but it is very useful for us to know the parent and child have made these choices together.

Miss Hackett's Role

Miss Hackett's role in school is as our Family Support Coordinator. She will often meet with families and offer School Based Early Help. This includes supporting families when they are having issues with housing, finances, travel to and from school, childcare and also signposting to other agencies who can help. This is the good part of her job and the part she enjoys the most. She has recently informed me that she has been aware of a Household Support Fund which entitles families to £200. You don't need anything to qualify for this – you just need to get in touch with your local hub who will support you to fill in the forms. Ours is the Farmhouse and you can make an appointment with Anne-Marie who will support your application. You can contact her on 0121 433 3532. If you are struggling financially, as I'm sure we all are in the longest month of January, then please do reach out and take advantage of this.

The other part of Miss Hackett's role is that she is responsible for safeguarding and attendance. This often means you will receive a phone call from Miss Hackett if we are concerned about periods of absence that your child has had from school or their attendance in general. This is Miss Hackett's job and she completes this job professionally, kindly and with a smile at all times.

It is often me, as Headteacher, who asks Miss Hackett to complete these calls and follow-ups with parents. I am also the lead DSL in school (Designated Safeguarding Lead) which means it is ultimately my responsibility to ensure all children are safeguarded, at all times, at home and at school. As I am also running the school day to day, and ensuring all children are educated appropriately, I don't always have time to make the phone calls required for us to have clarification around events that may have happened to your child or to follow up on attendance. This is why, at times, you will receive phone calls from Miss Hackett. She is often making these phone calls on my behalf in order for us to fulfil our **legal responsibilities** as a school as well as our duty of care to all children.

I would like to ask that you are respectful during these phone calls from school. We know it is difficult when you are being contacted by school in relation to safeguarding and attendance and

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that these conversations may be uncomfortable for you as parents. As I have stated many times this is not our intention, but it is our legal duty to ensure children attend school and that they are safe when they are in our care but also your care at home. These calls come with no judgement from school and are often to simply inform you of what your child has shared with us or concerns raised from teachers. These will be shared with you sensitively and with a view to promoting home school relations.

You will find a full copy of our safeguarding and attendance policies on our school website. We must adhere to these policies and sometimes this involves making uncomfortable phone calls to parents in order for us to do so. I would like to politely ask that if you have any issues with with phone calls you receive from school that you have this conversation directly with me. Miss Hackett may be the face of these phone calls, but she is simply fulfilling her job role. The points of the phone call will have been dictated by me and therefore if you are upset about the contents of any phone call with Miss Hackett, you must make an appointment to discuss it with me in person.

All staff in school are simply trying to fulfil their job role and do the best they can for our children. I would like to ask that you respect them as they do this. Thank you.

Coffee Morning

We have our next SEN coffee morning planned for Friday 7th at 9:05 relating to ADHD and Autism. If your child has a diagnosis, or is on the waiting list for assessment, or you have any concerns and would like further information then please come along for a cuppa and a chat!

Kind regards,
Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Friday 7 th February	SEN Coffee Morning	Letter to follow
Monday 10 th February	Reception Book Breakfast	Letter sent
Friday 28 th February	Great Fire of London Workshop - Year 2	Date changed
Monday 3 rd March	Y4 Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Wednesday 5 th March	Y3 Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Monday 10 th March	Y6 Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Friday 14 th March	Bull Run	Letter sent
Monday 17 th March	Book Fair	Details to follow

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	Y1 Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Friday 21 st March	King Edward's School visiting for music performance Red Nose Day	In school Wear red for a £1 donation
Wednesday 26 th March	Y3 Class Assembly	In school hall 9:05
Monday 24 th March	Y5 Book Breakfast	Letter to follow
Monday 7 th April	Year 4 Class Assembly	In school hall 9:05
Wednesday 9 th April	Parents' Evening	Letter to follow

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