



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 do apologise for the lateness of this letter! I came in this morning and found it in my 'draft' box, having thought I had sent it out on Friday. I can assure you that is the last time I will use holiday brain as an excuse..!

It was wonderful to see the children back on Wednesday, all looking smart and slightly taller than when we last saw them. They were full of excited chatter and it was lovely to catch up on their news. They have all settled into their new classes well. We had an assembly where I shared all the new things for the new school year and I know the children and teachers are very excited about the year to come. Please check school blogs for further information and photos of your child in their new class.

I'd like to welcome all our new Reception parents. Our new Swans class have completed their settling period and will be starting full time on Monday 9th September. I have visited several times and they are already impressing the staff with their positive attitudes and skills.

After School Club and Breakfast Club

Breakfast club begins each day at 7:45 with the children being transferred to their classrooms for the start of the school day. You must book breakfast club with 48 hours notice and the charge for this service is now £3. Your child can attend any time between 7:45 and 8:45. Children arriving after 8:30 may not have time to eat their breakfast, so please be aware of this if choosing to send them in later.

After-school club runs from the end of the school day at 3:30 until 5:30 and must be booked with 24 hours notice. I would like to remind parents who use these clubs that you must have signed and agreed to all of the points in the agreement in order to access this service. This includes paying fines if you are running late, ensuring you notify us if you're going to be late and paying for clubs promptly.

For our new Reception parents wishing to access these clubs, you will need to collect an agreement from the school office in order to do so.

I would also like to remind you that, for safeguarding reasons, our school gates should be kept

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closed between the hours of 7:45 and 8:30 and then again between 3:45 and 5:30. If your child attends breakfast club or after-school club, you will need to put the code into the gate and then close it behind you. If you are leaving it open as you see another parent approaching, please ensure they close the gate behind them. The code is C4560X. This is the same code that was in place last term and must be kept confidential within the school community. If you use our clubs regularly, I would suggest you keep the code stored in your phone. If you forget at any point, you can call the afterschool club number and they will be happy to assist.

Toast

You may have noticed on the school app, that we have decided to offer just one slice of toast from this term. This is because last term we did find that a lot of children would not eat their school dinner if they had eaten two pieces of toast. Break time is around an hour before their lunch and two pieces was too much for some children. Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch

If your child is a vegetarian, the school office will be in touch with you at some point this week to ensure we have the most up-to-date information about your child's dietary needs. At times, we have been unsure as to whether some children are allowed fish fingers etc and we are also aware that some children only eat certain types of meat. If this applies to your child, and we do not have them as a vegetarian on our school system, then please ensure you call the school office so we can check your child is only eating foods they are allowed to do so.

It is extremely important that you let us know if your child's dietary needs to change during their time with us. Children can sometimes develop allergies at different times of their life and it is therefore important to inform us if your child has been diagnosed with an allergy recently, or is undergoing tests for any allergies currently.

Star assembly

We are very much looking forward to our first Star Assembly of the year on Friday 13th September. If your child is in Star Assembly you will be sent an invitation to join us for this special occasion.

I would like to remind you that we also encourage children to bring in any certificates or trophies they may have earned through outside hobbies and interests. If you are going to do this, it is extremely important that we receive information and the medal / trophy / certificate in school **prior** to the Friday assembly that you wish your child to take part in.

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Star Assembly happens every other Friday, so we would suggest you look at the school calendar on the website to ensure you have time to contact us and let us know what your child received the award for. **From now on**, you can do this by sending an email to teacher@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk. Last year, we found that some children do sometimes forget why they were given a particular award and having this information in writing from parents will make the assembly run more smoothly. It will also mean I can confirm which date your child will be in the assembly and you can then attend if you wish to do so.

Policies

All our policies are currently being updated on our school website. In the meantime, we often find parents need more information about our behaviour policy and our attendance policy (which has changed this year in line with new documentation from the DfE).

Therefore, this year I have decided to condense these two policies into a (hopefully) more understandable document for parents. These will be sent home with your child along with the class newsletters on Friday 13th September. Please do take the time to read them or keep them somewhere safe, as if there are issues with your child's attendance or behaviour these are the policies that we follow in school and you will need to have an understanding of them.

No Nuts

I would like to remind all parents that we are a NO NUT school. This is because we do have children in school with serious nut allergies and contact with any nuts or nut products could have serious consequences. This includes all nut products such as Nutella or hazelnut chocolate spread of any kind. Chocolate spread will not be allowed on children's sandwiches, as we are unable to tell whether it is a variety with or without nuts. If your child brings chocolate spread sandwiches into school, they will be offered an alternative from the school kitchen for that day. Likewise, if your child brings products with nuts in their lunchbox, they will be removed and returned to you at the end of the school day. We hope you understand the reasons for us taking this seriously and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Reading

At Bells Farm, we are proud ourselves on being a 'Reading for Pleasure' school. This means that we want every child to have a positive attitude to books and feel excited about reading. As part of this, we regularly hold special events to encourage reading. Your child is also given time within the school day regularly to enjoy reading in a social and informal context.

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Alongside this, reading at home is also part of our Homework policy (which you can view on our school website). It is extremely important that your child is supported to develop their reading **skills** at home. All children will be bringing home a school reading book this week which we hope is the start of forming the habit of regular reading with your child.

Children in Reception to Year 3 will also bring a reading diary home. Parents are expected to write in this diary when they have read with their child. This supports us in knowing how your child is getting on with their reading at home. Children will bring a levelled-reading book which matches their reading ability. They will also bring home a 'free choice' reading book which you can read and enjoy together.

All children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will not be expected to complete a reading diary. However, this doesn't mean that reading with your child becomes less important in these year groups! In fact, it is even more important. Your child may be less willing to engage with reading **with** you, but we would still advise that regular reading time is set aside so that your child can practice the skills they have learned in their reading lessons. It would also be extremely useful to engage them in conversation about what they are reading, both in and out of school. Your child will be expected to change their reading book regularly and discuss their reading with their friends and teachers in school also. We appreciate your support and cooperation with this.

Reminders

- Please send any outstanding medication into school ASAP and return completed forms to the school office.
- Class newsletters and two-page policies will be sent home on Friday 13th September to share information regarding the curriculum your child will experience this term. Further information is available about our school curriculum on the school website. This will be updated by the end of September.
- Please ensure you have booked your child's lunch (and toast if required) via the school app.
- All items of school uniform **must** be labelled with your child's name. We can do this with a permanent marker in school if required.
- Y1 – Y6 need their PE kits in school on the following days:
Y1 – Monday and Tuesday
Y2 – Tuesday and Friday
Y3 – Wednesday and Thursday
Y4 – Thursday and Friday

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Y5 – Tuesday and Wednesday

Y6 – Wednesday and Thursday

It will be much easier if PE kits remain in school until half term when we will send them home to be washed.

- Meet the Team meetings are this week. Our new Reception parents can join us on Tuesday 10th at 9:00 or 3:00 and parents from Y1-Y6 on Thursday at 9:00 or 3:00.

At this point in the school year there is always a lot of new information to take in so I do apologise for the length of this letter (and all the ones in September!) but it is important that I share with you all the information you need to ensure school processes can run smoothly.

As always, if you have any queries or issues with anything contained within this letter, please approach me on the playground in the morning or at the end of the day. If we feel it is something that will require a longer discussion, I will ask you to make an appointment through the school office. You are also able to do this at any point.

Kind regards,

Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Wednesday 4 th September	Reception stay, play and chat with parents Y1 – Y6 return to school	Doors open at 8:50
Thursday 5 th September	Reception part time	Letters sent
Friday 6 th September	Reception part time	Letters sent
Monday 9 th September	Reception start full time	Doors open at 8:50
Tuesday 10 th September	Meet the Team	Reception parents invited Details above
Thursday 12 th September 2024	Meet the Team	All parents invited Details above
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening	Details to follow
Tuesday 22 nd October	Whole school flu immunisation	Details to follow

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