



Enjoying our learning...
...aiming for excellence.

Bells Farm Primary School
Bells Farm Close, Druids Heath
Birmingham. B14 5YG
Tel: 0121 675 8666
Fax: 0121 675 4138
Headteacher: Mrs B Butterworth



We're now paperless!

Letters & newsletters will now be emailed to parents. Please ensure you have provided your correct email address to the office.

1st April, 2022.

Dear Parents / Carers,

I really can't believe how quickly the weeks are passing by with just one left before the children and staff have a well-earned break. Yesterday has certainly shown that it's hard to decide how best to dress for the weather, so do please keep sending the children in with coats – it's not quite summer yet!

I am looking forward to our Friday Zoom call assembly later today. Our superstars today are:

Y6 – Esmay W and Nyeema M
Y5 – Seth P and Ibrahim S F
Y4 – Scarlett-Rose W-H and Jason-Paul N
Y3 – Shriya R and Oliver R
Y2 – Shenyar P and Hugo D
Y1 – Jonah D and Scarlett-Anne M
Reception – Tyler W and Finley Kelly
Sports stars – Oliver R Y3 and Dora H Y4

Well done to all of these amazing children for going the extra mile and really modelling those learning behaviours!

Clubs

You will have received a letter from Mrs Lloyd about clubs next term. We are really pleased to offer this selection, with a couple of new ideas. I know Mrs Calbreath is looking forward to practical investigations with our budding Y5 and Y6 scientists. My new club is Eco-Warriors which will be a mixture of all things environmental: growing, recycling art, awareness raising and poster designing, and learning about protecting our planet.

It is essential that you read the letter fully and **only** reply with your choices to clubs@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk by Tuesday 4th April 2022. Mrs Lloyd will only be working from this email to collate the lists so if you have replied elsewhere, please re-send. Thank you.

Year 5 reading project next year

Parents and carers of current year 4 children will be receiving a letter later today about a reading project which we hope to be a part of next year. The project will be



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an evaluation assessing the effectiveness of a programme called Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS-UK). The information going out today is all due to GDPR requirements - the parental withdrawal letter and privacy notice for the trial. The researchers have created a short video for the children about the trial which will be shown to Year 4 in class time.

You only need to return the form if you do not want your child's data to be shared and wish to exercise your right to withdraw your consent for your child to take part. The video link is available below if you want to gain more of an idea of what the project is about.

<https://tinyurl.com/55vxyjup>

Medical appointments

We would be grateful if you could let the office know **at least** the day before about any appointments your child has during the school day. This allows us to plan around their learning and their lunchtimes. Also, please notify us in advance if it is a different person picking your child up for the appointment and make sure they know your password. If you are able to make routine appointments during the school holiday, even better, as you are aware of the learning time which has already been missed over the past couple of years. Thank you for your understanding.

Easter egg raffle and egg technology competition

We are delighted to be bringing back an old favourite – the chocolate and egg raffle! Staff have kindly donated almost all of the raffle prizes, with Becketts Farm contributing a voucher – thank very much to all of them! Mrs Calbreath is organising posters around school and tickets will go on sale on Monday - £1 per strip. We will have the prize draw on Friday 8th April in the afternoon. Just an additional reminder to send your child in with their egg technology creations on Friday morning and the prizes for the most creative projects will also be awarded on Friday.

COVID

Thankfully the numbers remain very low thanks to precautions in and out of school. We have one new case this week – a contact of Year 1 children and staff, so please be vigilant if anyone in your household develops symptoms.



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Attendance

As you are aware, spring 1 attendance was badly affected by COVID. We are remaining cautious to avoid spread whilst at the same time trying to get our attendance back to normal – not an easy juggling act for us or you! It has not been helped by the recent sickness and viral bugs either. Your child's absence due to COVID is not counted in the statistics – however, all other absences are. So please support us in the drive to get children back into school as long as they are well. We still have a number of children who fall into the persistent absentee category – below 90%, even when absence due to COVID and showing COVID symptoms are taken into account. The children need to get back into their learning and social environment, so please help us to make sure the final week of term and the summer term gives them every opportunity to catch up and keep up.

Homework

It is very important that your children complete their homework and we have tried to make sure that it is not too burdensome for them. Homework club has made a great difference to so many children, and I can tell you how much more confident and successful the children in year 6 have become with their arithmetic since attending the Friday club – some have literally double their scores in SATs practice papers! However, there are still some children throughout school who regularly forget their homework or don't do it at all. As part of the Y6 preparation for secondary school, it is essential that they get into good habits now, and it is also important to instil these good habits as soon as we can with all children. So please ask your child about their homework and remember that we are happy to make spaces for them in homework club – particularly in the Y2 and Y6 run up to SATS next month.

Reading for pleasure - Year 3

We have been invited to join an exciting project to engage children further in reading good quality books. Some year 3 children have been selected and a letter is going out today. The children will have access to some wonderful reading material and I know they will get so much from the sessions. We would love you to engage with this project so that your children will get the most out of reading for pleasure.

I think that's it for now. I have updated the summer term calendar below and will continue to let you know about any further dates to be added. So it just remains for me to wish you a happy and safe weekend and I will see you all on Monday.

Kind regards,

Barbara Butterworth



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Summer term calendar to date

Date	Event	Notes
Thursday 28 th April	Year 3 swimming begins	Weekly lessons (except for Election Day) – last day Thursday 9 th June
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Thursday 5 th May	Election Day	School closed to all year groups except Y2 and Y6 who MUST attend. Own clothes day.
Friday 6 th May	Star assembly	
Monday 9 th May	Y6 SATS week	Free daily breakfast at 8.00 am for all y6 children. Further letter to follow.
Friday 20 th May	Star assembly	
Wednesday 25 th May	Y6 trip to Birmingham canals	Further letter to follow.
Thursday 26 th May	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Day celebrations in school	Letter to follow with details
Friday 27 th May	Jubilee Day school holiday	School closed
Half term holiday – Monday 30 th May – Friday 3 rd June		
Monday 6 th June	School re-opens Multiplication check for Y4 children – 3 week window for completion	Letter to follow re. Y4 multiplication check.
Friday 10 th June	Star assembly	
Thursday 16 th June	Year 5 swimming begins	Weekly lessons - last day Thursday 14 th July
Friday 17 th June	Year 2 trip to Twycross Zoo	Letter to follow.
Friday 24 th June	Star assembly	
Monday 27 th June	Sports Day Y4,5,6	Parent/carers welcome
Tuesday 28 th June	Sports day Y1,2,3	Parent/carers welcome
Wednesday 29 th June	Year 3 trip to Twycross Zoo	Letter to follow.
Friday 1 st July	Star assembly	
Friday 8 th July	Annual reports to parent/carers Star assembly	
Monday 11 th July	Arts week begins	
Friday 15 th July	Art display open to parents/carers	
Wednesday 20 th July	Y6 leavers' party	
Thursday 21 st July	Last day of school 9.00 am Y6 leavers' assembly	Parents/carers welcome
Summer holiday: Friday 22 nd July - Wednesday 7 th September		