



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.

20th May 2022.

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's that time of the week again, and I am looking forward to presenting our fortnightly stars with their well-earned certificates in our Zoom assembly. Our special children are:

Year 6: Frankie L and Amelia J

Year 5: Jessica, Lily R and Layla-Rose

Year 4: Maximus and Alexie-Blue

Year 3: Jacob and Isla

Year 2: Kayden and Leah

Year 1: Laken and Boren

Reception: Aidan and Mona

Sports stars: Amaya and Zach

Well done to all of these children for consistently demonstrating great behaviours for learning!

I would also like to mention our amazing Year 2 Toucans and Year 6 Eagles as whole classes for their extremely hard work and resilience as they completed their SATs tests this week and last. Each and every one of you is a superstar!

Fundraising

Thanks for continuing to support the school in raising money for our playground. The activities have been carefully planned so that the children get the most fun out of them and our Read and Relax session after school today will be just that!

Don't forget to buy your Royal Disco tickets by the end of Tuesday 24th May please – it promises to be a great event with the majority of children signed up for it. **Please note that if you have not bought tickets by this time, your children cannot attend the event.** With the huge number of children involved, the event will be planned so that the staff:children ratio is safe at all times and the food will be purchased and prepared based on the final numbers by the end of Tuesday. So please have a word with your children if they have not made up their minds, and share this message with them so that everything runs smoothly and safely. We have had ten late notifications this

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morning for the 'Read and Relax' event later today , and it has involved reorganisation with just a few hours to go, so please make your final decision about the disco over the weekend. Thanks in anticipation.

Drinks

Could you please make sure your child comes to the disco on Thursday with a drink. Food and drink will be provided but not until after the activities, and this may be a long time for some children to wait for a drink.

After School Club

Please note that After School Club **will not be available** next Thursday due to the Royal Disco. This is because we are using both space and staffing for the event. If your child is not attending the disco, you will need to find alternative childcare for this day.

Year 2 staffing

I wrote to parents and carers of children in this class to notify them that Miss Hookes will be leaving us at the end of this half term after covering Mrs Moore's maternity leave. I would like to once again thank her for her contributions to the school and wish her well – we will all miss her. Mrs Moore will be teaching the class after half term from Monday to Wednesday (not Friday as I mistakenly wrote yesterday!) with Miss Williams continuing to teach on Thursday and Friday.

Absence

Please make sure that you ring to inform us that your child is going to be absent and the reason for this. It avoids us having to make the phone call that you really don't want, and then having to make a safe and well visit if you are not available by phone. Remember if your child is well enough to attend school, then please make sure they do, so that they don't miss any more learning.



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Term time holidays

Please note again that **I cannot authorise any absence unless it is unavoidable** through, for example, being too ill to attend school, medical appointments which cannot be taken in holiday time, bereavement, attending a family funeral or the wedding of a parent or carer. Whilst I empathise with the high prices of holidays in school holiday time compared to term time, this cannot be authorised. These past two years have been tough and I know there have been holidays that have been cancelled and re-booked due to COVID, so we have given some leeway where attendance has been otherwise good. From September, unauthorised holidays in term time will be subject to a fine. We don't want to do this and the school certainly doesn't benefit, but it is the law. Attendance at school has never been more important and we want your children to flourish as they progress through school. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding.

Play areas

Unfortunately our fenced off play areas are out of use due to the flooring being a safety risk. The children know this, so please make sure you don't use these areas with them first thing in the morning or after school. I am pleased to say that the first stage of our development of the grounds will be taking place in the summer, and hopefully when the children come back in September, there will be new play areas in their place.

And finally.....Mr Gill

It really is the end of an era as Mr Gill will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to enjoy the pleasures of early retirement. Mr Gill has been with us for eight years and has transformed the way children learn PE as well as developing their wider sports skills in the countless Kings Heath Sports Partnership events and inter-school competitions he has organised. He has used his musical skills to bring guitar playing to Bells Farm, providing this wonderful opportunity to perform and enjoy performing for our year 4 classes



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over the years. He will be greatly missed by staff and children alike and I know by yourselves as a very familiar and popular face on the playground, at competitions and concerts and of course, numerous sports days. I am so pleased that our sports days this year will be back to normal so that we can all enjoy a hopefully sunny set of final events captained by Mr Gill. I know you will join me in wishing him well as he hangs up his tracksuit and switches off the alarm clock for September. Good luck in everything you do Mr Gill!

That's about it for this week's updates. We will all keep our fingers crossed for good weather next week for the outdoor events of the Royal Disco and for year 6 as they visit the Gas Street Canal on Wednesday. Have a very happy and safe weekend and we will see you all on Monday.

Kind regards,

Barbara Butterworth