



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.

2nd November, 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half term. It has been lovely catching up with the children today to find out what they got up to over half term. We have a busy few weeks ahead so I will just share the main messages for now.

RECEPTION CLASS AND YEAR 1

At the end of the half term, Mrs Hill secured a new part time position at a different school, which she will take up in January. We are very sorry to be losing Mrs Hill, who has been a great asset to the school's early years for the past seven years, but unfortunately she needed to reduce her hours to two days per week which the new school was able to offer. We wish her every success and happiness in her new post.

This means that we have had to plan the best way forward from January. Miss Coghlan, who is an experienced early years teacher, will be taking over the role of Reception class teacher in January, and we have advertised for an experienced key stage 1 teacher to take over Year 1 from January. I know that this is a mid - year change for the children, and it is not ideal, but unfortunately due to the nature of teaching and assessment in reception class, this requires an experienced teacher already in school who can have a handover period before Mrs Hill leaves. Miss Jones will remain in year 1 as the key worker with the children and we make sure they have an equally smooth transition in the new term with their new teacher.

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

We would like to welcome Miss Inett to the cleaning team and Mr Crooks to the Y4 and Y5 team as an additional teaching assistant. Both members of staff joined us yesterday and we very much look forward to working with them.



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PARENTS' EVENING AND QUESTIONNAIRE

As you know, Year 3 and Year 5 parent/carer phone calls had to be postponed due to staff illness, so if you have children in these classes you will have the chance for a catch-up this Thursday.

The questionnaire will remain open until Monday 8th November. I would appreciate it if you could complete this so that we are able to share your feedback. We have not had very many responses as yet. If you have any concerns at all, please make sure you let us know so we are able to address them together. Here is the link again:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNYChebjgdliTL4utKAMrsRkQ6bRoiFwf_cz54y9w1EF1WLw/viewform?usp=sf_link

POPPIES

Poppies will be on sale in school from tomorrow. Please send in donations - we would ask a minimum of 50p per poppy. Other items will be available, such as bracelets, towards the end of the sale period and we will let you know the minimum donation for these.

APPEAL FOR THE HOMELESS

Mrs Johnson is collecting warm items – scarves and gloves, for the homeless this term. Please send in any donations and Mrs Johnson will collect these from the class teachers.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The school photographer is coming in on **Thursday 18th November**. We will be having individual and class photos as well as family groups, but only for children within school due to the need to restrict access due to the COVID risk assessment. A further reminder will be going closer to the time, but this is just to give you some planning time in case haircuts are needed!



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SWIMMING

We received some feedback from the questionnaires about swimming not happening this year. It is in fact planned for the spring and summer terms for years 3 and 5, as we have done in the years not affected by the pandemic. So this is just for your information at this stage and details will be going out next term.

CLUBS

These will resume this week. The cookery club will be for key stage 2 children this term due to popular demand, and it is already full. We are also introducing a homework club for Friday afternoons after school for children in years 1 – 6. You will have received notification of this yesterday. All other clubs will be continuing on the same days as last half term.

READING AND PHONICS WORKSHOPS – RECEPTION AND YEAR 1

Just a reminder that you can still contact us to attend these meetings at the following times on Friday 5th November, with Miss Williams in the hall:

Year 1: 9:00 am

Reception: 2.30 pm

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK AND CHILDREN IN NEED DAY

Again, just a bit of forward planning: anti bullying week will commence on 15th November. On this day, we will be asking children to wear odd socks to appreciate individuality and uniqueness. At the end of this week, on Friday 19th November, it will be Children in Need Day. We will be having our usual 'wear something spotty' day, and if you wish your children to take part in this, it will be £1 per child for this very worthy cause.

These are all the main notices for now. Enjoy the rest of the week and please look out on the app for any further notifications.

Kind regards,

Barbara Butterworth