



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

3rd March, 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break. It really has been such a busy week and the children have returned so enthusiastically after their holiday. It was also good to see so many children wearing the correct uniform and footwear. I know this had slipped a little before we broke up, so thank you for replacing shoes the children had grown out of. Don't forget that it is still fine to wear trainers if they are **all** black.

Attendance

Our overall attendance of 94% is down on our target of 96%, and we have several children who now fall into the persistent absentee category as set by the government of less than 90% attendance. We know that we were really affected by seasonal viruses and other sickness bugs since the start of term, and if children are too ill to attend school then they obviously have to stay at home. However, it our duty to let individual parents and carers know if their children have hit the threshold for persistent absenteeism, as you may not be aware of it. As we are at the midpoint of the year, it is an ideal time to do so as the children will have enough time to catch up before the end of the year. If you receive a letter please take it in the spirit in which it was intended – to offer support, if you need it, in improving attendance.

Roofing updates

The roof work in this first phase of replacement is almost complete, so hopefully the scaffolding will be down before too long. During the Easter break, the last part of this phase will be completed – replacing a section over the kitchen. We obviously didn't want to interrupt lunch arrangements during the term – hence the slightly longer timeline.

Calendars

We have made some changes to the calendar as you will note below:

- Parents' evening will now just be face to face on 29th March to make sure you have a chance to see your children's work and meet the class teacher. A letter will follow shortly to allow you book appointments.
- Sports days in the summer term have now been moved as the proposed dates clashed with the Year 6 residential in June.
- There will be no local elections in Birmingham and so we will be fully open on Thursday 5th May.



We're now paperless!

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

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Toy sale

Just a reminder about the appeal for donations of toys in good condition for our toy sale on **Friday 24th March**. Please drop them into school at either end of the day over the next three weeks. Thanks in anticipation.

Kind regards,

Barbara Butterworth

Spring planner

Date	Event	Notes
Wednesday 8 th March	Maths workshop - Y5: 9 – 10 am	Letter will follow
Friday 10 th March	School photographer in: Class photos STAR assembly	
Wednesday 15 th March	Strike action	The school will hopefully be fully open but may be partially closed again unless your child falls into the categories stated in letters.
Thursday 16 th March	Strike action	See above
Friday 17 th March	Red Nose Day Y3 Mothers' Day assembly 9.00am (Mothers' Day gifts will be on sale all of this week)	Children pay £1 for Comic relief to wear something red Y3 parents and carers invited
Wednesday 22 nd March	Maths workshop – Y3: 9 – 10 am	Letter will follow
Friday 24 th March	STAR assembly	
Wednesday 29 th March	Parents' evening	Letter will follow
Friday 31 st March	Egg technology competition	Letter will follow
Easter Holiday: Monday 3 rd April – Friday 14 th April Return to school: Monday 17 th April		

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Summer term planner

Date	Event	Notes
Friday 28 th April	STAR assembly	
Monday 1 st May	Early May bank holiday – school closed	
Monday 8 th May	Coronation Day – Bank holiday: school closed	
Tuesday 9 th May	Y6 SATs week	
Monday 15 th May	Y2 SATs week	
Friday 26 th May	STAR assembly	
Half term holiday: Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June		
Monday 5 th June	Staff training day – school closed	
Tuesday 6 th June	Children return to school	
	Y4 Multiplication check all week	
Friday 9 th June	STAR assembly	
Monday 12 th June	Y1 phonics screening check week Fathers' Day gifts will be on sale all of this week	
Friday 23 rd June	STAR assembly	
Monday 26 th June	Y6 residential	
Tuesday 27 th June	Y6 residential	
Wednesday 28 th	Y6 residential	
Thursday 7 th July	Reports to parents/carers	
Monday 10 th July	Arts week	
Wednesday 19 th July	Y6 leavers' party	Please note this date has been changed from 20.7.23
Monday 24 th July	Y6 leavers' assembly	
Tuesday 25 th July	Last day of term	

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