



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

Behaviour for Learning: Pride
Value Word: Respect

Dear Parent / Carer,

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Swans – 92%

Puffins – 97.8%

Toucans – 90%

Bluebirds – 94%

Robins – 97.2%

Kestrels – 93%

Eagles – 97.6%

Well done Puffins who just pipped Robins and Eagles to the win for a roll on Classopoly.

Star Assembly

This week we held our very special Star Assembly where we really enjoyed seeing the children, families and staff celebrating these wonderful children:

Y6 – Isla and Massera

Y5 – Joshua and Archie

Y4 – Jacob and Maheen

Y3 – Laith and Xiu

Y2 – Sureya and Archie

Y1 – Michael and Alaya

This week's Star of the School was Paris from Y2 for being polite, helpful and a real Bells Farm role model!

Well done to all of these fantastic children for setting excellent examples of our learning behaviours.

Healthy Snacks

I would like to remind you that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free fruit from school each day as a healthy snack. This varies daily and includes satsumas, apples, bananas, peas, raisins, tomatoes and more depending on the season.

Children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 up) are allowed to bring in their own healthy snack. This might

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be a piece of fruit, box of raisins, a cereal bar, breadsticks or biscuit bar. The following items are not considered healthy snacks and therefore are not permitted: sweets, chocolate bars, anything containing nuts or Nutella or packets of crisps. Please do support us with this.

Safeguarding

I would like to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series. We have been informed that some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

If your child has any ***Spy Dog***, ***Spy Cat*** or ***Spy Pups*** books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.

- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Lunch Bookings

Lunches are now available to book on our School App right up until Christmas and we would strongly encourage you to do so. The children have been through the cycle of three weekly menus now, and should have been able to give you feedback on what they liked or didn't like. We would really appreciate your support with booking your child's lunches, as I have explained previously the amount of administration time it takes away from learning both in the classroom and is a lot for office staff to enter every day. Thank you.

Coats

It is vital that your child brings a coat to school with them every day now that we are well into October. Fortunately, at the moment it has remained quite mild - but there have been days where it has been chillier and children haven't had the appropriate clothing for time outside. Please remember, we will continue to go outside even in light showers which is why it is important that

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your child brings a coat to school with them every day. Children are allowed to take their coats off (if it is judged by staff that is warm enough to do so) so please do send them in even if they tell you they don't need one!

I would also like to remind you that all coats must have names in them. Several children across school do have the same coat and there have been occasions where children have taken the wrong coat home with them due to them not being labelled. Please ensure your child's name is in all of their belongings.

Wraparound Care

I'm aware that there have been some communication issues with contacting wraparound care after 3:45. I have checked with the company (and called it myself to doublecheck it works!) and the correct voicemail service is in place. However, the message is extremely long! The message says something along the lines of 'Our school office is now closed, if you wish to leave a voicemail then please do so'. I think this has been heard and then the phone has been put down – however, the message does go on to say that you can press the correct extension to be connected to After School Club. This extension number is 212 and should put you through to Miss Potter or Miss Jones. Please do be patient as the call will be answered but ASC is sometimes very busy – particularly when the children are eating.

We have now installed a new camera to monitor parents who are attending ASC to collect their children. This camera is located on the slanted roof inside the foyer area by the playground. This means it would be really useful for staff, if you could stand as close as possible to the door so that they can see on the camera who is there. Staff will continue to acknowledge you are there with a wave so that you know your child is collecting their belongings. Alongside this, we are having some continuing issues with the bell. Please do ensure that you ring again if you have waited more than a minute or so. Sometimes it does take us a little longer to get to the bell but if no-one has attended it may be that it isn't working.

Parents' Evening Reminder

Thank you to those of you who have already booked your parents' evening slots for Wednesday 22nd October. This is a reminder that the last date for booking will be next Friday so please ensure your slips have been returned by then if you want to meet with your child's new teacher. As always, if you are attending for an afternoon appointment between 1:00 and 3:30, you will not be permitted to take your child with you after the appointment as learning continues until the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding with this.

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FUNdraising

We now have our new schedule of FUNdraising Fridays ready to share with you. We have included many of our old favourites but do have some new fun things prepared too which we are excited about!

For our new parents, these are weekly events that run weekly, in order to raise money for school. School budgets are always really tight and there is not much leeway for the 'big' things within our allocated budget which is why we started FUNdraising Fridays around three years ago. Over that time, we have raised enough money to kit out Reception, Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 with new tables and chairs. The whole school has also had new display boards with hessian backing and foliage and several classrooms have been decorated. This year, we aim to finish Year 1 and Year 3 with new furniture and then begin our next project which will be discussed by our brand new school council.

You will find the events highlighted in yellow on the calendar dates below. If your child attends wraparound care or a club and you would like them to attend the events then you can send them with money in an envelope and they will be taken by a member of staff.

Tickets for the Autumn Disco will go on sale next week following a further letter with information.

Operation Santa – Non-Uniform Day

Operation Santa Trust is a charity which assists families with children aged up to 18 in addressing needs during the Christmas period by providing bespoke Christmas presents, treat bags with food items and where possible vouchers. This helps to ease hardship experienced by many at this time of year. At Bells Farm, we have been supported by this charity for a number of years and it is time for us to give a little back! On Friday 24th October we will be having a non-uniform day to support this excellent cause. Your child may wear their own clothes for a small donation (£1+) on this day. Please remember they should still wear items that are suitable for school (no heels) and the time of year!

Kind regards,

Miss Williams
Headteacher



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Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Monday 13 th October	Year 6 Maths Workshop	Letter sent
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening	Letter sent
Friday 24 th October	Non-uniform day in support of Operation Santa Tuck Shop	Details sent 3:30 School playground
Thursday 6 th November	New Reception Open Day (2026 cohort)	10:00 and 5:00
Friday 7 th November	New Reception Open Day (2026 cohort) Autumn Disco	10:00 3:30 – 5:30
Monday 10 th November	Year 4 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 11 th November	Individual photos SEND Coffee Morning	Details to follow
Friday 14 th November	Cake Sale	3:30 School playground
Monday 17 th November	Reception Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Friday 21 st November	Table Top Sale	3:30 School playground
Monday 24 th November	Year 3 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Friday 28 th November	Family Fun Bingo	Details to follow
Monday 1 st December	Year 2 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Friday 5 th December	Photo Booth	Details to follow
Monday 8 th December	Year 5 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Fayre	Details to follow
Wednesday 17 th December	Pantomime in school	Details to follow

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