



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: Responsibility

Dear Parent / Carer,

What a wonderful week!

I'm sure your children have already told you about all the wonderful things they have done during their first full week at school. If they haven't, don't forget you can check out our class blogs which will be being updated twice a week by classroom staff to share the exciting things your children have learned.

Mrs Johnson's Role

Mrs Johnson is our Learning Mentor and works closely with children to support their emotional well-being, confidence, and readiness to learn. She provides a safe and supportive space where children can talk about any worries or challenges they may be experiencing, either at school or at home. Mrs Johnson helps children develop positive friendships, build self-esteem, manage their emotions, and develop strategies to overcome barriers to learning.

Children work with Mrs Johnson for a short-term intervention programme, where they are timetabled to attend regular sessions focused on a specific area of need, or they may meet with her for a one-off session to discuss a particular concern or receive additional support. If your child is receiving a regular programme of sessions with Mrs Johnson, parents and carers will be informed by the school with a note outlining the support being provided. Mrs Johnson also works alongside families, teachers, and other professionals to ensure that children receive the support they need to thrive both academically and socially. She is available on the front door every morning.

Medical Updates

If your child has an individual healthcare plan in school, I will have contacted you this week requesting any updated medical information you may have had over the summer holidays (or previously) which school needs to be informed of. It is very important that if your child's health has changed, or changes at any point during the academic year, that you update us so we can update our records accordingly. It is vital that inhalers and other emergency medication is sent into school as soon as possible. Thank you for your support with this.

Data Forms

Is it very important that we have the most up-to-date information regarding who school can contact in an emergency to collect your child. At the end of the last academic year (around June

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time) we sent out a new data collection form for each child on role in school. If you did not complete this form, it is vital that you do now as we are aware circumstances can change. Please do try to complete all four boxes for contacts and update dietary requirements. If your child is a vegetarian, you must tick the individual boxes to reflect any meats/fish they do eat. If this is not done, we will not allow children to eat any meat products (including chicken nuggets and fish fingers) until we are informed otherwise.

Free School Meals

Before the holidays we wrote to inform you of the new process for applying for Free School Meals. I have resent this letter attached to today's newsletter. As you know, school have a deficit budget which we are trying very hard with and every little bit of extra funding really does help! Please do support us by applying.

Birthdays

If you have been at Bells Farm for a while, you will know already that the children are allowed to wear their own clothes into school on their birthday. If you are new to us, we made this decision a few years ago as an alternative to sending in birthday sweets or cake. We no longer allow children to bring sweets and cake into school to share on their birthday but they can wear their own clothes so that everyone in school knows! If your child's birthday falls in the holidays, then they can wear their chosen non-uniform outfit on the first day back following the holidays and likewise if your child's birthday is at the weekend they can choose whether they would like to wear their own clothes the Friday before or the Monday after. The children really do enjoy doing this and so we hope we can continue to rely on your support with not sending in birthday sweets to school. I would just like to remind you that the children must still wear clothes that are suitable for school i.e. no high heels, open toe shoes (crocs) or hoop earrings.

Equipment in the mornings

Following another injury this morning, I have reminded the children that they must not access any leftover equipment on the playground in the morning and neither should they open the lunch time boxes to access this. School staff are not outside at this point in time so we do rely on parents to support and remind their children. Thank you for your support with this.

Calendar Dates

Please do check the dates below the letter for updated events being arranged in school. Most classes now have a maths workshop on the calendar which you will be invited to attend at some point this term. In school we try to write the dates as early as we can to allow parents time to

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make arrangements to attend or ask a family member to attend on their behalf. Further details of these workshops will be sent via a letter from the class teacher closer to the time.

We have also now arranged our Open Day for prospective parents for September 2027. If you have any friends or family who live locally who would like to attend, please do tell them about our wonderful school! Further information is available on our school website and we will have some leaflets available from Reception for you to share soon. Open Day will be on Tuesday 20th October and we will offer two sessions; one at 10:00 during the school day and one at 5:00 at the end of the school day. We would always strongly encourage new prospective parents to visit during school day so they can really get a feel of what Bells Farm is all about. Please support us in this as much as you can as being full in each class has a positive impact on the amount of funding we receive. Alongside this, we have a few spaces remaining in Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3.

Arrivals and Collections

I would like to remind you that you must hand your children over to a member of school staff in the morning. Children should not be left unattended in the school playground in the morning. They should be walked onto the playground or walked up the school path to the front entrance by a parent / carer.

Teacher Training Days

We have arranged for Monday 4th January and Monday 12th April to be Teacher Training Days. School will be closed on these dates. We have one training day left to arrange and will let you know as soon as we have done this. I would also like to confirm that school will close on Wednesday 21st July. All children must therefore attend as normal on Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July as these days will form part of our transition arrangements.

Homework

We would like to remind you of the online homework opportunities we have for pupils to engage with at home. Online homework tasks will be set on a Friday and will be reviewed by class teachers on the following Wednesday. The homework that is set will not exceed the time recommendation stated below (from our Homework Policy available on the school website):

Foundation and Key Stage 1: 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6: 2 hours per week

All pupils will have been given a copy of their passwords so that they can access the following websites.

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Spelling Shed - Pupils will be set a weekly spelling list that corresponds with the spellings they are learning in school

Numbots - In KS1 pupils will be able to access games that practice their retrieval of number facts.

Times Tables Rock Stars - In Year 2 - Year 6, pupils will be set between 5 and 10 garage sessions to complete every

Purple Mash - Pupils will be set a range games that support the grammar relevant for this year group

Reading - Expectations for reading will be explained in your child's Autumn Term Newsletter.

If you require a paper copy of homework to be sent home on a Friday, please inform your child's class teacher and this will be arranged. **Please note paper homework will no longer be provided unless it is requested.** We found last year we wasted a lot of trees on homework not being completed! Children who attend Homework Club will be given paper homework which they can take to Homework Club.

Reminders

- Please ensure all coats, jumpers and cardigans are labelled with your child's name.
- All children should bring a water bottle every day. It is useful if this has their name on.
- Please ensure you book After School Club (24 hours notice) and Breakfast Club (48 hours notice) if you need to use it.
- Your child has brought home their Class Newsletters today. Y1-Y6 will also bring Knowledge Organisers so you can see more information about the content of their lessons.
- Please ensure you book a vegetarian lunch if your child is vegetarian.

Kind regards,

Miss Williams
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Wednesday 30 th September	Reception Phonics and Early Reading Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 6 th October	Y3 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 20 th October	Open Day prospective parents Sept 2027	10:00 and 17:00

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Wednesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening	Details to follow
Wednesday 4 th November	Reception Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 10 th November	Y4 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 17 th November	Y5 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 24 th November	Y2 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 1 st December	Y6 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 8 th December	Y3-Y6 Theatre Trip	Details to follow

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