



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,

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Puffins – 92%

Toucans – 89%

Bluebirds – 92%

Robins – 97%

Kestrels – 83%

Eagles – 91%

Well done to Robins who won the first roll of the year on Classopoly!

Attendance Matters

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that our school target for attendance is 96%. As you can see from the figures above, we have fallen significantly below that this week. We understand that children will inevitably pick up coughs, colds and minor illnesses during the year. However, whenever possible, children should attend school unless they are genuinely unwell or have had a tummy bug/temperature.

Attendance at Bells Farm has not been as strong as we would like so far this term and we need your support to ensure children are in school, learning and achieving every day.

Some families may receive attendance letters next week. Please do not be alarmed if you receive one. These letters are being sent to families whose child's attendance was below the expected level during the previous academic year. The purpose of these is to begin conversations about how we can work together to support improved attendance this year. Every day in school counts.

Children miss valuable learning whenever they are absent, and even a single day can mean missed teaching, group work, discussions, practical activities and opportunities to build confidence.

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Reception Learning Blogs

If your child has joined our Reception class this year, you will soon have access to their personal learning blog. Miss Coghlan will share further information about how to access this during the upcoming phonics workshop.

Throughout the year, Reception staff use these blogs to celebrate children's achievements, share photographs and provide updates on their development and learning journey. The blogs will be updated regularly and provide a wonderful insight into your child's first year at school. We hope they offer a valuable window into your child's experiences and help strengthen the important partnership between home and school.

While we will share key moments of your child's learning journey, parents should be aware that our priority during the school day is high-quality teaching, learning and interaction with the children. Unlike some nursery settings, where staff may have more opportunities to record and upload observations throughout the day, our teachers and support staff are focused primarily on delivering lessons and supporting children's learning. As a result, blogs will not be updated every week for every child, but we will endeavour to ensure that significant achievements, experiences and milestones are shared across the year. Thank you for your understanding and support as we prioritise what matters most: your child's learning, development and wellbeing.

Parent Governor Vacancies

You should recently have received information regarding our two Parent Governor vacancies. The Governing Body plays a vital role in shaping the future of our school, and parent voices are incredibly important in helping us make decisions that benefit our whole community. We would strongly encourage any interested parents or carers to consider applying.

Being a governor is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the continued success of Bells Farm and help us move the school forward. Further information can be found on the poster attached and the letter that was sent out yesterday.

Swimming Lessons

If you have not yet returned your child's swimming information form, please do so as soon as possible. Understanding each child's previous experience in the water helps us place children in the most suitable group and ensures lessons are both successful and enjoyable.

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You should also have received information regarding swimming kit requirements. Children will need:

- A one-piece swimming costume
- Suitable swimming shorts/trunks
- A swimming hat (we have purchased spare cotton ones)

Some children may naturally feel a little nervous about changing for swimming and younger children may be worried they won't be able to. Please be reassured that children will be supported by familiar school staff where assistance is needed - they will be well cared for throughout the entire process.

The temporary swimming pool will be located on our staff car park as this was the only suitable location on our school site. Children will change in a nearby heated classroom before walking a very short distance to the pool. You may wish to send a towel robe/dressing gown to provide additional comfort between the changing area and the pool.

We know there may be a few teething problems as we introduce this exciting opportunity, but we are committed to making the experience as enjoyable as possible and hope swimming becomes a regular part of life at Bells Farm in the years ahead.

School Lunch Bookings

Thank you to the many families who are already booking lunches correctly through the school app. This makes a real difference!

A significant number of lunches are still not being booked in advance. This creates additional administrative work, can lead to delays and difficulties in ordering the correct amount of food, and occasionally can result in children not receiving their preferred meal choice. Please ensure that all lunches are booked through the school app, including packed lunches. If your child regularly brings a packed lunch, you can book this in advance for the entire term.

Where children have dietary preferences, including vegetarian options, these must also be selected when making bookings. We want every child to enjoy their lunchtime experience, and accurate bookings help us ensure this happens.

Thank you for your support with this important matter.

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School Census Day – Thursday 1st October

We have a special favour to ask from our Bells Farm families!

Our Autumn School Census Day is taking place soon and the number of school meals taken on this day directly affects the funding that the school receives. This funding helps us provide additional resources, experiences, interventions and support for our children.

If your child usually brings a packed lunch, we would be incredibly grateful if you would consider booking a school meal on Census Day – even if they just want to have the pudding! The menu has been specially chosen and includes a chicken burger/veggie burger, chips and sweetcorn, followed by chocolate cracknel for dessert.

Every meal taken on Census Day really does make a difference to the funding available for Bells Farm, helping us continue to provide the wonderful opportunities and experiences that our children enjoy. Thank you, as always, for your support and for helping us make the very best decisions for our school community.

Homework

Earlier this week you received information regarding homework expectations at Bells Farm. We are now using online homework as our default approach. Paper homework remains available and will continue to be provided for any family who requests it.

Moving primarily to online homework helps us reduce unnecessary paper use and supports our commitment to sustainability. Last year, a considerable amount of printed homework was not completed or returned.

Homework plays an important role in helping children:

- Consolidate key learning.
- Develop independent study habits.
- Practise essential skills.
- Build confidence.
- Strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Mr Lo has kindly created a series of videos to help families access online homework resources. These can be found on our school website: [Accessing Home Learning Resources – Bells Farm](#)

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Primary School If you would prefer paper homework, please contact the school office or inform a member of staff on drop off or collection.

Reading at Home

Reading remains one of the most important things you can do to support your child's learning. Children should now be bringing home both an appropriately levelled reading book and a library or reading-for-pleasure book. Younger children will have their books changed regularly throughout the week, whilst older children will manage their own selections more independently.

Please try to read with your child as often as possible, even if only for a few minutes each day. This is important even if your child is a fluent reader already. We know as adults reading aloud can be intimidating, so even as children become confident readers it is important they are continuing to practice this to improve their fluency.

At Bells Farm, we are passionate about creating lifelong readers. Remember that reading does not only mean storybooks. Graphic novels, comics, magazines, non-fiction books, recipes, signs, instructions and information texts all contribute to developing strong reading habits. The most important thing is helping children discover the joy of reading.

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	Letter sent
Tuesday 6 th October	Y3 Maths Workshop	Letter sent
Monday 12 th October – Friday 23 rd October	Swimming pool in school	Details sent
Tuesday 20 th October	Open Day prospective parents Sept 2027	10:00 and 17:00
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

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Tuesday 24 th November	Y2 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Thursday 26 th November	Y1 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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