



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: Independence

Value Word: Tolerance

Dear Parent / Carer,

Snow Closure

Thank you for your understanding with today's snow closure. It is tricky to make an early decision when the weather is so changeable, but I wanted you to have as much time as possible to make arrangements for childcare.

When school closes, we are asked to provide educationally for children. I would therefore like to set some snow day homework – I ask that you enjoy it, maybe build something out of snow and potentially send a photo of this so we can check you have completed the task! It would be lovely to share what the children have done in classes when they return so if you would like to you can send a photo to enquiry@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk . Please remember you can also find lots of educational resources your child can access via [MyLogin](#)

School Trips

As you will be aware, costs across the UK have been rising for the last few years and school has been hugely impacted - as I'm sure your household has. School always subsidises the cost of trips to try and minimise costs for parents where possible. Our trips have been designed so that across their time at Bells Farm, the children receive a wide range of experiences. The trips are all linked with the topics they are learning about in class and are planned to make the most of new learning opportunities as well as being an exciting experience to have with their friends and teachers. Your children may experience a visiting a new place on a school trip which, for a family to visit, can be extremely expensive.

Contributions towards school trips are voluntary. However, if school does not receive enough contributions towards the cost of the school trip, trips will have to be cancelled. This is something we came close to having to do with the Y6 residential last year as the cost of this trip is already heavily subsidised by school. This is not something we ever want to consider as we know the valuable experiences that are provided for our children.

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Over the next few months, details of the school trips planned for this year will be released to parents with the first set of trips upcoming for Y4 and Y5 at the end of this month. We totally understand the cost of living has hit families and we would never prevent a child from attending a school trip due to cost. We would always try to work with you as a family to devise a payment plan where you can pay in three (or more) smaller instalments across a longer period of time if you are struggling to pay for the total cost of the trip. Please come and speak to us in school if you require support.

Alongside this, we are continuing to have a few issues on our school app, which we are aware of, that means some parents are not able to pay for trips and clubs. We do hope that this will be solved shortly enabling you to make these payments. Thank you for your support with this.

Clubs

We still have a few spaces left in some clubs (particularly Multisports for Reception, Y1 and Y2) so if your child does want to join then please do send an email to enquiry and we will be in touch. The first batch of slips have been sent out this week for those parents who have requested clubs already. If you have sent an email to enquiry and not received a reply slip yet please do check your child's bag as these were given to the children on Wednesday this week. If you still cannot locate it, please drop another email to enquiry and I will get back to you about the places that your child has been allocated.

Curriculum Maps and Class Newsletters

These have been prepared by teachers and were ready to send out today! Newsletters and Knowledge Organisers will now be sent home on Monday. The school website will be updated with this term's curriculum maps by the end of next week. These maps show what your child will learn in all subjects taught in school so please do have a look.

Star Assembly

It is wonderful to see so many children bringing in their outside achievements to share as part of our special Star Assembly. I would like to remind you that if your child has a certificate, medal, trophy or award of any kind that they would like to share in Star Assembly you should send an email via the enquiry

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address (enquiry@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk) informing us of the details of the award. This should include when and why the award was given so that if the children are quite shy in assembly, I can still ensure the school knows the full reasons they have been presented with their awards. I will also be able to reply to your email and let you know which Star Assembly your child will be in, meaning you can attend if you wish to.

This term we have some special class assemblies happening, which means there are less Star Assemblies than normal but all the children will get to share their awards at some point.

School Closures

School will be closed on Monday 23rd February for teacher training. This day comes following the February half term meaning that children will now return on Tuesday 24th February following the half term break. This is also just a reminder that Monday 20th July is our final teacher training day of the year - meaning the academic year ends for children on Friday 17th July.

On Thursday 7th May school will be being used as a polling station and will therefore be closed to children for the entire day. Teachers will send home a small pack of work which your child can complete if you wish them to have something to keep them busy on this day!

Parking

As you will be aware, I often give reminders to parents about not parking at the front of school as this belongs to the Farmhouse and therefore causes issues them and the residents of Bells Close. Alongside these reminders to parents, I am now working with Councillor Julian Pritchard to improve the safety of the school site. As part of this, we have applied for funding from the council in order to make the road at the front of school a 'No school traffic zone'. This means that parking at the front of school may soon not be an option at all. I will keep you informed on updates regarding this as we get them.

I would like to ask once more that you do not park at the front of school for any length of time. If you are stopping to drop children off, please be respectful to each other and make sure you do not block anyone in.

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Attendance holidays and punctuality

You may have received a letter this week (and may receive one next week due to the closure today) regarding your child's attendance and/or punctuality. Attendance and punctuality can significantly impact a child both emotionally and educationally. We want to work with parents to offer early help and support to improve your child's attendance and punctuality. If you have received one of these letters, please do contact us so we can offer this support.

Young Voices

A letter was sent to parents whose children are attending young voices on Friday 16th January this week providing further details around the plans for the day. You must ensure you have read this letter if your child is going. If you haven't yet paid for the coach (or if you have just paid the first instalment) all payments must be made by Wednesday 14th January at the very latest. By paying you will be consenting to your child attending and so this must be done if you are expecting your child to attend.

Children who attend YV Choir Club on Thursdays will be invited to attend the day before the concert on Thursday 15th January 3:30 – 4:15 as normal. This will then be the final choir club.

Swimming

During this half term, Y6 children will be going swimming at Cocks Moors Leisure Centre. The children will be having a 45 minute session every day for a duration of 2 weeks to help them learn to swim or increase their swimming confidence. This will begin on Monday 2nd February. Children will need to ensure that they bring appropriate swimming costumes, have their hair tied back if it is long enough to do so and not wear any jewellery. Tights will not be permitted in school during these two weeks as the children will need to remove socks and shoes to enter the poolside and tights will make this difficult.

Year 3 and Year 5 will also be attending swimming lessons in the summer term. More details will be shared with you closer to the time.

Online Safety

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The Children's Commissioner has released updated guidance for parents and carers on helping to manage digital lives. We would strongly recommend you have a look at their resources as they are very clear and informative:

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

Kind regards,
Miss Williams

Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Tuesday 13th January	Y4 Book Breakfast	Letter sent
Friday 16th January	Young Voices	Letter sent
Monday 26th January	Year 4 and Year 5 visit Think Tank	Letter sent
Friday 30th January	Year 2 Class Assembly 9:05	Details to follow
Monday 23rd February	School closed for children – Teacher training day	
Monday 2nd March	Year 4 Class Assembly 3:00	Details to follow
Wednesday 11th March	Year 3 Class Assembly 9:05	Details to follow
Thursday 7th May	School closed for polling station	

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