



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: Concentration
Value Word: Equality

Dear Parent / Carer,

Attendance

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Swans – 96%

Puffins – 97%

Toucans – 93%

Bluebirds – 95%

Robins – 91%

Kestrels – 92%

Eagles – 95%

Well done to Puffins who won a roll on Classopoly!

Our whole school attendance last term was hugely impacted by Chickenpox! Hopefully, we are now through the worst of it and can improve our school attendance before the end of this academic year. In school, we are required to track children whose attendance is less than 95%. We will be sending home letters today for those children who fall into the 'persistently absent' category to notify you of this. We will monitor these children closely in the summer term and hope to see an improvement. Miss Hackett is happy to support families struggling with attendance. An appointment can be made via the school office.

Curriculum

You will receive a paper copy of the class newsletter and new Knowledge Organisers for this term from your child's class teacher today. I will also be updating the Curriculum Maps over the next week on the school website so please do check this page for more information:

[Curriculum – Bells Farm Primary School](#)

Audiebant System

Our Audiebant system is now fully up and running – we are already getting used to the 'bing bongs' in school! Please remember the information shared previously regarding lateness. When the announcement states 'Doors are now closed' this will happen immediately and the gate to Brockworth Road will be locked also. If your child is late and the school doors are closed by

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the time you get there, you will have to walk around to the front entrance and sign your child in using our Inventory screen. You will then have to leave school via the front entrance.

Lunches

We have had a lot of 'no bookings' this week leading to some upset children when they haven't had their preferred option. Please ensure you book your child's lunch as it impacts them, admin staff, kitchen staff and classes when bookings aren't made. This can be done for the rest of the term now as the menus will remain the same. Thank you.

Clubs

All the applications received for clubs so far have been allocated a place. Over the next week, before Friday 25th April, you will see the payment option appear on the school app to enable you to pay for the club upfront for the term. Spanish Club is already running but all other clubs will then begin week commencing 27th April. Payment for clubs must be made in full **before the club begins** and refunds will not be given if your child chooses to not attend. As always, if paying is a barrier to your child's attendance at a club please come and have a conversation with myself, Mrs Hudson or Miss Hackett.

We still have a few spaces left in clubs, particularly Multiskills club which is open for Reception, Y1 and Y2 on a Tuesday. This club involves a different sport or game being played each week meaning there is likely to be something for everyone. Mr Lo is excited to run the first ever Culture Club where the children will learn facts and explore cultural information about different countries. If your child is interested in joining one of these clubs, please send an email to enquiry@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk as soon as possible so that the lists can be finalised.

Day	Club	Year group	Club Lead	Finish Time
Monday	Spanish Club	Y1 – Y6	Mr Mattaliano	4:15
Tuesday	Homework Club	Y1 – Y6	Miss Williams	4:15
	Lego Club	Reception - Y2	Miss Coghlan	4:15
	Culture Club	Y2 – Y5	Mr Lo	4:15
	Multisports	YR – Y2	Mr Neasham	4:15
Wednesday	Netball and Hockey	Y3, Y4	Mr Neasham	4:15

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Trips

I have written previously regarding payments for trips, but we really are struggling to get enough money to make these trips feasible moving forward. The upcoming trips for Y6 to the Pioneer Centre Residential, Y2 to Twycross Zoo and Y3 to the Safari Park are extremely expensive for both parents and school. I understand more than £20 for your child to go on the trips to Twycross Zoo or the Safari Park is expensive. However, the actual cost per child for these trips is £41 due to the rising cost of coaches. I hope this allows the context of the amount of subsidising that school is already doing for these trips - which cannot be sustained in our current financial situation. If you have a balance outstanding, please do pay as soon as possible if you are able. We do understand this can be tricky which is why payment plans are in place. If you need an individual payment plan allowing you to pay for the trip over a longer period of time, please do come and have a conversation with myself or Miss Hackett and this can be arranged.

We currently have over £3000 outstanding on the Y6 residential trip. I have written to parents this week confirming the balance that remains for each child. If your balance is less than £70, that is because you have stuck to the payment plan - thank you for that. If your remaining balance is currently more than £70, you must (or please?!) pay as much as you can as soon as possible. School cannot afford to pay for trips for everyone given our deficit budget.

We never want to cancel trips but we may have to look at alternatives in the future to these trips that are more expensive if we do not receive enough contributions. We do have a plan to reduce the cost of trips from next year as we are now working on a two-year cycle of trips, meaning two classes can go together, which will reduce the cost of the coach. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Bingo

Next week's Family Bingo event will take place in the school hall from 3:45 and will last around an hour. The price for taking part in this is £3 per person or you can purchase four tickets for £10. The card machine is fully up and running (which is very exciting!) and so these payments can be made on card which at the start of every school day on the back door, or the end of the school day on the front door. We look forward to seeing you there!

PE

Please remember your child should have their full PE kit in school now remembering that lessons maybe outside from now on. It is important that your child has clothes to change in

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and out of, particularly as we head towards the summer months where hopefully it might be warmer. Please ensure all children in Reception attend in their PE kit with their uniforms to change into and the rest of the school bring their PE kit in a separate bag to either bring home after or leave in their classroom for the half term.

Uniform Policy

As you are aware every school has a uniform policy and ours can be found on our school website. I have previously sent you a shortened version so you are aware of the expectations. I would like to politely remind you that black school shoes are the expected option for all children to wear. In some cases, it is acceptable for children to wear black trainers as we are aware and inclusive of children's needs. However, this does **not** extend to white trainers, converse, pumps or footwear of any other colour. If your child is not wearing black school shoes, you should inform me on the door in the morning. We know some children can very quickly grow out of shoes and also that school shoes do occasionally break. These situations and circumstances are always thoroughly understood but should be resolved at your earliest opportunity – usually the following weekend.

I have also had a bit of an audit on jewellery this week. The reasons that jewellery is not allowed in school are plentiful but this week I have we have observed children across most classes wearing hooped earrings. This is following the reminder given in my previous letter before the Easter holidays. I would like to remind all parents that hoop earrings are not acceptable to wear to school due to the health and safety implications. We all know that children can sometimes play roughly when they are outside and a finger getting caught in a hoop earring and pulling could lead to serious injury. If your child has to wear earrings to school, these should be small studs - not hoops or drop earrings. Thank you for your compliance with this.

Reminders

- Please remember to book your child's lunches for the summer term.
- Swimming has now begun for our Y5 class. Please ensure they have the correct kit each week.
- The Y6 morning study club is well underway. It has been pleasing to see so many children attending! Your child can attend when they want to any day from 8:00.

Kind regards,
Miss Williams

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Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Date	Event	Details
Monday 20th April	Year trip to West Midlands Safari Park	Letter sent
Friday 24th April	Family Bingo	Details to follow
Friday 1st May	Read and Relax	Details to follow
Thursday 7th May	School closed for polling station	
Friday 8th May	Pizza sale	Pre-orders only
Tuesday 12th May	Year 2 trip to Twycross Zoo	Details to follow
Friday 15th May	Pro Strike Football Fundraiser	Details to follow
Friday 22nd May	Cake sale Break up	Details to follow
Monday 1st June	Return to school	
Friday 5th June	Summer Disco Year 3 swimming starts	Details to follow Details to follow - Fridays
Tuesday 9th June	Reception and Y1 trip to Botanical Gardens	Details to follow
Friday 12th June	Photos in a frame	Details to follow
15th – 17th June	Y6 residential	Letter sent – details to follow
Friday 19th June	Reception Class Assembly	Details to follow
Wednesday 17th – Friday 19th June	Father's Day Sale	Details to follow
Friday 19th June and Friday 26th June	Ice lolly and Ice cream Sale	Details to follow
Friday 3rd July	Summer Fayre Y1 Class Assembly	Details to follow Details to follow
Friday 17th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly Break up for summer	Details to follow

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