

Newsletter No 4, December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a very exciting time for us at Bell Farm. Advent has begun and we are really looking forward to our Christmas celebrations and festivities. I do hope that you can join us for the Christmas Fair on Friday and Christmas performances the following weeks. Please see our school diary for all the dates in the final two weeks of term.

Our value for December is peace. Please talk to your child about ways that we can live peacefully at school and at home. Our infant children are enjoying 'just a minute' which is some quiet reflection time so that we can all enjoy a quiet and peaceful moment away from the excitement of Christmas in a primary school.

Best wishes

Anne Cooper

Trips & Visits

What a busy few weeks with nearly every year group going out on trips and visits. Year 3 braved the cold frost, at Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire as part of their Stone Age to Bronze age topic. They took part in a Cordage workshop making strong cord from natural materials, then used this to make a bracelet, bookmark or a keyfob.

As part of their weddings week, the reception children had a trip St Peter's Church in Hershams, where they acted out their own wedding ceremony!

At Henley Fort, year 6 took part in a 1940s World War 2 Home Front experience. Led by their captain, the group undertook various training exercises such as camouflage, drills, I.D checks, road blocks and much more. Year 2 went to the Natural History Museum as part of their topic of dinosaurs and year 1 learnt about toys through the ages in their toy workshop held here at Bell Farm.

Lastly, year 5 were Victorians for the day at the Victorian School Rooms in Guildford. They dressed up, ate a Victorian style packed lunch and were taught lessons as they would have been in the 1890s. They were very keen to come back to Bell Farm after!

Maths Open Morning

Our Maths open morning was huge success this year with over 90 parents coming to spend the morning in our maths lessons. The children loved having the adults around to show them how we teach maths at Bell Farm.



Friends News

Two Friends events have taken place this term. We had Stories by Twilight for the children and the Bell Farm quiz night for our parents. Both events were fantastically organised and the quiz doubled the amount raised last year at £624! The stories were really magical and the children were very excited to come back to school in their pyjamas! Thank you to those who organised it, and to all those that came!!



This Friday, 9th December, we have the big event of the term, our Christmas fair. The children are all very excited and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Christmas

The children are frantically rehearsing for our Christmas productions, "Christmas with the Aliens" (EYFS & KS1) and "Primary School Christmas Musical" (years 4/5). Tickets are going fast and they cannot wait to show you what they have been practising. Don't forget at the EYFS/KS1 productions the Friends will be drawing the raffle for a Christmas treat and at the evening performances of Primary School Christmas Musical, we will be collecting for our nominated Christmas charity, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). We would also like to thank Squires Garden Centre, Hershams, for supplying our wonderful Christmas tree this year.

Road Safety

We have received a number of concerns this week from parents

regarding the safety of pupils and families as they come to and leave from school each day. The concerns are around speed of driving as well as parking in areas other than those designated for parking. Reports of double parking, blocking driveways, parking up on pavements where children walk and "dropping off in the middle of the road" have been the main cause for concern. We have also had



Road Safety

two reports of cars being hit and damaged with the other party driving off. Please ensure that if you are driving your child to school you must be mindful of pedestrians, other road users and local residents.

Bell Farm Clubs and Afterschool Activities

As you may know there are two types of after school activity that run at Bell Farm. We as a school run a range of free afterschool clubs that are managed by members of staff. These include cooking, sports and book clubs. We change these clubs termly and they are available to sign up for on our website. You will receive a letter at the beginning of each term detailing what is running and there will be a short window in which you can log in online and book. The Bell Farm run clubs are finishing up this week on Friday 9th December and will start again on Monday 16th January 2017.

We also host a number of external clubs that run independently but use our space after school. These include: tennis, gymnastics, football, dance and multi-sports. These clubs are bookable directly with the provider and run their own calendars. Details are available from the letter rack outside the main school office.

Applying for School

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013, you need to apply for a Reception school place. Applications should be made online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/admissions by **Sunday 15th January 2017**.

Surrey Admissions have advised that applications received after the closing date without good reason will be treated as late and will not be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may jeopardise your chance of being offered one of your preferred schools.

Walton & Hersham Food Bank

Please be aware that at Bell Farm we hold food bank vouchers that can be given out at this time to cover child holiday meals.

As always this process is strictly confidential and if you would like to speak to anyone further, please contact Ms Boulton, our pastoral officer.

Staff News

At Bell Farm we care about the well-being of our staff. Each week we give a Business Manager Award 'to reward and recognise an individual who has given outstanding contribution to the team'. In addition, the member of staff receives a free lunch, kindly supported by Crumbs.



AUTUMN TERM 2016		
Wednesday 7 th December		Choir to sing at Clare House and Sutton Lodge
Friday 9 th December		2pm – Friends Christmas Fair
Monday 12 th December		EYFS & KS1 Christmas performance 1a Orchid/Crocus/Sunflower – 2.30pm
Tuesday 13 th December		EYFS & KS1 Christmas performance 2a Daffodil/Snapdragon/Buttercup – 2.30pm
Wednesday 14th December		Christmas cards in to school
Wednesday 14 th December		Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 14 th December		Nursery Christmas Performance – 10.45am
Wednesday 14 th December		Nursery Christmas Performance – 2.30pm
Thursday 15 th December		EYFS & KS1 Christmas performance 1b Orchid/Snowdrop/Tulip – 2.30pm
Friday 16 th December		EYFS & KS1 Christmas performance 2b Daffodil/Honeysuckle/Primrose – 2.30pm
Friday 16th December		Christmas Jumper day
Monday 19 th December	Y5/Y4	Year 5 Christmas production with Year 4 support – 7pm
Tuesday 20 th December	Y5/Y4	Year 5 Christmas production with Year 4 support – 7pm
Tuesday 20 th December		Santa's reindeer in
Tuesday 20 th December	Nursery	Nursery end of term
Wednesday 21st December		Class Christmas parties
Wednesday 21 st December		End of term – school finishes at 2.20pm
SPRING TERM 2017		
Tuesday 3 rd January		INSET day – school closed to children
Wednesday 4 th January		Back to school
Tuesday 17 th January		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Thursday 19 th January		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Thursday 19 th January		Year 5 to Guildford Cathedral – Surrey get Vocal
Wednesday 25th January	Y3	Year 3 to Science Museum
Wednesday 1st February		Parents Evening – 4.30pm – 7pm
Thursday 2nd February		Parents Evening – 3.30pm – 6pm
Thursday 2 nd February		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Tuesday 7 th February		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Tuesday 7 th February		Winter Discos – Reception 3.30pm – 4.15pm Years 1 & 2 – 4.30pm – 5.15pm
Wednesday 8 th February		Winter Discos – Years 3, 4, 5 - 3.30pm – 4.30pm Year 6 – 4.45pm – 5.45pm
Friday 10 th February		End of half term
Monday 20th February		Back to school
Tuesday 21st February	Y2	Year 2 to RHS Wisley
Monday 27th February		Bell Farm Book Fair
Thursday 2nd March	Y5	Year 5 Bikeability