

## Newsletter No 5, December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

*I have thoroughly enjoyed Christmas at Bell Farm and I hope you have too. The nursery production was lovely. I especially liked the 'surprise song' where we even had snow in the nursery! The reception children and KS1 impressed me with their confidence and singing. It really was a lovely performance. Year 5, supported by year 4 put on an excellent show and the cast and choir were amazing!*

*Thank you very much to the Friends of Bell Farm who worked incredibly hard to run the Christmas Fair. We all really enjoyed it and I would like to thank all the parents who have worked at the many events run by the Friends this term. We could not do it without you! Thank you! We are purchasing some tablets/laptop computers with the money you have raised and also a new mini bus!*

*I am sad to say good bye to Mrs Haywood and wish her the very best with her future career.*

*We have a new assistant headteacher starting in January. Her name is Mrs Beardon and she will be responsible for inclusion. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team.*

*As we enjoy our final Christmas festivities, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Best Wishes  
Anne Cooper

### Trips & Visits

The choir were great ambassadors for Bell Farm at the Hershams Fair earlier this month. Led by Ms McAdoo, they sang carols beautifully round the Christmas tree to the Mayor of Elmbridge who commented on how well behaved they were. Our KS1 choir and some year 6s also took time out to sing at Clare House and Sutton Lodge, two local care homes. They were impeccably behaved and we need to give a special mention to four year 6 children, who visited a couple of residents who were unable to get out of bed and sang to them at their bedside.



### Dates for your Diaries

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 is an INSET and the school is closed to children. Back to school is on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

### Would you like to make a difference to a child's life?

Then why not find out more about fostering with Surrey County Council? A foster carer will be at the parents' evening on Thursday 2nd February between 3.30 and 6pm, and they will be delighted to chat with you about what it's like to foster. If you then wish to take your interest further, they can pass your contact details to the fostering team, who will arrange to visit you in your home. Visit our website [surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://surreycc.gov.uk/fostering), follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/surreyfostering](https://facebook.com/surreyfostering)) or Twitter @surreyfostering.



### Entrance to the School

Please be mindful that all visitors to the school MUST buzz on the gate to let the school office know they have arrived. If the gate is open, please do not just walk through, especially not through the driver's gate. This is extremely dangerous with cars and lorries entering and leaving the site all day. We thank you for your co-operation.

### Cost of dinners for half term

School meals are now cost £2.20/day which must be paid in advance weekly, monthly or half termly. You are able to pay on line using your pupil link code or at the school office using cash or cheque (payable to Surrey County Council) in a clearly labelled envelope.

All lunch accounts must be in credit by at least £11.00 on the first day back and every Monday morning. If you would like to pay for the first half of the autumn term (Wed 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February) the cost will be £61.60.

Any lunch account which goes into arrears will be asked to provide packed lunches until the debt is clear.

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the school office to complete one simple form. The school will receive Pupil Premium funding and you will also be able to receive assistance with the payment of school trips.

### Walton Charities/Food Bank and Hershams Baptist Church

A huge thank you to Walton Charities/Food Bank and Hershams Baptist Church for their kind Christmas gifts and food parcels they donated to Bell Farm children this term.

### Friends News

We would like to say a big thank you to our Friends for the fabulous Christmas Fair they put on at Bell Farm last week. The stalls were fantastic and were really well received by the children. I'm sure Father Christmas will agree his grotto was beautiful and he was very comfortable in there for the afternoon. The secret present room was a hive of activity, so hopefully some of you will enjoy your special gifts on Christmas day! Details of monies raised will be announced early next term. The children also loved their visit from Father Christmas, his reindeer and his special barn owl on Monday and received class Christmas presents today.

### Christmas Charity

We are thrilled to be able to send Save the Children £389 that was raised via the Christmas Jumper day. We also raised over £330 for our Christmas charity, JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) through collections at our KS2 productions and a staff chocolate raffle! Thank you so much to all who donated.

### 123 Magic – Parenting Course

123 magic course jointly hosted by Bell Farm and Chandlers Field will start on 18th January 2017.

Venue: Chandlers Field School

Time: 9.15 to 11.15 am.

For a period of 4 weeks.

If interested in taking this course please email karenb@bell-farm.surrey.sch.uk

### Lost Property

***Please ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly named, at that you check them regularly, just in case names are faded due to washing!***

### Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence

We wish to draw to your attention that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised.

All requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances will they be approved. The policy of Surrey County Council, to which this school has agreed, states that each parent who takes their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the head teacher, will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Each parent is liable to receive a penalty notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absences in these circumstances. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

From September 2013, the penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days, but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the Penalty Notice is not paid within 28 days, the Local Authority must prosecute the parent/carer for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Penalty notices may also be used by the Local Authority in the following circumstances: -

When a pupil is stopped during school hours by the Truancy Team, and there is a history of unauthorised absence, a warning letter will be sent to the parent/carer informing them that their child's attendance will be monitored for the following 15 school days. If there are further unauthorised absences, a Penalty Notice will be issued.

Where a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance, and is failing to engage with any supportive measures proposed by the school or Education Welfare. Before a Penalty Notice is issued, the parent will be sent a formal warning of their liability to receive such a notice.

Absence request forms are available from the school office and must be completed and returned to the school office at least 4 weeks prior to the requested date of absence.

Please refer to our website for our school Attendance Policy.

Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December		End of term – school finishes at 2.20pm
<b>SPRING TERM 2017</b>		
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January		INSET day – school closed to children
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January		Back to school
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January		Year 5 to Guildford Cathedral – Surrey get Vocal
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Y3</b>	<b>Year 3 to Science Museum</b>
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>		<b>Parents Evening – 4.30pm – 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>		<b>Parents Evening – 3.30pm – 6pm</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February		Year 1 to Pizza Express (classes TBC)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February		Winter Discos – Reception 3.30pm – 4.15pm Years 1 & 2 – 4.30pm – 5.15pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February		Winter Discos – Years 3, 4, 5 - 3.30pm – 4.30pm Year 6 – 4.45pm – 5.45pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February		End of half term
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Back to school</b>
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Year 2 to RHS Wisley</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>Bell Farm Book Fair</b>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Year 5 Bikeability</b>