



Bellfield Infant School News

September 2023

Tel: 0121 464 4855

Website: <https://www.bellfield-inf.bham.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents & Carers

*"Happiness and wonder
inspires success"*

A welcome message from your new Head Teacher

Welcome to a new school year and a new era at Bellfield Infant and Nursery School!

My name is Mr McCabe, and it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head Teacher of this happy and nurturing school. I feel incredibly privileged to have been appointed to this role by the Governors and it's a responsibility that I don't take lightly and will never take for granted. I'm grateful and humbled by the knowledge that you have entrusted us with the responsibility of guiding your child's educational journey through the Early Years and Key Stage 1 and am determined to repay your trust by doing everything possible to ensure your children feel safe, happy and are able to thrive at our school.

I've already met a number of families on the playground before and after school but I'm looking forward to meeting the rest of you in the coming days and weeks so we can begin working together to make your child's time at Bellfield Infant and Nursery School a success. The process of us working together successfully begins with us building strong relationships between home and school. It begins with open and honest communication between parents and Staff to develop trust. And it begins with mutual respect. With this in mind, I ask that, when issues arise in school, as they inevitably will, in the first instance, you contact the office, Beccy, the Pastoral Lead, or your child's class Teacher to voice your concerns. I can't promise that we will always be able to accommodate all your requests or even to give you the answer you want to hear; however, I can promise that your views will always be taken seriously, you will always be listened to and I will do everything possible to find a solution or a compromise that works in the best interests of all children.

Please do come up and introduce yourselves if you see me on the school playground – I will attempt to be at the gate before and after school whenever possible. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming weeks.

While I don't want to make this first Newsletter all about me, I fully understand that you'll be keen to know a bit more about me, my background and what you can expect from me. Since graduating from Brunel University, I've always worked as a Teacher but in a number of very varied and wide-ranging contexts. From delivering the pre-session programme of English and Academic Support to Post Graduate Business Studies Students at Aston University, to teaching Maths and English Basic Skills and Skills for Life to vulnerable adults at Fircroft College, all of my Teaching background will be relevant in its own way to the role of Head Teacher at Bellfield.

For the last 6 ½ years I worked as the Deputy Head Teacher at a successful Infant school in North Solihull, where I was also a Senior Specialist Leader of Education supporting Teachers and Leaders from other local schools to develop their Teaching skills and Leadership capacity. I therefore understand the unique role and the positive impact that Infant education can have on pupil development as well as having a wealth of experience in supporting school Staff to develop their practice. In the short time I've been at Bellfield Infant and Nursery School, I am beginning to see where I might be able to add value and appreciate the patience of Stakeholders at all levels, Staff, Parents, Governors and children, while we progress towards a new way of working and try to move forward together as a school.

As we develop a shared vision for this next phase in our school's journey, I also want to acknowledge and build on the strengths we currently have in our school community. We have a committed staff and wonderful children which is the perfect base to build upon. Maintaining positive relationships between parents, staff and pupils will be vital to the success of the school as we come together to celebrate what we do well and support each other to recognise areas we still need to develop. I will therefore be listening to the views of the pupils, parents and Staff as we move towards this goal. By working together, we can ensure that children enjoy their time at Bellfield Infant and Nursery School, make good progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to be successful throughout their future lives. I have high expectations of the children and will continue to expect excellent behaviour, a positive attitude to learning and to arrive at school on time every day, ready to learn, wearing the correct school uniform.

Key Dates for your diary:

INSET days (School closed) - 8th November, 8th April, 22nd July

Cake Sale on the Playground - 3pm on 29th September to raise money to pay for the Christmas Panto

Individual School Photos – 25th October

Half Term – children break up from school 27th October at 3:20pm and return to school 6th November at 8:40am

Parents Consultations - 8th November 1pm - 6pm

Year Group Assemblies (parents invited) –

9:15am 10.10.23 - Year 2 in the Hall

9:15am 17.10.23 - Year 1 in the Hall

9:15am 24.10.23 - Reception in the Hall

2:45pm 24.10.23 - Nursery in the Nursery setting

2:45pm 26.10.23 - Nursery in the Nursery setting



Communication about log ins for DB Primary was sent out last week. The new class blogs are already up and running and can be found on the school website here: <https://bellfield-inf.bham.dbprimary.com/service/util/login?path=/bham/primary/bellfield-inf>

Please check your child's class blog weekly to see what they have been up to and also complete any homework that has been set. A letter has been sent out with instructions about how to set up your account and log in but please ask your child's class Teacher if you need any further support to access it.



SchoolPing

Schoolping is one of the primary vehicles we currently use at school to communicate with parents and can be accessed through the free School Ping App for Iphone, Android and the web. Key dates, information about events, celebration of children's achievements and the monthly newsletter will all be sent to parents through the app. If you need any support to access it, please email s.bahra@bellfield-inf.bham.sch.uk

School Uniform:

We are currently reviewing the uniform policy at school to ensure it is fit for purpose and appropriate for all of our children. Until we decide on any changes, please can you continue to send your children to school in their correct Bellfield Infant School uniform:

- White shirt/blouse or white polo shirt.
 - Grey or black skirt/pinafore dress or trousers.
 - Navy sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo.
 - Blue and white striped or checked dress for the summer for girls or grey or black shorts with a white polo shirt.
 - Black shoes (no trainers).
 - For PE – black shorts, white polo or t-shirt and black pumps.
 - For Outdoor Learning (Forest School) - Old clothes (Tracksuit bottoms, Sweatshirt, Wellies and Socks).
- For Art - Oversized shirt

We encourage you to purchase a school book bag from the school office for a cost of £5.00. Book bags protect the books from being damaged. If your child loses or damages a school book there is a charge of £5.00 per book.

Equipment for school:

We understand there is great deal of equipment for you to remember to bring in for your child at school so here is a quick list to help you:

Daily	Half Termly
Water bottle – filled with water or squash (no fizzy drinks please).	PE Kit - black shorts, white polo or t-shirt and black pumps. These will be sent home for washing at the end of each half term.
Book bag with your child's home reader and reading diary (rucksacks are too big to fit in their drawers).	
Coat when it is wet or cold. As we move into Autumn and Winter these should be sent in every day.	

Pupil Voice:

As part of our learning about British Values and to ensure we are listening to the views of our children, we are currently in the process of electing School Council members, Playground Buddies and Lunchtime helpers. The children have completed application forms for these roles and their peers will vote for who they want to represent them at School Council meetings and to support them on the playground. We will announce which children have been elected in Celebration Assembly on Monday 25th September.

Day Care News

Day care have welcomed many new families and their children into our setting. We would like to thank you for returning your child's learning journeys with the wonderful pictures and comments, which we have found very helpful to settle your children.

If you have not returned your child's learning journey could you please bring it back as soon as possible, so we can continue to record your child's development.

After many tears and plenty of cuddles, the children have settled in and we look forward to an exciting year of fun, growth and adventure.

We have a fantastic new garden and are currently developing it. If you have any unwanted garden equipment, pushchairs, trikes, toys etc. we are happy to receive any donations.



Pastoral News

We are really pleased with how our new children have settled in, in all year groups. It takes time for children to know and understand what is expected of them at school and staff encourage positive behaviour with praise. If children are doing something they shouldn't, staff will talk to them and help them make the right choice. Please talk about behaviour with your child and encourage them to listen to their teachers and follow the rules.

Asking your child questions starting with who, what, where and why will encourage them to tell you about their day. For example, 'what did you sing today?' or 'who did you play with outside?' are better than 'what did you do today?' which they often answer with 'nothing'!

Please remember that I am here to support you and your child. I can help with behaviour, routines, language development, encouraging your child to listen and lots of other things! I'm always at the Vineyard Road gate at the beginning and end of the day, or phone school to talk to me.

Beccy

Playground Equipment:

Finally, please can we politely request that you don't allow your children to play on the play equipment or ride their scooters and bikes on the playground before and after school. This is to ensure we avoid any potential accidents on the school site at a time when the children are not in our care. Before children are handed over in the morning and once children have been collected after school, their safety is your responsibility so we want to encourage you to collect your children and leave the school site as quickly and promptly as possible. Thank you for your support in helping to reduce risk on the playground and keeping our school community as safe as possible.