



Believe, Grow, Succeed



Birches Bulletin

October 2019

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

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What a super September we've had...

All the children and staff have settled in wonderfully and I am so proud of the attitude of all the children within school! Their behaviour and attitude has been exemplary! The children are thoroughly enjoying all the different activities that Miss Hulme has organised at lunchtime and our Year Four Play Leaders have been fantastic role models for the school.

The School Council and House Captains were announced and they have taken on their new roles with relish. We have already held special events and activities for our children and families and look forward to many more to come including Grandparent's Day and our 60th Anniversary.

Sparkle Days and Year One's SUPERB class assembly have given us lots to celebrate.

Parent Workshops

Thank you SO much to all the parents who attended the Year 1 Parents' Meeting and Online Safety Information for Parents. We really value and appreciate your continued support.



Charities

Our annual Jeans for Genes raised £144.20 This will help research into genetically inherited disorders and provide support services for families affected.

MacMillan Cancer Coffee Morning cake sale raised £55.95 Thank you to all the staff and parents who came and supported this incredible charity which provides nurses to care for those who have been diagnosed with cancer.



Individual and Sibling School Photos

On Wednesday 2nd October, the school photographer will be in to take individual and sibling photographs. If your child has older or younger siblings who do not attend Birches, the photographer will be available from 8.30 am to take these photos. Please report to the school office. N.B. If siblings attend school, their photograph will be taken *within* the school day.

PFA

Our *fantastic* PFA have been very busy planning some wonderful events which will be held in November. Firstly is a Christmas Fayre where parents will have the opportunity to browse many stalls bursting with Christmas gift ideas, listen to our local Churches performing carols...and not to mention, indulge yourself into the festive spirit with a glass of prosecco, Bailey's Hot Chocolate or a soft drink! You are all invited to come along, so bring your friends and family and let us all come together in the Christmas spirit, to celebrate this special event.



Secondly, is a Christmas Event for all children at school. Children will have the opportunity to have a boogie, a bite to eat and meet Father Christmas receiving a personal gift.



FAIR: 22/11/19 (7pm) CHRISTMAS EVENT: 29/11/19 (3.30pm-5.30pm)

PFA FUNDS

I am delighted to inform you that the Summer Fare raised a staggering £3793.86. I am sure you would all agree it was a FANTASTIC afternoon, thank you to all the volunteers and staff who helped with set-up/stalls and packing away.

The PFA have funded our fantastic astro-turf underneath our adventure playground (£3,456) and have purchased a multi-sensory teaching resource 'Numicon' which enables children to see how they can add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers and the relationships between these. They will be used in classes from Nursery to Reception to support with our commitment to teaching children maths skills using concrete apparatus.

We are extremely grateful! This is why it is so important to support our PFA as ALL our children benefit.

Play Equipment/Scooters/Bikes/Safety

School adventure playground equipment *should not* be used before or after school by siblings or school children. Please ensure your children are with you at all times and under your supervision to safeguard them on the school site. To enable us to safeguard and protect children in afterschool clubs/Birches club we would be grateful if you can leave the school site promptly as soon as you have collected your child/children. A final bell sounds at 3.25pm to indicate the gate will be locked. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Everyone should push scooters and bikes until they are out of the school grounds and take care around pedestrians on the way home.

Whilst you are waiting for the gates to open in the morning please ensure your children are standing next to you. Staff have reported several concerns of children running up and down the path and to the entrance door. This is to ensure the safety of your children especially when cars are entering the premises. Thank you for your understanding.

Penalty Notices for Absences from School

I am receiving many more holiday requests from parents to take children out during term time. Our School Attendance figures have reduced significantly. Please take time to read the information below to make informed decisions as holiday request will be unauthorised and may lead to a penalty notice in 2019/20.

If your child is absent from school please notify the school office on the first day of absence.

Recent guidance has been published outlining action that should be taken to address unauthorised absence and/or persistent lateness. It states that a penalty notice can be issued following;

The FIRST Instance of 20 plus sessions of unauthorised absence within a 12 (or less) school week period OR

The FIRST Instance of 10 plus sessions (U code) lates within a 12 (or less) school week period .

N.B. 1 session = 1/2 a day (a morning or afternoon session)

Absence can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Please consider the impact any time off school can have on your child in terms of missed learning.

Thank you to all the parents who do commit to their child's education and ensure they are punctual every day. The teachers and I are very grateful.

Harvest Assembly

We will be celebrating harvest at our Harvest assembly on Tuesday 22nd October at 2pm for parents of children in Reception to Year 4. (One parent per family please due to H&S regulations).

This year the School Council decided to ask if children could decorate a small shoe box and fill with some goodies and add a little note to the recipient. If there isn't time to decorate a box, gifts of tinned and packaged food will still be gratefully received in school from Monday 14th October. Fresh produce may be brought into school from Monday 21st October.

After our Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly, staff and children would like to share gifts of food with those in the community who are less fortunate than ourselves. Please inform the school office if you know anyone within our village that would benefit from a Harvest box. School Council will be out and about in the community delivering the boxes to those who have been nominated. If there are any surpluses we will as in previous years donate to The Well in Wolverhampton. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

A collection at the assembly will be taken in support of Water Aid.

October Diary Dates - (whole year is on our website)

1st-31st Black History Month

3rd Pupil Choice Lunch

4th Grandparents Day

7th FGB Governors Meeting 6pm

8th Reception Trip Pendeford Nature Reserve

9th Birches 60th Anniversary Celebration

9th Y3/4 Cross Country at Perton Middle

10th World Mental Health Day

14th YN Parent Interviews 4-6pm

YR-Y4 Parent Interviews 6-8pm

14th HARVEST Boxes in school

16th YN/YR Sparkle Day

16th Parent Interviews YN 4-6pm

Parent Interviews YR-6 3.30-6pm

16th Fresh Harvest Produce in School

22nd Harvest Assembly

23rd Football Match at Codsall High

23rd Multi Faith Day

24th Multi Faith Day/School Council Day

25th INSET School CLOSED

4/11/19 INSET School CLOSED

Have a wonderful Half Term-Break up Thursday 24th October

RETURN to School TUESDAY 5th November

Clubs

Day	Club	Year Group	Cost	Time
Monday:	Miss Hulme's Maths Club	Y2	£0	(Parents notified)
Tuesday:	Be Active Football	Y3/Y4	£3.50	3.15pm –4.15pm
Wednesday:	Miss Hulme's Writers	Y2	£0	(Parents notified)
Thursday:	Keyboards	Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4		7.50am/8.20am
Thursday:	Love Tennis	Y2/Y3	£3.00	3.15-4.00pm
Friday:	Keyboards	Y2/Y3/Y4	*	7.50am/8.20am
Friday:	Club El Cactus Spanish	YR-Y4	*£8.00	3.15-4.00pm

*Book direct with the provider

Aldi's Kit for Schools

If you shop at Aldi and spend £30 or more you will be given a kit for school sticker for every £30 spent. Please bring your stickers to school so your child can stick them onto our poster in the Hall, or put them in the collection box in the school reception area. If we complete the poster we will an exclusive schools sports kit and be entered into a draw with a chance to be one of 20 schools who will win £20,000.

The stickers are available until 3rd November 2019!

Please continue to ask for your stickers when in store from the cashiers.