



Birches First School *Believe, Grow, Succeed*

Birches Bulletin

November 2019

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

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Autumn Term. Birches Value: *Respect* British Value: *Rule of Law*

As October drew to a close, so did the first half of the Autumn term. Our Diwali and Multi Faith days were a real celebration of the diversity of our school and wider community and the children enjoyed learning through a range of activities. Thank you once again to Mrs Sehra, who led the organisation of our Diwali day and taught the children their fabulous Bollywood dance! We all enjoyed our 60th Anniversary celebrations at the beginning of the month as well as Grandparents Day and Mental Health Day. As you know, School Council, House Captain and Eco Committee elections have been held and, now all in place, these children will look forward to developing in their roles as the year progresses. Mrs Cain will be appointing Safety Squad representatives in the coming weeks. As the clocks have turned back and the weather begins to turn colder, we find ourselves looking ahead to the excitement of the second half of the Autumn term and the celebrations it will bring.



We have lots to look forward to!

Behaviour Workshop for Parents

We are delighted to be holding a free workshop for parents led by the Family Support Service.

Understanding Behaviour in Children and Young People aims to help parents and carers understand behaviour, identify causes of different behaviours and defiant behaviour and consider strategies for encouraging positive behaviour. The workshop will be held on **Monday 11th November** from 8.50-10.50 am. Please contact the school office or visit the school website to view the letter for more information.



Stay Safe

For those of our families who will be going to bonfire and firework celebrations this week, we hope you all have lots of fun but a reminder to please stay safe!

Remembrance Day

We will be marking Remembrance day in school on **Monday 11th November** with a special assembly and minute silence. Poppies and items will be on sale at playtimes during the week beginning Tuesday 5th November and again on Monday 11th November. Items are priced from 20p-£1. As in previous years, our Year 2 children will be visiting Bilbrook War Memorial to pay their respects.



After School Clubs...

Monday: **Multiskills (Y1)**

3.15-4.15pm



Monday: **Choir (Y3/4)**

3.15-4pm

Monday: **Miss Hulme's Writers**

Parents notified

Tuesday: **Be Active Football (Y3/Y4)**

Cost: £3.50

Thursday: **Keyboards (Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4)**

7.50am/8.20am



Thursday: **Love Tennis (Y2/Y3/Y4)**

Cost: £3.00



Thurs/Fri: **Miss Hulme's Maths club**

Parents notified

Friday: **Keyboards (Y2/Y3/Y4)**

7.50am/8.20am



Friday: **Club El Cactus Spanish (YR/1/2/3/4)**

Cost: £8.00

Harvest

Thanks to all who attended our harvest festival assembly and donated harvest produce and/ or money towards our harvest charity Water Aid. Harvest baskets were collected and given to members of the community and the remainder of the collection was donated to The Well. **£42.06** was raised for Water Aid.



Diwali Stall

Thank you to those of you who were able to support our Diwali stall. A fantastic **£333.53** was raised which will be sent to benefit children in India as part of the charity **Hope and Compassion**.

Parking Plea

Unfortunately it is necessary for us to remind our families once again to consider other road users,

parents, children and residents when parking in Birches Avenue and on Birches Road. It is illegal to park on the yellow 'Keep Clear' zigzag lines outside school and we ask that parents please do not park on the single yellow lines around school during restricted times either. This is for the safety of all, particularly our children. Space is left on the single yellows between our parking signs to enable parking outside of the restricted times and for Blue Badge holders.

The police are aware of the situation and will be patrolling the area periodically. I have also asked for the support of the Highways Agency in helping to keep our school and it's surrounding areas safe for all. Some of you may remember our Parking Pledge scheme. We will be relaunching this with the children in school in coming weeks and hope many of our parents will be keen to get involved.



Anti-Bullying Week / Children in Need



Next week is **Anti-Bullying week**.

Children will take part in activities in classes. To raise awareness and celebrate our differences and

individuality, Friday 15th will be **Odd Sock Day!**

Children are invited to wear odd socks (the more colourful and patterned the better!) for a £1 cash donation toward **Children in Need**. A donation bucket will be used to collect donations on the playground in the morning and at the end of the day.

Good luck Mrs Hine!

Mrs Hine has now begun her maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the safe arrival of her new baby! Mrs Cain will be teaching Reception on Mondays from now on.

Birches Values;

Believe Independence Respect Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

Our Mission Statement;

Believe, Grow, Succeed



BIRCHES FIRST SCHOOL PFA PRESENTS
Birches' Festive Gift
Fayre
 AN EVENING OF SHOPPING FOR UNIQUE
 AND UNUSUAL GIFTS WITH FRIENDS.
 PROSECCO AND A MINCE PIE ON ARRIVAL,
 THIS IS AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!
 NOVEMBER 22ND 2019
 DOORS OPEN FROM 7PM
 £5 ENTRY TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE
 OR ON THE DOOR.

PFA Christmas 2019

A reminder that our wonderful PFA are busy organising two events for the school community this month.

On Friday 22nd November we will be welcoming members of the school and wider community into school for a festive evening. 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 getting 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, on Friday 29th November (3.30pm-5.30pm) we will be holding our children's Christmas Event. Children will have the opportunity to have a boogie, a bite to eat and meet Father Christmas, receiving a personal gift. Details will be sent home in due course.

November Diary Dates -

4th - Training Day—school closed

5th - Bonfire lunch

8th - PFA own clothes day—bring a bottle/chocs

11th - Behaviour workshop 8.50-10.50am

12th— PFA meeting 9.30am—all welcome

15th - Odd Sock Day / Children in Need.

18th— Interim Governors Meeting 6pm

19th - Y3/4 Cross Country—WGS

22nd— PFA Christmas Fayre 7pm

29th – PFA Christmas Event & Disco

3rd December—Y4 trip to Cosford Air museum—A Wartime Christmas.

6th December—Carols Around the Tree—Codsall Village 7pm

(Please see Diary Dates
on our school website
for whole year—subject
to change).

9th December—KS1/2 Dress rehearsal 9.30am

10th December - KS1 Christmas Play & Special Awards

11th December - Pantomime visit. KS2 Christmas Play & Special Awards 6pm. (Please note change of date)

12th December - School closed—site used as Polling Station for General Election.

13th December - Christmas jumper day.

16th December - EYFS Christmas play rehearsal. 1.30pm.

17th December - Christmas parties. EYFS—am/KS1—pm / KS2—3.15-5.30pm

18th December - EYFS Christmas Play & Special Awards 9.30am. Christmas lunch day.

19th December - Science Investigation Day / STEM learning.

20th December - Christmas assembly—1.15pm. School closes at 2.15pm.

