



Birches First School *Believe, Grow, Succeed*

Birches Bulletin

December 2019

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 4

office@birches.staffs.sch.uk

01902 297910

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

Dear Parents,

With the arrival of our magnificent Christmas trees last week and the success of our recent PFA Christmas events, the festive season has well and truly arrived at Birches! The school is full of the sound of music and children singing as they practise for their plays which is a delight for the ears. We have lots planned for the children to enjoy in the lead up to Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming many of you into school as part of our festive celebrations over the coming weeks. Whilst I will write again towards the end of the term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children and all of our parents as well as the extended school community for their continued support this term and for supporting me in my role as Acting Headteacher since October. It has been an absolute pleasure and honour to once again lead the school community at this time.

May your heart and home be filled with all of the joys the season brings.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and best wishes

from Mrs Ferretti and the Birches staff team.



Christmas Performances

You will have received a letter regarding Christmas Performances this week. Children returning to school for evening performances need to be in school at 5.30pm in order to change and prepare for a prompt 6.00pm start. Children can be collected after the performance at approx. 7.00pm.



A reminder that the main performances:

EYs—Wednesday 18th @ 9.30am,

KS1—Tuesday 10th @ 6pm and

KS2—Wednesday 11th @ 6pm

are for **Parents Only (no pre-school children or babies please).**



Extended family and parents with pre-school children/babies are welcome to join us for the 'informal' performances on the following dates...

EYs—Monday 16th (1.30pm)

KS1—Monday 9th (10.30am)

and

KS2—Monday 9th (9.30am)

Please consider the children and other audience members and take preschool children/babies out if they become restless/unsettled.

After School Clubs...

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

Thursday/Friday:

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



Inclement Weather

If it snows heavily this winter, school closures will be decided on a local school group basis and announced on local radio from 7.00am onwards. Therefore, if any Codsall schools are mentioned it will mean **all** Codsall and Bilbrook schools, including Birches are closed. We will also text all parents if school is closed so you can be sure to know what is happening.



Please be assured that should school remain open following snow fall, Mr Price will grit the following areas: the path to the playground, the entrance to the main school building, toilets and mobile from the playground. Although the path at the back of the school WILL be gritted please take extra care when collecting children from Nursery, Reception and Year 1 as this path can remain slippery. Do take care in icy conditions in all areas of the school site and ensure that children are well supervised and also walk sensibly. Thank you.

End of Term Awards



We look forward to presenting our special, end of term awards to children in each class at their Christmas play performances. Parents of children who will be receiving an award will be notified by text in the next week.

Christmas Parties



Parties have been arranged for all classes on

Tuesday 17th December—

Early Years will be in the morning, Key Stage 1 in the afternoon and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) will stay after school. Further details to follow.

PFA Christmas Events

We hope all of the children who joined us for the PFA Christmas Disco and Tea with Santa last week had a great time. It was lovely to see the children having fun and dancing with their friends as well as enjoying the chance to meet Father Christmas himself! In addition to the children's event, this year the PFA also held our first Festive Fayre. It was a huge success and a great time was had by all! Thank you to staff and PFA helpers who helped to make the events such a success. We will inform you of the total amount raised as soon as possible. This money will be used to buy resources and fund exciting activities for the children.



We would like to thank everyone who has supported the school and our fundraising efforts this term.



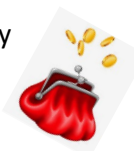
We hope many of you will be able to support our two Christmas appeals to help the more vulnerable members of our community at this time of year.

GoNoodle

You may have heard your child talk about using GoNoodle.com in our classroom. We use this free website of interactive videos to encourage dance, focus, stretch, practise mindfulness and much more! To join, go to GoNoodle.com and sign up for a **free** parent account. We hope you enjoy sharing this as a family!

School Fund

Thank you to those families who are able to make a contribution to our school fund via their ParentPay account. We invite a donation of 50p per child/£1 per family each week. This money is used to pay for some of our exciting extra curricular activities as well as to buy additional resources to enhance the children's learning and development. Your support is very much appreciated.



Online Safety



A reminder to please be vigilant and monitor the content of all games and adverts that children may be exposed to when using tablets, phones, computers and games consoles, as well as ensuring TV programmes and films watched are suitable for children. The content of TV programmes screened later in the evening is unlikely to be suitable for children of the ages attending Birches so please consider this before recording programmes shown after bedtime for your child to watch the next day. Film ratings indicate the suitability of a film's content for its audience. IMDb provide a useful 'Parent's Guide' for films which gives information about the film's content in a number of categories to help parents make safe, informed choices for their children's viewing. A reminder that PEGI ratings are in place to safeguard children and children should not play or be exposed to (including by watching older siblings play) the content of games that are rated above their own age. It is advised that children only play online games in shared family areas, rather than on their own in bedrooms to enable parents to be able to supervise their child's play and safety.

Fond Farewells

We will be saying goodbye to some members of the Birches team at the end of this term. Miss Law and Miss Hodges are moving on to new adventures in January. We wish them well.

Mrs Buckley, our School Business Manager will be continuing her role in the New Year but will no longer be based at Birches. She will be joining a centralised team as part of Codsall Multi-Academy Trust. Whilst we will still be working closely with Mrs Buckley, after nearly 14 years at Birches we will miss her being on site every day. Good luck Mrs Buckley!

Carols Around the Tree



We are delighted that once again, our Year 3 and 4 children will be representing us at the annual Codsall Christmas Fayre on Friday 6th December. Singing will start at 7pm and the children will be joined by children from other schools in Codsall who will also be singing. We hope to see many of our Birches community there!

December Diary Dates -

4th —YN trip to Amerton Farm

6th —Carols Around the Tree 7pm

10th - KS1 Christmas Play & Special Awards 6pm 11th December - Pantomime visit..

11th - KS2 Christmas Play & Special Awards 6pm 12th December - School closed — General Election.

13th - Christmas jumper day.

17th - Christmas parties.

18th - Christmas lunch day.

20th December - Christmas assembly—9.15am (N/R/Y1) 1.15pm (Y2/3/4)

School closes at 2.15pm (no club on this day.) 6th January 2020—School opens for children.

3rd —Y4 trip to Cosford Air museum

5th —Football Match @ CHS 4pm

9th —KS1/2 Dress rehearsal 9.30/10.30am

16th - EYFS Christmas play rehearsal. 1.30pm.

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

19th - Science Investigation Day / STEM learning.



Birches Values;

Believe Independence Respect Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

Our Mission Statement; Believe, Grow, Succeed