



Birches First School *Believe, Grow, Succeed*

# Birches Bulletin

January 2020

[www.birches.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.birches.staffs.sch.uk)

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[office@birches.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@birches.staffs.sch.uk)

01902 297910

Spring Term. Birches Value: **Curiosity** British Value: **Democracy**

## Here's to a great 2020...

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you a

**VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The Spring term is already looking busy with lots of exciting opportunities planned for the children. Curriculum Newsletters will be online this week providing a 'snapshot' of what will be happening in classes this half term. Homework Grids for each class will also be uploaded. Please do visit our website where you will find a range of information about life at Birches.

Please see below for further information and dates for your diary.

Here's to a great 2020!

Best wishes,

Mrs J Ferretti.



Applications for our September 2020  
Nursery intake are open!

Please see our website for details.

Applications should be made **direct** to  
the school office.

### Welcome!

We are excited to welcome some new members to the Birches team this term. **Mr Jones** has commenced his role of class teacher for Year 3 while **Mrs Stevens** will be teaching Year 4 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. **Mrs Connolly** will be working across Years 1-4 providing PPA cover and **Mrs Gyongyosi** has joined the Nursery team during the afternoons. I'm sure they will quickly feel part of the Birches community.

### 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.

## After School Clubs...



Monday: **Choir (Y3/4)**  
3.15-4.00pm

Monday: **Miss Hulme's Writers**  
Parents notified

Tuesday: **Be Active Football (Y3/Y4)**  
Cost: £3.50



Tuesday: **Miss Wenlock's Dance Club (Rec/Y1)** 3.15-4.00pm

Thursday/Friday: **Keyboards (Y1/Y2/Y3/Y4)** 7.50am/8.20am

Thursday: **Multi Sports (Y3/Y4)**  
Cost: £3.50

Thursday: **Mrs Stubb's Phonics Club**  
Parents notified

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

Friday: **Club El Cactus Spanish (YR/1/2/3/4)** Cost: £8.00



**W-SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR-W**

## Parking Plea

Unfortunately, toward the end of the Autumn term continuing issues with parking in Birches Avenue and on Birches Road were brought to my attention.

We ask again that parents/family members who are dropping children off or collecting from school;

- Please do not obstruct the driveways of residents – we have had reports of residents being unable to leave their properties.
- Please do not park on the yellow lines during restricted times or on yellow zigzags at any time.
- Please do not park on the corner of the junction of Birches Avenue and Birches Road as this significantly reduces drivers' vision.
- Please show due regard and attention to the safety of pedestrians walking along pavements whilst parking. Again, we have received reports of drivers mounting pavements at speed where children are walking. This poses a significant risk.
- Please **do** supervise your children closely and ensure they cross the road safely. With an increasing number of electric cars on our roads, it is not always possible to hear a car coming.

We will continue to put out our parking signs which provide a reminder to park with consideration. Space is left on the single yellows between our parking signs to enable parking outside of the restricted times and for Blue Badge holders.

We will continue to work with the local PSCOs, wardens and the council to improve safety around the school site and patrols will be carried out periodically.

We appreciate the support of all our families in ensuring the safety of all road users around the school and in fostering positive relationships with our neighbours.

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas appeals last term in aid of The Well, Outreach Wolverhampton and the Safeguarding Team.



Once again, we were overwhelmed by your generosity. Your kind donations will have made a significant difference to the lives of others this winter.

## KS1 SATs Parents Meeting

On **Wednesday 15th January at 6pm** we will be holding a meeting for Year 2 parents. It will provide parents with important information regarding these assessments and how they will be delivered.

We do hope all parents will be able to attend.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the PFA for their ongoing support.

Their hard work and commitment enables us to raise valuable funds and purchase resources that directly benefit the children. Last term a huge amount was raised and PFA money was used to fund (amongst other things) classroom resources, transport for school trips, a visiting pantomime and maths equipment.

Remember, as a parent of a child at Birches First School, you are automatically a member of the PFA. If you are able to support in any way or would like to find out how you can get involved, please do attend our next meeting on **Thursday 9th January at 6.30pm**. You will be very welcome.

### Attendance

Please do remember to notify the school office if your child is absent from school.

### Penalty Notices for Absences from School

In accordance with Government legislation, a request for leave can only be authorised if it is deemed to be an "exceptional circumstance". Where a request is not deemed to be an "exceptional circumstance" a child's non-attendance for this period will be marked as an unauthorised absence. This absence will be retained on record throughout their time at school.

Please be aware...if a child has ten days or more unauthorised absence over two half terms in a row, or unauthorised absence alongside an already low attendance score, a penalty notice may be issued to parents/carers of that child. Late marks will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and these will also be taken into account when issuing Penalty Notices.

Attendance is monitored regularly by the our attendance officer from Attend Education. Register checks can be carried out without prior consultation with school and may lead to further investigation.

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

### January Diary Dates -

6th - School opens for the Spring term.

8th - Year 3 Sparkle Day

17th—Early Years Sparkle Day

27th—Year 2 Sparkle Day

30th— Year 1 trip to Warwick Castle

### February Diary Dates -

3rd - Year 1 Sparkle Day

3rd—FGB meeting 6pm

10th—Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm

11th— Cross Country Event St Nics 2pm

8th - Year 4 Sparkle Day

9th—PFA meeting @ 6.30pm

22nd - Year 2 Parents' SATs meeting

24th—Chinese New Year

30th— Football match @ CHS 4pm

3rd— Mid Year Reports

4th - Young Shakespeare workshop Y3/4

11th—Safer Internet Day

12th—Parents Evening 6.00-8.00pm



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

### Birches Values;

**Believe Independence Respect Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success**  
Our Mission Statement;  
**Believe, Grow, Succeed**