



Birches First School *Believe, Grow, Succeed*

Birches Bulletin

March 2020

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 7

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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after what I hope was a lovely half term holiday for you all. I can hardly believe we are now moving into the second half of the year! Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our recent Parents Evening. I hope you enjoyed the chance to look in your child's books and speak with teachers about their learning. I was very proud of our Year 3 and 4 School Council Representatives and House Captains who acted as guides and helped parents find their way around school so sensibly. Thank you children!

Please do visit our school website where you will find a range of information about life at Birches. New curriculum maps have been uploaded which provide an overview of learning in each class for this half term.

The half term ahead is a very busy one with lots going on in all classes. Please see below for further information and dates for your diary.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Ferretti.

Acting Headteacher



We value the partnership between school and parents very much. Your feedback is important to us; if there is something you would like more information about please let us know and we will try our best to assist!



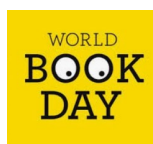
Y4 Multiplication Check Meeting

On **Wednesday 18th March at 6pm** we will be holding a meeting for Year 4 parents to share information about arrangements for the upcoming Multiplication Check which must be completed by all Year 4 children this June. If you are unable to attend please notify Mrs Ferretti or Mrs Cain.

Thank you.

Book Week/World Book Day/Book Fair

World Book Day is on **Thursday 5th March**. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a Nursery Rhyme character or character from their favourite book. Please could children bring a copy of the book into school with them to share with their classes. Our Book Fair will be open after school from **Thurs 5th to Tues 10th March** please come along and collect your book token to receive £1 off your child's chosen book.



Dismissal arrangements.

The new arrangements for dismissal seem to be working well with Reception and Nursery parents exiting passed the hall and via the field gate next. Thank you to parents for reminding children to keep to designated footpaths and wait for grown-ups before exiting the school site.

After School Clubs...

Monday: **Miss Hulme's Maths**

Parents notified

Monday: **Coding Club (Y3/4)**



Cost: £5.50 3.15-4.30pm



Monday: **Miss Wenlock's Dance Club (Rec/Y1)**

3.15-4.00pm

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

Cost: £3.50



Wednesday: **Theatre Club (Y2/Y3/Y4)**

Cost: £5.00 3.15-4.45pm



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

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

Parents notified

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

Parents notified

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

Cost: £8.00



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

3.15-4.00pm



You may remember in the Autumn term we held a Samosa and Cupcake Sale to raise funds for the PFA and a charity called Hope and Compassion. At the bottom of this newsletter I have attached a letter and photos received from the charity so you can see where some of the funds have gone and how they have helped others. I am very proud of the care and kindness shown to others by our school community.

Congratulations!

Well done to Mrs Stubbs who has recently passed her **National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)**!

Attendance

Please do remember to notify the school office if your child is absent from school. A reminder that planned absences can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and as such, these absences are marked as unauthorised.

Parent Helpers

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers in school—your help makes a huge difference! If you think you could spare a hour or so each week please speak to Mrs Ferretti or the school office to complete a form and find out how to get involved.

A huge thank you to Kevin from

FUTURE CONSTRUCTION

who kindly built a wooden base for our fabulous new PFA shed! The generosity (both in terms of money and time) of our community really is astounding.

THANK YOU!!!!

PE KITS

Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school for games / PE lessons.

Please see your child's class newsletter on their page of the school website for class Games/PE days.

PE—red shorts, white 'Birches' t-shirt, socks, PE pumps.

Games — white 'Birches' t-shirt, grey joggers, red 'Birches' embroidered hoodie, socks, trainers.

Long hair must be tied back and earrings removed.

Birches Values;

Believe **I**ndependence **R**espect **C**uriosity **H**onesty **E**nthusiasm **S**uccess
Our Mission Statement;
Believe, **G**row, **S**ucceed

Easter Events

We are looking forward to our first ever community
Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 29th March 10.30-1.30pm!



We hope many of our families can come and join us on the day for fun and light refreshments. If there are any keen bakers who would like to make and donate a cake for the event, these would be gladly received into the school office on **Friday 27th March.**

On **Wednesday 1st April** we will be holding an **Easter Parade**. Children are invited to create an **Easter Garden / Bonnet or decorate an Egg**. A winning entry will be chosen from each class with a little Easter treat for all those who take part. Entries can be sent into school from **Monday 30th March**. Weather allowing, we will open the gates at **2.45pm** on **Wednesday 1st** to hold an Easter Parade for parents.

You are invited to join us for our Easter Assemblies and Special Award celebrations on **Friday 3rd April**. Due the popularity of our end of term assemblies, we will once again hold two assemblies; One in the morning at **9am** for the parents of lower school children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and a second assembly in the afternoon at **2pm** for the parents of upper school children in Years 2, 3 and 4. The assemblies will be the same and children will participate in both performances.

If you have children in **both** lower and upper school you may choose which assembly to attend. If you only have children in lower school **OR** upper school, please do only attend the designated time for their class in fairness to others and for health and safety reasons. Unfortunately, for health and safety reasons, **no siblings or babies** please.

Y4 Ukuleles

We are very fortunate to be able to offer our Year 4 children the chance to learn an instrument each year, taught by a specialist music teacher. These lessons are part of the children's curriculum and it is important that the children practise regularly at home to ensure they make expected progress. At the end of the year we hold a concert for parents to showcase the children's skills and this will only be possible if the children have reached the expected standard. It is also important that all children have their **ukulele in school every Wednesday** to ensure they are able to take part in the lesson. We appreciate your support with this.



Supporting Maths Skills

Numbots and TT Rockstars

Fluent recall of mathematical facts and confident mental maths skills are hugely important. With a growing emphasis on times tables with the new Y4 Multiplication Check, please encourage your child to make use of the online learning platforms **Numbots** and **TT Rockstars**. These programmes help children to practise their skills in fun and rewarding ways, helping to boost not only their understanding but also their confidence.



Numberblocks

Some of you may already be familiar with Numberblocks on CBeebies. It is a fantastic series which introduces children to a range of mathematical concepts. Although CBeebies is designed with younger children in mind, children of all ages may find the episodes entertaining and helpful in developing their understanding.

March Diary Dates -

2nd - Year 2 trip to ThinkTank
5th-10th—Book Fair
12th—Y1 Mother's Day Lunch
16th—Nursery Mother's Day Lunch
17th—Y4 Mother's Day Lunch
18th—Y4 Multiplication Check meeting 6pm
25th—PFA meeting 6.30pm
27th—Wear a Hat Day—£1 donation
Sunday 29th—PFA Easter egg Hunt 10.30-1.30pm



5th —World Book Day
11th-13th—Y4 Kingswood residential
13th—Y2 Mother's Day Lunch
16th—YR Trip to ThinkTank
18th—Y3 Mother's Day Lunch
19th—Football Match at CHS 4pm
26th—Tag Rugby at PFS
27th— Y4 Class Assembly 2pm

April Diary Dates -

3rd —Easter assemblies 9am/2pm / End of term
20th —School opens for the Summer term.

6th-17th —Easter Holidays.
23rd—St George's Day

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

Mother's Day Lunch

We look forward to welcoming many of you into school to celebrate Mother's Day with your child(ren). We hope you all enjoy this special opportunity. A huge thank you to the dinner supervisors, kitchen staff and office staff for their organisation and co-ordination of these events.



Parking



A reminder again to please park considerately in the roads around the school.

We continue to receive complaints from parents and residents regarding inconsiderate and sometimes illegal and/or dangerous parking. Cars should not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside school, on the junction of Birches Avenue and Birches Road, block driveways, double park along Birches Avenue or use the school drive to turn.

We appreciate the support of all our parents in keeping all road users safe and maintaining positive relationships with our residents.



Clothing Appeal

Helping those less fortunate than ourselves is an important part of the Birches ethos. We are working with another local school to collect school clothing items and shoes for vulnerable children within the wider community. If you have any non-'school specific' items you could donate, please speak to Mrs Ferretti or Arya's Grandma in Year 2 who will arrange to collect the items from you and pass them on.

Thank you



www.hopecompassion.org | info@hopecompassion.org

Dear Mrs Ferreti

We would like to thank Birches First and the children for their kind donation of **£448.53**.

The money raised from your Diwali day and samosa sale helped Hope and Compassion to do the following work during our recent trip to India:

- Purchase blankets, gloves and hats for 150 poor families
- Distribute 300 geometry sets for a village school
- Buy 120 jackets, gloves and hats for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Purchase of basic necessities and clothing for children without parents.

We have attached photos with this letter and please do pass on our sincere thanks to all the staff and children.

We hope you will continue to support our work both in the UK and aboard.

Kindest Regards

Shelley Molloy and Manni Kaur

On and behalf of Hope and Compassion.



