



Birches First School *Believe, Grow, Succeed*

Birches Bulletin

October 2020

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 2

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Autumn Term. Birches Value: *(Belief) Resilience* British Value: *Rule of Law*

Dear Parents,

This half term is going so fast and the children are now well and truly settled back into school routines. It has been wonderful to see the children throughout school demonstrating such positive attitudes to their learning, engaging with some fantastic activities and showing a real pleasure to be back at school!

We are trying to continue with as many 'normal' aspects of school life and I am delighted that the House Captains were announced on Friday; they have taken on their new roles with relish! School Council and ECO Committee are set to follow as soon as restrictions allow.

I hope you are happy with the photographs sent home from Lighthouse Photography, the children were a credit to us, all children listened and followed Dave's instructions to ensure that safety measures were in place. I am very proud of them all...well done children.

I would like to thank all parents/carers who drop off and collect for being so punctual and ensuring that all children walk sensibly around our school site. If you have a scooter/bike please remember that they must not be used on the school premises for Health and Safety purposes. Please see information below regarding new Drop off/collection times to commence

Tuesday 3rd November.

I hope that you all manage to have a wonderful half term break; I know many of the wonderful celebrations that happen at this time of year will certainly be very different...but please try to have as much fun as possible and most importantly please take care, stay safe and come back healthy and happy!

Best wishes

Miss Varricchione

Parents/Staff Communication

I hope that you found the 'check in' phone calls/emails from your child's class teacher useful and any concerns/issues you may have had have been solved. We really are delighted with how the children have coped with the new routines and how they have settled so wonderfully into their new classes.

May I take this opportunity to ask parents to please be mindful of the teaching staff's workload at present. Whilst we are very happy for you to contact staff with any questions or concerns that may arise I would ask that you understand that they may not be able to reply to your emails immediately. What is convenient for one member of staff may not necessarily be the same for the other. Therefore, in order to alleviate any additional stress/workload for my staff I have asked teachers to reply at a time when it is convenient for them to do so and in a timely manner.



Flu Immunisation



A reminder that the School Age Immunisation Team will be visiting school on **Wednesday 14th October** to deliver the Nasal Flu spray programme to **Reception to Year 4** children. Thank you to those who have used the e-consent system already. If you have not done so and would like your child protected against Flu please complete this by **Friday 9th October**.

What is my child learning?

Your child's Curriculum Topic Web will be uploaded to school website by Wednesday. The class teachers are really excited about the learning experience they have planned and hope you will continue to support your child as much as possible.

Training Days

A reminder that school will be closed to children on **Monday 2nd November** for staff training. We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 3rd November.

Please have a wonderful break whatever you may do...stay safe.



Gold Star Badges



Each week, teachers select a child to wear the class Gold Star badge.

This award celebrates good behaviour and children who work hard to follow the school Golden Rules.

Please remind your child to return their badge to their class teacher on the Friday, so that it can be passed on to another child.

If you find any star badges at home that have previously been lost, please do send them in, thank you.

Harvest Donations

Unfortunately due to the restriction imposed upon us we will not be able to host and perform our Harvest celebrations as we have in the past.

We would like to continue our tradition of helping others who are less fortunate than us and are asking if our school community would be kind enough to donate gifts of tinned and packaged food to help and aid The Well Charity.

A box will be placed at the entrance to the school gate from **Monday 5th October to Friday 9th October** for you to place any items you may wish to donate.

All items will be held for 72 hours + before they are distributed to this charity. The Well is based in the City of Wolverhampton where they distribute food to families and single people who are struggling to buy food and other essentials.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

Dyslexia Friendly Week 5th October

We are looking forward to celebrating and raising awareness in school. This year teachers are setting tasks within the classroom to help children understand the daily challenges anyone with dyslexia may have to overcome. We will be looking at famous celebrities with Dyslexia and discussing our personal Growth Mindset in order to achieve!

After School Clubs

As you are aware we as a school are trying to manage the unprecedented situation surrounding COVID-19 to the best of our ability. This includes the reduction/stopping of any non-essential visitors into school.

After much discussion we have decided that we will NOT be running any external after school clubs at Birches First School for this term (up until Christmas). This decision has not been made lightly. We fully understand the learning opportunities and pleasure that children gain from attending Spanish, Keyboards and Football Club however, we are trying our utmost to safeguard all children, adults and staff to the best of our ability, through prevention and delay. If you would like further information regarding this please contact the school office directly.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Self Isolation/Class Closure/School Closure

You will have read the Letter posted on our website 'Home Learning & Lockdown Offer September 2020' please see below for a reminder!

If your child has to **self isolate** and they are fit and well, home learning will be provided for your child to complete. Class teachers will email you with work that will be the same offer (or as close to) as if they were in school on that day.

In the event of a **Class Closure/School Closure** and your child is fit and well you will receive a daily email by 9am containing work set by the class teachers for you child to complete each day. Please note there will be a 'lag' time of 24 hours in order for teachers to prepare the above.

Children will all have received a Home Learning Book in which they can complete and record their work.

Children are invited to email their completed work back to teachers at the end of the day who will give brief feedback.

October Diary Dates

1st - Celebration Pupil Lunch

5th - Dyslexia Awareness Week

9th - Wear Yellow-World Mental Health Day

14th - Fluenza Vaccination YR-Y4

23rd—Break up (23rd October-2nd November inc)

November Diary Dates

2nd- School Closed for children

3rd- Welcome Back Children **New ENTRY/EXIT TIMES**

Please keep referring to the website and monthly Newsletters for further information.

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

HELLO YELLOW!

Friday 9th October

We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 9th October to raise money for Young Minds, a mental health charity for young people.

To support the fantastic work that this charity does, we would like to ask the children to come to school dressed in yellow that day. There are some ideas on Young Minds Website! Donations can be made via ParentPay. This will be added as a payment item on your account

Thank you for your support.



New Drop off and Collection Times Tuesday 3rd November

We have reviewed our drop off and collection procedures. We are reducing the time in between each class. This will ensure that children are in class with their peers as much as possible if they have siblings. Please can you ensure you continue to be as punctual as you have been!

Drop off	Time
YN/Reception	8.30am
Year One	8.35am
Year Two	8.40am
Year Three	8.45am
Year Four	8.50am

Collection	Time
YN/Reception	3.00pm
Year One	3.05pm
Year Two	3.10pm
Year Three	3.15pm
Year Four	3.20pm

Thank you.

Reminders...

End of Day...

A polite reminder...when collecting your child at the end of the day please wait until you are off the school premises before giving children any snacks.

If your child has forgotten something they are not allowed to re enter the school nor go to the office to ask if it can be collected. They will have to wait until the next day to take the items home.

School Office...

Parents are NOT to enter the school office unless they have an appointment. If your child has forgotten their water bottle/bookbag for the day we will not accept them from the office.

We are asking parents/visitor who come into the school office to kindly wear a face mask.

Any communication with the office must be via telephone.

Thank you for your cooperation – it all seems doom and gloom, but we are doing all we can to ensure of school is protected as much as we possibly can.

Birches Values;

Belief **I**ndependence **R**esilience **C**uriosity **H**onesty **E**nthusiasm **S**uccess

Our Mission Statement; **Believe, Grow, Succeed**