



Birches First School *Believe, Grow, Succeed*

Birches Bulletin

November 2020

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 3

office@birches.staffs.sch.uk

01902 297910

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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a wonderful half term. I know for many it will have been a very different and difficult time ... unable to see relatives and friends as planned but I hope the children have still enjoyed and engaged in some fun activities that this time of year brings.

During the holiday our school has had some preliminary work in preparation for the resurfacing of the roof. Scaffolding has been erected around the site and car park. Therefore, the way in which parents access Birches Club to collect and drop off children will change. Please continue to use the intercom to alert a member of staff that you are here and then proceed to walk round to the mid-field gate (off the Daily Mile Track) where a member of staff will greet you with your child/ren.

I would like to remind all parents/carers of the new drop off and collection times issued in October. With shorter times please could I ask everyone to be mindful of parking within Birches Avenue and local side roads. Hopefully, this should not create too much of an issue—as not all parents will be required to be onsite at the same time.

Here's to the countdown to Christmas....

Best wishes

Miss Varricchione

Headteacher

School Uniform Suppliers

After concerns were raised in the summer regarding Bradsparts we have now secured another supplier to provide our school uniform. Hopefully this will give parents more flexibility and a personal choice where to purchase the required uniform from.

Please see both providers' details below:

Trutex Wolverhampton (Crested Schoolwear)

14a Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 3HH Tel: 01902 593030

Bradsparts

4 Bilbrook Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton, WV8 1EZ Tel: 01902 846262

Remembrance Day/Poppies

Please remember to bring to school a stone that can be decorated with words and images for our 'Virtual Gathering of Remembrance'. As we are unable to participate in a Remembrance Service we aim to mark the occasion by creating a display in school and sharing this virtually with the local community...pictures to follow!

From **Tuesday 3rd November** we will be selling Poppy Appeal items in class...this year there is a choice of:

A Zip Pull 50p

Wrist Band £1.00

Reflector 50p

Snap Band £1.50

Children are to bring in the correct money.

Thank you again for your support for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



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 experiences they have planned. They hope you will continue to support your child as much as possible.

Bonfire Lunch 5th November

The kitchen are preparing our annual Bonfire Lunch. Please see the website under 'Letters' tab for the menu and details how to pay via ParentPay.

Many thanks.

Harvest Donations

Thank you so much to all who donated Harvest produce. I am so incredibly proud of the generosity that has been shown to help others. This sends such a positive message to our children to care for others and help people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

The Well were so thankful upon receiving the food donations and commented that without help, they would be unable to keep supporting people in need.

All your donations really do make a difference. THANK YOU.

Children in Need Friday 13th November

This year we will be helping to raise money for Children in Need by taking part in the Fundraising 'Act your Age Challenge'.

The class teachers will be setting different activities for the classes to complete during the day. Children are invited to come to school how they wish i.e. -in pyjamas/own clothes/dressing up outfits, sporting any Children in Need merchandise, crazy hair etc. all for a small donation which will be linked to your ParentPay account.

Let's have a fun filled 'Act your Age' Day!

Thank you for your generosity and support with such a fantastic charity...

...who really do change lives for children.

Healthy School

I would like to remind all parents in Year Three and Year Four that a 'healthy' fruit snack is encouraged to eat at playtime. Last half term saw some children bringing in chocolate bars and increasingly more unhealthy snacks trying to make their way to the playground! We pride ourselves on instilling children with the correct messages to eat a healthy, balanced diet along with being active to help not only our physical fitness but our mental health and well being.

Children who have packed lunches should also follow our Healthy School guidance and have a balanced lunch. The recommendation is to have a good portion of starchy food: - wholemeal roll or bread, wraps, pitta pocket, pasta or rice salad with a portion of lean meat, fish, eggs or beans, for example ham, chicken, beef, tuna, egg or hummus. Plenty of fruit and vegetables, e.g. an apple, satsuma, handful of cut cherry tomatoes or carrot sticks, mini - can of fruit chunks in natural juice or a small box of raisins. A portion of dairy food i.e. individual cheese portion or pot of yogurt. Foods high in fat and sugar should be restricted. Treats can be included but again we encourage lower fat and sugar, or alternatively a small snack size treat bar...everything in moderation...

T H A N K Y O U

Birches Anti Bullying Week

We are proud to be supporting Anti Bullying Week again this year.

The theme for the week is "**We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.**" To kick start the week all the children and adults need to do is wear odd socks! This is a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! So don't forget...Monday 16th November 2020, the first day of Anti-Bullying Week wear your odd socks with pride!

Thank you

First School/Middle School Admissions

Please be aware that the School Admissions Application System will open on **1st November 2020** for First and Middle Schools. Staffordshire Y4 parents should have received an Admission Letter for Middle School 2021. If you have not had this; please contact the office.

You should only use this system if your child lives in **Staffordshire**. The closing date is **Friday 15th January 2021**.

Please note if you reside in Wolverhampton please contact Wolverhampton Admissions directly.

Please note that children who currently attend our school Nursery will need to apply for Reception 2021/22. Admission to the Nursery class does NOT guarantee a place in the Reception class; a separate application must be made which will be subject to the admissions criteria.

Nursery September 2021/2022

Applications opened **1st September 2020** until **26th March 2021**. All applications should be delivered to **Birches First School Office** marked **Nursery Admissions 2021**. Offer letters will be posted to parent/carers on **23rd April 2021**. An application form can be found on our website.

Current Nursery 2020/2021

We currently have availability for both morning and 30 hour places, please contact the school office. We offer 'Rising 3' provision so your child may start our Nursery after the date of their 3rd birthday. Please contact the school office for more information.

Admissions 2022/2023

We are consulting on proposed changes to admissions arrangements for the 2022-2023 academic year for Nursery and Reception intakes please contact the office if you require more details.

SIMS Lite App

In the coming weeks we will be asking all parents to download a SIMS parent app. The app will enable parents to view and amend personal data held in school for your child/ren. Parents can instantly amend contact details, medical and dietary requirements, and give consent for photos/videos etc. Eventually, the app will replace all paper Pupil Data Information sheets previously completed and held within school; providing an accurate and up to date information management system.

Further information and instructions to follow via our website.

Social Distancing

We are committed to following Government Social Distancing guidelines to reduce the risk of catching or spreading coronavirus.

Please could I remind all parents to try to keep at least 2 metres away from people you do not live with. Social distancing is essential to stop the spread of the virus, as it is more likely to spread when people are close together. An infected person can pass on the virus even if they do not have any symptoms, through talking, breathing, coughing or sneezing.

When walking around the school site please ensure you keep 1-2 meters away from any other parents and that your child/ren remain next to you at all times.

I sincerely thank you for your help and co-operation with this.

November Diary Dates



1st Applications for First/Middle Schools opens

2nd School Closed for children

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

11th Remembrance Day

13th Children in Need Day

16/17th Diwali and Multi Faith Celebrations

16th Anti Bullying Week



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

Birches Values;

Belief Independence Resilience Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

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