

Birches Bulletin

January 2021

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 5

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Spring term Birches Value: **Curiosity**

British Value: **Individual Liberty**

Here's to a great 2021...

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I sincerely wish you a **VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

We can but hope that this year we will be able to get back to our 'old normal', the thought of meeting all our family and friends and being able to hug them has surely kept most of us going through the long, dark Covid Days! The days are getting longer now and a glimpse of the old has to be on the horizon if we continue to follow the guidelines in and out of school. The news that Staffordshire and Wolverhampton are Tier 4 will not impact Birches. We will continue with all the effective policies and procedures we have in place. I am proud that we continued to run all classes throughout the whole of the Autumn Term-a HUGE achievement and I hope that this will continue to be the case. I am asking you to cooperate; please remain vigilant, wear a mask on school premises, follow social distancing and do not congregate in groups at the school gate as this will be breaching Tier 4 restrictions and guidance.

I am sure the Spring Term will see our fantastic children continue to progress, develop, grow and as always make us proud. Curriculum timetables are now online providing a 'snapshot' of what will be happening in classes this half term. Homework Grids for each class will also be uploaded. The class teachers and I thank you for all the hard work at home...the Showcase Homework sessions in class are absolutely fantastic. The children are so proud and speak so confidently about their learning; it is a real delight to see.

Please do visit our website where you will find a range of information about life at Birches.

Here's to a great (fingers crossed) 2021!

Best wishes, Miss Varricchione, Headteacher

New Staff...Welcome!

We are excited to welcome some new staff to the Birches team this term.

Miss Potts has commenced her role of class teacher for Nursery whilst Mrs. Mogeys will be teaching Reception class until the end of the academic year.

Mrs. Brettle and Mrs. Bell have joined the Teaching Assistant team in main school and Miss Lawley has joined the Nursery team supporting the children in our morning and afternoon sessions. I'm sure you will all make them feel very welcome and they will quickly feel and be part of the Birches community.

Admissions

Applications close **January 15th 2021** for admission into Reception Class 2021 and for children transferring to the Middle School September 2021.

Please go to <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Application-forms-for-admission-to-school.aspx>

Christmas Activities

We all hope you enjoyed watching the Christmas DVD, certainly not the same as coming to into school to watch a play but hopefully you and your loved ones enjoyed it and brought some Christmas cheer into your home.

This year's PFA Christmas Cake Sales raised a total of £240 for school. Thank you parents for your support.

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. As you are aware, it is extremely difficult at present to raise any funds so whatever can be raised is truly a gift!

It was so lovely to see the children to have a visit from Father Christmas and again a huge thank you to the PFA for organising the stockings for all our children-they definitely deserved that end of year treat.

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 have any ideas please contact the school office.

Thank you

Mid Year Reports

As a school we are keen to continue our communication with home to ensure parents are aware of how your child/ren is progressing throughout the year.

Teachers will be writing Mid Year Reports which will be sent home week commencing Monday 1st February 2021.

As always we would like to invite parents to discuss the content of the report and raise any comments, questions or queries about their child's learning with their class teacher.

Currently we are setting up Teams and hopefully by February staff will have received the relevant training and meetings can take place using this platform.

I will as always keep you informed regarding our progress with this and how this will be rolled out to our school community.

Kingswood-Y4

We are ever hopeful that this annual event can take place. Thank you to all the Y4 parents in Y4 for baring with us...times and dates have changed numerous due to restriction enforced and I can only thank you and keep everything crossed that we will go in May!

First payment to be secured by January 15th 2021.

School Site

We have had some site work take place during the holiday ready for new fencing/gates and security doors. You will notice that the trees by the school path entrance have been cut down and roped off. As always, I ask that children are to stay next to parents and not to go onto the roped off areas for their safety.

Thank you.

Birches Values;

Belief Independence Resilience Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

Our Mission Statement; Believe, Grow, Succeed