



Birches Bulletin



April/May 2021

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 7

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Birches Value: **Enthusiasm** British Value: **Tolerance**

Dear Parents...

Welcome Back! I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter holiday and had a little taste of some normality during the break, wasn't it nice to feel the sun on your face and see children playing in the parks!



Firstly I would like to welcome our new children and parents to our wonderful Nursery, I know the children will settle in quickly, busily learning through play!

Parents-please remember no question is a 'silly' one so please ask our helpful staff. I would like to welcome Miss Quilter to our Birches Team, she will be working in Year One during the afternoons. I know you will make her very welcome. Mrs Ferretti will be leaving Birches at the end of the term, she has successfully been appointed as a Headteacher at a local Primary School. The staff, Governors and I wish her all the best with the next stage of her career, we are so pleased for Mrs Ferretti...she will be a strong and respected Head of their school.

As the weather warms up, children may wear our summer uniform of school embroidered polo shirt and grey school shorts or skirt, or red gingham summer dress. (No jumpsuits/all in ones or 'culottes' please.) Nursery children can wear red or grey shorts instead of their joggers or a red gingham summer dress. Please ensure all items are labelled and children are wearing school shoes. Socks/hairbands/bobbles are red, white or grey in line with our uniform policy.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Sunday 27th June



Our annual Summer Fayre will be held at school starting at 12pm.



Please come and show your support and enjoy a fun filled family afternoon.

As always if you can help in any way please contact school or Mrs Morgans

Nursery Applications for September 2021 have now closed.

Please speak to Mrs Lawley if you require any assistance regarding places.

Clubs

- I am delighted that Keyboard lessons will resume next week (26th April 2021).
- Y1 and Y2 will commence Thursday mornings and Y3 on Friday...the start of some normality!
- Football Club on Tuesday is proving to be a huge hit with Mrs Burkitt, Mrs Lawley and Miss Lawley. We are working with local schools to see if any matches can be played before the end of the year.
- Hopefully as the Summer Term progresses we will be able to offer more to all our children. I will keep you informed.

School Photographs

Smiles at the ready! Class photographs and Y4 Leavers' will be taken on Thursday 13th May 2021.

SATs/Phonics

As you are aware, from my letter these assessments have been withdrawn for this academic year in Year One and Year Two.

Friday 28th May will be a PFA Non School Uniform Day.

Children may wear their own clothes. Please send in a donation of small multi-packs of chocolate bars (Rocky bars etc.) or a bottle for the Summer Fayre.

Y4 Multiplication Table Check (MTC)

As you are aware Birches are participating in a national voluntary check which will take place between 7th June and 25th June 2021.

The National Curriculum specifies that pupils should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including 12×12 by the end of Year 4.

Please email Mrs Cain/Mrs Ferretti if you would like more information.

Charities Comic Relief Day/Children's Mental Health Day

A huge thank you to all of the children and staff for supporting our chosen charities. We raised an amazing £147 for Comic Relief and £99 for Children's Mental Health.

Thank you all for your generosity!



School Site

As previously communicated, during the Easter break substantial work has taken place to our school site. A new pedestrian entrance and pathway with a barrier to the car park has been created along with a new exit from the school site to the pavement. We have had fencing erected around the whole perimeter of the school and automated gates controlled by school. I am sure when you see the transformation you will agree that it looks amazing and a sense of safety created. Please read the following for arrival/dismissal procedures....

Birches Club Morning and Afternoon

For both Morning Drop Off and After School Collection please access the school via the pedestrian walk way (following the red barriers) to the main school entrance. Once at the main entrance please press the intercom for the attention of the Birches Club Staff. The staff will ask which child/ren is arriving/being collected and then will proceed to come to the **Main Entrance Door** to greet you and your child/ren and take them to club or bring your child/ren to you at the end of the day. Please exit school via the pedestrian walk way.

School Arrivals/Departures

As there is a red barrier between the car park and path we are unable to have two lines for the EYFS/KS1/KS2 Bubbles. The pedestrian pathway is however, long enough to accommodate two year groups-ONE AFTER THE OTHER. This will mean that for both drop off and collection parents must line up in the following order:

Nursery 8.30am/3.00pm	Reception 8.30am/3.00pm
Y1 8.35am/3.05pm	Y2 8.35am/3.05pm
Y3 8.40am/3.10pm	Y4 8.40am/3.10pm

BARRIER

There will be signs and staff out in the morning to inform you where to stand. Please stand to the left (against the barrier) so that if a Nursery, Y1, Y3 parent needs to walk past to line up at the front with their cohort they can do so with minimal contact.

The exit route will be the same as before however, you will exit at the bottom right of the field through the new gate onto the pavement -please use both paths on the daily mile to ease congestion. Again, staff will be there to guide you at the end of the day. Please note, as you are exiting straight onto the pavement I ask that you remain vigilant and children remain walking next to you so they do not run onto the road.

Cycle Rack/Bikes/Scooters

As you will not be able to re-enter school once you have exited scooters/bikes will need to be taken with you to collect your child/ren from the storage rack on entering the grounds.

Children are not permitted to ride on scooter/bikes on the school premises. This is due to the legalities of Health and Safety Law. I would appreciate your cooperation with this as always, thank you.

Attendance-Reminder

Please remember to notify the school office if your child is absent from school. Birches continues to work with an independent Education Welfare Service 'Attend' to support and maintain our commitment to outstanding attendance at Birches.

School Fund and Nursery Fund

Thank you for your School Fund donations. These donations of £1 per week provide vital funding for the wide range of extracurricular activities and events we are proud to be able to offer. School fund contributions can be paid via ParentPay. Thank you.

Lunchboxes.

Birches is a Healthy School and we would like to remind parents that lunch boxes should contain a healthy balanced meal of a sandwich, a yogurt/ yoghurt drink, a snack size chocolate bar/biscuit, a savoury snack, fruit and a plastic cup for a drink. Children should not bring sweets, drinks, smoothies or large chocolate bars. As always, school will provide water for your child, in addition should you wish we can also provide milk. Please speak to Miss Varricchione if you would like this alternative.



T H A N K Y O U

April/May Diary Dates - (whole year is on our website)

19th April Return to School

28th April Y4 Cross Country -details to follow

3rd May Day School Closed

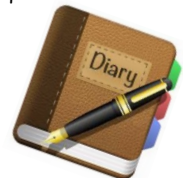
6th May Polling Day school OPEN

13th May School Photographs - Class/Group Phots and Year 4 Leaver Photographs

28th May PFA Non Uniform Day Bottle/Chocolate Donation

28th May Break Up

7th June Return to School



Birches Values:

Belief Independence Respect Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

Our Mission Statement; Believe, Grow, Succeed