



Birches Bulletin

July 2021

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

Issue 10

office@birches.staffs.sch.uk

01902 297910



Summer term Birches Value: **Success** British Value: **All British Values**

British Values: Individual Liberty/Rule of Law/Democracy/Mutual Respect

Birches Values: **Belief Independence Resilience Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success**

As we near the end of the year, I can hardly believe it is nearly time to say goodbye to our Year Four children and wish them well as they move onto pastures new. I would also like to wish our Nursery leavers the very best of luck as they move onto their new schools to begin Reception in September.

You are aware that Mrs Ferretti will be leaving and as a staff team we will also be saying farewell to Mrs Allcott and Mrs Potts. For children and staff who are moving on, I hope that they take a little bit of Birches with them and always remember, with fondness, the happy times they had with us.

I would like to thank you all, on behalf of all the staff, for your support throughout the year. And a personal thanks, in particular from me, for your support during another year of uncertainty and restrictions I am very proud to be part of such a wonderful school community and live in hope that September will bring normality back.

This year has been very challenging but full of successes and hugely rewarding. So much has happened and I am very proud of all of our children and their achievements particularly with what they have faced over the last 16 months. I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work this year. Their dedication and commitment to ensuring the children have the very best experiences is commendable in such unfavourable circumstances and I am very grateful for all that they do. We have learnt so much together this year!

I hope you all have a very happy (and sunny?!) summer break and enjoy the chance to spend time with your friends and family and I look forward to welcoming many of you back to school on **Thursday 2nd September** ready for another successful year here at Birches First School!

Take care, Miss Varricchione

Y4 Leavers

Y4 had the most amazing sleep over on Saturday evening! We were blessed with a gorgeous summer's evening where the children played happily (even though they did loose the rounder's match against staff!!!), enjoyed pizza (thank you to Soraya's parents) and toasted marshmallows on the camp fire. Not to mention the bacon/sausage butty cooked by Mrs Burkitt for breakfast!

It was truly a wonderful evening where we know memories for the children were made for life! A HUGE thank you to Mrs Ferretti, Mrs Cain, Miss Hayden, Mrs Bell, Mrs Allcott & Miss Hulme for making this happen for our children.

Y4 Leavers' Evening

Information regarding the Y4Leavers' Party has been sent via email. Please contact Mrs Cain and Mrs Ferretti if you have any further questions.

We are hopeful that Year 4 will perform their special Leavers' show to the school during the last week so that all children and siblings have the opportunity to say goodbye.

Please be reassured we will remain within the Government's School Guidance...we need the weather on our side to make it happen!

Class Teachers 2021—2022

Thank you for patience whilst staffing has been finalised.

Please see staffing arrangements for next academic year:

Nursery – Mrs Lloyd

Reception - Mrs Moge

Year One – Miss Owen

Year Two - Miss Hulme*

Year Three - Mr Jones

Year Four — Mrs Cain (Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday Morning)

Year Four — Mrs Hine (Wednesday afternoon/Thursday/Friday)

We are planning a transition morning in school on **Wednesday 14th July**. Children will visit their new classrooms and spend the morning with their new teachers. We are limited with what we can do this year, however, this will give children an opportunity to become familiar with their new classroom and teacher.

Therefore Reception parents will take children to Y1, Y1 to Y2, Y2 to Y3 and Y3 to Y4. I will be on the playground to guide all parents to the correct classrooms.

Please collect children from their usual room at the end of the day.

*Interviews are taking place 7/7/21 for Y2 Class Teacher (Thursday/Friday) to job share with Miss Hulme details to follow.

Pupil Premium/School Lunches

- All children in Reception and KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to Free School Meals. However, it is important that families who previously qualified for Free School Meals still apply as school receives additional funding for your child which will benefit your child in school. Please can we encourage any parents who are new to Birches and are in receipt of the following benefits to apply. We offer incentives of uniform vouchers to families who qualify for all new free school meal registrations. The criteria for qualifying would be to be in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child tax credit and no working tax credit with a household income of less than £16,190
- Universal Credit
- The 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- For more information visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or email free.schoolmeals@staffordshire.gov.uk

Early Years Pupil Premium (Nursery)

Parents in receipt of the above benefits are also eligible to apply for additional funding to support their child in Early Years. For an application form please contact the school office.

Service Pupil Premium (SPP)

- Schools which have children of service families from years Reception to Year 11 can receive the SPP funding. It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that these children may need and is currently worth £300 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria. Please advise the school office if you are new to school and meet this SPP criteria.

School Uniform

Please remember to name all items of uniform for September – particularly sweatshirts, cardigans, fleeces and PE/Games kit. Thank you very much.

School Clubs...

Thank you so much to Mrs Burkitt, Mrs Lawley and Miss Lawley for giving up their own time to run our Football Club this Summer Term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to play with their school friends. Unfortunately, we have not been able to arrange any matches due to restrictions however, we remain hopeful that this is something that could happen in the foreseeable future (fingers/legs/arms crossed!).

In addition, huge thanks once again to the fabulous office ladies Mrs Burkitt & Mrs Lawley and Miss Hulme for running the Y1/2 Multi Skills Club. It has been wonderful to watch the excitement and fun that these children are having whilst developing and learning new physical development skills. They have loved every minute!

We will be working as a staff to develop and extend our extra-curricular clubs in the Autumn Term...further details to follow in September.

Keyboards...

will continue after the summer holiday. We will write to Year One parents with further information regarding Keyboard lessons with Mrs Leicester-Hand.

July Diary Dates

- 1st Sports Day
- 7th Reports to Parents
- 12-14th Y4 Day visits to Kingswood
- 13th Parents Evening via TEAMS 3.30—6.30pm
- 16th School closes for Summer Holidays
- YN/R -1.50pm, Y1/2 1.55pm, Y3/4 2.00pm
- 19th INSET- School Closed Staff Training
- 20th INSET- School Closed Staff Training
- 21st INSET- School Closed Staff Training



September

- 1st Training day—school closed
- 2nd School Opens

I will be writing to parents in the holiday regarding drop off and collection times for all year groups and sending a reminder text on Wednesday 1st September.

Birches Values:

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

Our Mission Statement...

Believe, Grow, Succeed...to be the best 'me' I can be.