



Birches First School

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



Birches Bulletin

November 2021

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk

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Birches Value: **(Belief) Resilience**

British Value: **Rule of Law**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you all have had a wonderful half term and the children have had a fantastic break, enjoying and engaging in some fun activities that this time of year brings!

I would like to thank parents for being so proactive and supportive in the last week of term when some classes had positive cases. Your support to help stop the spread is very much appreciated. I know it is not a nice experience having children PCR tested, but I thank you for working in partnership with school and taking the necessary actions.

As we return, we will still be operating in bubbles and keeping to our staggered starts and dismissals until we are further guided by the authority. I appreciate and understand that it causes some inconvenience but I have tried to organise it so that it causes minimal disruptions, especially to parents who have more than one child.

Again, a huge thank you for such a successful first half term, the children are making fantastic progress in class and really are a credit to the school and you!

Here's to another fantastic half term and dare I say it....the countdown to Christmas.....YEAH!

Best wishes

Miss Varricchione

PFA Meeting Thursday 4th November

I will be sending out a TEAMS invite to all parents to join our PFA meeting (via their child's email address). I am hoping that as many of you can join the meeting. It is a good way to get to know other parents and help to raise much needed funds for our school. By coming to the meeting you can share any thoughts and ideas on how we can raise more money for our school! We are always keen to hear new initiatives!

The smallest of gestures and help really does go a long way! Our fantastic committee has paid for our new phonic scheme Little Wandle which all children benefit from. Please do join us from the comfort of your home!

Break the Rules Day Friday 26th November

What was I thinking!!! We are inviting the children to come to school for one day to break the rules! For every rule they break they get 'fined' 50p. Children can choose to break up to 6 rules.

1. Crazy hair and/or hair accessories
2. Wear trainers to school
3. Bring a cuddly toy to school for the day
4. Wear a temporary tattoo
5. Wear a hat
6. Bring any snack for break time
7. Wear nail varnish
8. Bring juice or squash in water bottle
9. Be known by a different name for the day (e.g. choose your favourite pop star, footballer etc!)
10. Eat pudding before dinner
11. Wear own clothes

This is going to be a lot of fun!

Letter with sponsor sheet to follow!

Remembrance Day/Poppies

From **Monday, 1st 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 if there is a change in their topic-please note this will not be all classes due to some topics taking a longer period of time to teach.

The class teachers are really excited about the learning experience 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 parent pay.

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 and Haven 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 19th November

This year we will be helping to raise money for Children in Need by taking part in the Fundraising 'Together, we Can'.

The class teachers will be setting different activities for the classes to complete during the day focussing on their self worth and mental health.

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 Parent Pay account.

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' 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 15th-19th November.

The theme for the week is "ONE KIND WORD".

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, 15th November 2021, the first day of Anti-Bullying Week wear your odd socks with pride!

Thank you for your support.

First School/Middle School Admissions 2022

Please be aware that the School Admissions Application System will open on **1st November 2021** for First and Middle Schools. Staffordshire Y4 parents should have received an Admission Letter for Middle School 2022. 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 **15th January 2022**.

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 2022/23. 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 2022/2023

Applications opened **1st September 2021** until **26th March 2022**. All applications should be delivered to **Birches First School Office** marked **Nursery Admissions 2022**. Offer letters will be posted to parent/carers on **23rd April 2022**. An application form can be found on our website.

Current Nursery 2020/2021

We currently have availability for both morning and afternoon sessions, please contact the school office. We can take children as soon as they are 3 years old (charges apply) and also offer 'Rising 3' provision (funded from the term after their 3rd birthday) so your child may start our Nursery after the date of their 3rd birthday. Please contact the school office for more information...we will always be happy help.

First Aid

During our Inset Day on the last day of term all staff took part in an Emergency First Aid course. This course provided basic life saving first aid skills and knowledge of workplace health and safety regulations for all staff.

In addition to all staff completing and successfully passing our First Aid Training some staff hold a Paediatric First Aid Certificate. This training focuses on emergency scenarios that may be faced by staff working in a school with young children.

For your information our Paediatric First Aiders are:

Miss S Varricchione (Headteacher)

Mrs C Banks (Club Manager and Nursery Afternoons)

Mrs L Savage (KS1 Teaching Assistant)

Mrs V Miller (Reception Teaching Assistant)



Miss N Owen (Y1 Teacher)

Wear Yellow for Mental Health

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to this important fundraising event. We raised £103 for the Young Minds Mental Health Charity by wearing yellow at school. The children really enjoyed our off-timetable well-being day and liked taking part in a range of mindful activities with their lemons!

Thank you once again for your support.

November Diary Dates

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| 1st | Welcome Back Children and Applications for First/Middle Schools opens |
| 4/5th | Diwali and Multi Faith Days |
| 5th | Flu Vaccination YR-Y4/Bonfire Lunch |
| 11th | Remembrance Day |
| 15th | Anti Bullying Week – Wear Odd Socks |
| 19th | Children in Need |
| 26th | Break the Rules Day |
| 30th | St Andrew's Day |

(Please remember all our events are currently cancelled until further notice).

Birches Values;

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

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