



Birches First School

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

Issue 6

www.birches.staffs.sch.uk



Newsletter February 2022

Spring Term Birches Value: **Curiosity**

British Value: **Individual Liberty**

Spring is on its way...

I think we are all happy to see February approaching, those little signs that Spring is on its way are starting to appear here and there...snowdrops, crocuses and little green buds...It really is a lovely time of year as we see the world around us begin to burst into life again!

The children have had a wonderful first month back and it was fabulous to see them all being creative and enjoying their Artist focus during Arts Week. Last week I had the pleasure of teaching all classes in main school and have been extremely impressed with all the children and their work! I hope EYFS/KS1 have had the opportunity to watch the Phonics Parent Workshop-please do contact us if there are any questions-we are here to HELP and SUPPORT you at home with early reading!

We have started our Parent Interviews this week and I hope any questions/concerns are addressed to your satisfaction and you feel fully informed about how your child/ren are progressing through the academic year. Reports will be sent out following interviews and this will be a summary of what has been discussed. Please contact me if there is anything outstanding you would like me to know or can help with.

We are very much looking forward to many activities planned this month such as Chinese New Year, Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and School Council Non Uniform Fund Raiser to mark the end of the first Spring Term.

Finally, thank you all for supporting your children's learning journey by regularly hearing them read, working on spellings and times tables, completing homework and taking a keen interest in all aspects of school life. The teachers and I really value our partnership with you.

I hope you have a lovely half term and the team and I look forward to seeing you back on **Tuesday 1st March**. Best wishes, S Varricchione, Headteacher

Admissions for **September 2022 Nursery** Reminder...

Applications for September 2022 are now open!

Please see our website for details.

Applications should be made **direct** to the school office. If your child is 3 they may also join either before/after Easter as a Rising 3. Please do contact the office and we will discuss the process with you.

Mid Year Reports

Your child's mid-year report will be out on **Monday 7th February**. We have organised it slightly differently this year hoping that discussions before reports are issued will help parents with the reasoning of why comments and judgments have been made.

We are here to help and support-please let us know if there is anything further we can do to support you and your child/ren at home.

PFA

Our PFA have been amazing in supporting the school buying 15 new ipads and now raising money for our library to ensure all children are exposed to good, high quality texts.

Please support our Coin Wars which will be running until Easter, and also with great thanks to Mrs Norris-Jones we can sell some Valentine's treats for the children and loved ones!

We have more events coming up to help raise money for the school-our PFA is a very small team, please if you can help in any way get in touch. New ideas are always welcomed!

School Council have funded £180 for new inclusive books such as 'Eyes that Kiss in the Corners', 'The Name Jar' 'What Happened to You', 'It's a No-Money Day' and many many more! I am very much looking forward to sharing these with the whole school, raising awareness and celebrating Modern Britain. Thank you.

Safer Internet Day

On **Tuesday 8th February** we will be supporting **Safer Internet Day 2022**.

This year's slogan is "**All Fun and Games**". Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people and inspire a national conversation. Class teachers will be reinforcing the message of good internet practice and staying safe online.

Mrs Cripps our Online Safety and Computing Leader will be co-ordinating this day, generating awareness and knowledge at an age appropriate level.

If any parents have any concerns regarding keeping children safe at home using the internet please do get in touch and we will support you with measures you can implement to help.

Parking

Thank you to all the parents/relatives etc who do park considerably and legally. I am receiving continuous emails and telephone calls from residents who complain to school regarding the parking of our school community. I have signposted all complaints to the council and have spoken to Highway Control myself. Hopefully it will have a positive impact informing parents to think about our residents and more importantly the safety of our precious children.

Thank you to the parents who have emailed and spoken to me-your help has been greatly appreciated.

Dates for the Diary

1st February—Chinese New Year –please refer to letter on website & Y2 Parents' Evening

2nd February—Parents' Evening YN/R/1/3/4 3.30-6.00pm

3rd February—Parents' Evening Y1/Y4 3.30-6.00pm

7th February—Mid Year Reports Emailed

8th February— Safer Internet Day

18th February—Break Up for Half Term/School Council Fund Raising

28th February—INSET DAY-School Closed for Children

1st March -Children return to school

Birches Values:

Belief Independence Resilience Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

Our Mission Statement

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

Covid Update

Face Masks

As you are all fully aware facemasks are no longer required in school anymore. As a school we are following the government guidelines, however, if staff feel more comfortable wearing them within communal areas this is their choice and I fully support them. Teaching and Support staff do not wear masks in the classrooms or at anytime when teaching children.

Testing

Staff continue to test twice a week and those staff who have been in a class with a covid case will be testing daily.

Isolation time

As you are aware from Monday 17th January people with COVID-19 in England can end their self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6.

Please continue to inform school if your child has a positive test. Guidance also states there is no requirement at present to have a PCR test.

School

A letter will be sent home this week with plans for returning to 'normal' from Monday 7th February. Please take time to read the new drop off and collections points and please do inform Grandparents and any other adult who may drop off and collect your child/ren.

As always, if cases rise within school we will revert to our Contingency/Outbreak Management Plan and implement the prevention controls.