



Birches First School

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

March 2022

Issue: 7

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British Value: **Mutual Respect**

Birches Value: **Honesty**

March Newsletter

Dear Parents...

welcome back to school after what I hope was a lovely half term holiday for you all. I can hardly believe we are now moving into the second half of the year! Last half term was finished in style with our fantastic Cake Sale-the children all enjoyed it and it was overheard that it was the best day ever!! The School Councillors were fantastic, selling the cakes to all the classes in the hall and Y4 helped count the money and total it all up... I was very impressed with the mental maths skills! We raised an impressive £142, the school council are going to discuss in our meeting tomorrow what they would like to spend their money on. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes and sent in money, it really was a lovely occasion for all.

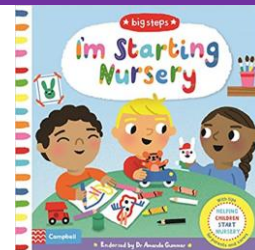


We are looking forward to opening our doors next week so that parents drop in and have an opportunity to view their children's books...I am sure you will agree they have made excellent progress with their learning. The half term ahead is a very busy one with lots going on in all classes, we are beginning to feel 'normal' again and reintroducing many activities within school life for the children.

Please see below for further information and dates for your diary.

Best wishes, S Varricchione, Headteacher

Nursery Reminder Applications for September 2022 Deadline 25th March 2022.



Please see our website for details. Applications should be made direct to the school office. Please see our school website for the information. Or call the school office where Mrs Lawley and Mrs Burkitt will happily be of assistance.

KS1 SATs Parents Meeting

Unfortunately, due to staff absences our first meeting was cancelled, thank you for your understanding.

On **Monday 7th March at 5.30pm** we will be holding a meeting for Year 2 parents. It will provide parents with important information regarding these assessments and how they will be delivered.

Y4 Kingswood Visit

I am truly delighted to be able to write this...

Y4 will soon be off to Kingswood for their 2-night residential- we hope that they have a fantastic time and make lots of happy memories that will stay with them for many years to come.

Book Week

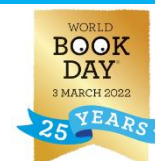


We are very excited to start the half term with something which is dear to all staff-books and reading for pleasure!

Children will be participating in wonderful book related activities throughout the week. This year there are Golden Tickets hidden in the library...anyone who finds a Golden Ticket will have a Tea Party on World Book Day with Miss Varricchione!

Who will it be...?

We are looking forward to seeing the children (and staff) dressed up as their favourite book character on **World Book Day THURSDAY 3rd March**-if you can bring the book to school that would be lovely to see!





Red Nose Day 2022 Friday 18th March

We will be supporting Comic Relief in school on the above date.

School Councillors will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the forthcoming event. This year

Councillors will ask their classes for their ideas and bring all suggestions to our meeting. I look forward to hearing all the children's ideas...from all out or keeping it simple!

Please take your ideas to school class councillors by Monday 7th March so that we have plenty of time to prepare!

THANK YOU



Dates for the Diary	
1 st March	Welcome Back Children
3 rd March	World Book Day - Dress up as your favourite BOOK character Y3 Visit to the Library
4 th March	Y1 Visit to the library
7 th March	3.30pm- 5pm Class/Book look at school-details will be sent tomorrow regarding access to classrooms.
9 th -11 th March	Y4 Kingswood Residential
15 th March	Y2 Julia Donaldson Visit -further information to follow
18 th March	Red Nose Day -details to follow
24 th March	Y1 Trip Black Country Museum
25 th March	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Party -further PFA details to follow
April 1 st April	Y2 Trip Think Tank

Covid Update

As you are aware the Prime Minister's announcement on the Living with COVID-19 plan was released on Monday 21st February.

The Prime Minister has set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response '[Living with COVID-19](#)'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

Changes to testing in education and childcare settings and children's social care services

From, Monday 21 February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. Given the government now know that the risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are very low, and the successful vaccination programme has achieved a high rate of take-up, they can remove this advice, bringing education into line with wider society.

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. **At Birches First School we will be following and applying the following guidance to all staff and children. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.** In addition, the Government will:

- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.
- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.

More detail can be found in the Living with COVID-19 plan published Monday 22/2/22, [‘Living with COVID-19’](#).

The following statement has been taken directly from **DfE Schools COVID 19 Operational Guidance** and will be implemented from Tuesday 1st March. I believe that this is for the best interest for all children, staff, and parents and hope all parents agree that keeping children at home until they are fit and well enough to return is the most sensible approach for all.

Welcoming children back to school

*‘In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should **not** attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you (School) can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19’.*

If anyone has any questions regarding the new measures implemented from tomorrow, please do not hesitate to get in contact via the school office and we will happily answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

S Varricchione

Headteacher