



Birches First School

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

July 2022

Issue: 10

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British Value: *All Fundamental British Values*

Birches Value: *Success (Belief)*

July Newsletter

Dear Parents...

I am writing this after coming away from the Summer Fayre today! What an incredible day it was, the weather was very kind to us and the sun did make an appearance! I cannot begin to thank the PFA for all the hard work not just yesterday (Saturday) or this morning from 9am to finish setting up but all the planning and preparation that goes beforehand into making it such a wonderful event. Everyone had the most amazing time and the children had a ball! Thank you, I should imagine Emma and the team will certainly have their feet up tonight! The PFA have kindly funded £3000 to school which has enabled us to buy some phonic books to support our phonic program-THANK YOU I know parents will be delighted to hear this news!





What an incredible month June has been, again our children have made us so proud in all they do. I am very excited for you to come into school and see the children's books during Open Day. The progress the children have made is INCREDIBLE. Please do look at the start of their books in September and compare to what they are producing now it is phenomenal! Every single child has worked hard and been successful, I am extremely proud and again this achievement cannot be gained without the AMAZING staff team we have at Birches, the teachers have adapted the curriculum to ensure gaps from Covid have been 'plugged' and the whole team teachers/TAs have worked together to support the children to help them achieve what they are capable of. You will be very impressed I guarantee!

Sporting wise I could burst with pride for the football teams we have, the girls have taught me a lesson- 'Believe you can and you're half way there' they are so brave and have never given up I admire their courage and determination, they have gone from strength to strength and despite not winning every match they certainly won in my eyes. Their attitude and tenacity to the game has been incredible, well done girls. Equally the boys!

What a team we have and the passion they show on the pitch is undoubtedly one of the greatest of all time, they are focused, persistent and relentless at times!!! Thank you, I have been immensely honoured and thoroughly enjoyed every second cheering you all on!



Finally, Mrs Burkitt and I took our Y4s on the hottest day of the year to the district Cricket finals. It is the first time Birches have qualified and despite the unbearable heat our Y4 team gave it their all. We played many matches from different schools where majority, if not all the teams played cricket outside of school. Again-no nerves shown just walking on and doing their best! I am in awe at their ability to be so confident and how they rise to the high expectations placed on them. Thank you for representing the school so positively. True BIRCHES STARS!

As this is the last Newsletter of the year I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for your kindness, appreciation and support during this year. You and your children made it all worthwhile. I would also like to express my thanks, gratitude and pride in our incredible staff team who have all gone the extra mile for the children, for you and for each other. We really do have a fantastic team here –and it is a genuine privilege to come to work every day!

Have a safe and happy break and good luck to our wonderful Year 4s—we will really miss you all in September. Go and shine like the stars you are! Stay safe, take care and remember your Birches roots!

Have an amazing summer holiday. See you in September!

Best wishes from Miss Varricchione & the Birches Team



September Information

Please note the following times for September:
Nursery 8.30-11.30 (11.30-12.00 lunch) 12.00-3.00pm
Reception 8.30-8.40- 3.05pm
Year 1/2/3/4 8.30-8.40-3.10pm

Uniform

As many of you will be buying new uniform I would like to inform you that we are changing the colour of our tracksuit bottoms for Games. We are asking parents to buy **BLACK** (NO LOGOS) tracksuit bottoms. Grey is still perfectly acceptable whilst we phase them out this year, so please do not buy any additional bottoms whilst we phase out the many shades of grey we currently have!

School Bags

Please **DO NOT** buy the large rucksacks for you children-we do not have the storage space in the cloakrooms for the large bags. Children **ONLY** need a book bag and if sandwiches, a lunchbox. Birches Book Bags only from September.

Thank you.

Black Pumps

Please do **NOT** buy these! For the time the children wear them I do not feel it is cost effective to ask parents to buy them. Children will participate in dance and gym with bare feet as recommended. They will walk to the hall in school shoes.

PLEASE LABEL ALL UNIFORM!

Please if you are thinking of having your child's ear pierced do so in the holidays!

Thank you

Father's Day Lunches

What a hit this was! Thank you so much to all the male adults who came to dine with us, the children **LOVED** it -they were so excited! It was lovely to meet many of you for the first time. Thank you for coming!

I would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to the catering team Mrs Blakeway, Mrs Mcleod and Miss Ash plus all the lunchtime supervisors who make it happen- particularly during that very hot weather! Thank you for making our children have a special memory to treasure!

Sports Day

We are keeping everything crossed that Thursday can go ahead as planned!

9am EYFS

10.30am Main School

'BACK UP' DATE

Tuesday 5th July is our BACK UPDATE-Hopefully we won't need this!

Special Awards and Certificates

If your child has been chosen for a special award or certificate the office will invite you into school so you and your family (adults only) can see them be presented to your child on the following date and time.

Nursery and Reception Monday 18th July 9am

Year One, Two and Three Monday 18th July 10am

Year 4 will be presented their awards/certificates at their Leavers' Evening performance.

Reports and Open Day

You will receive your child's report on Monday 11th July.

We are opening school on Thursday 14th July between 1-3pm for parents to come in and look through the children's books with them.

At 3.00pm you may come into the classrooms to speak to the class teachers if you would like an informal chat about your child's report and progress.

We are offering the opportunity for a private interview on the same evening between 3.30-4pm should any parent wish to speak in confidence with the class teacher.

Please email the teachers directly to arrange an appointment.

We are very excited to open the school up and hope you enjoy sharing your child's progress and achievements with them.

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.

Farewell on the Field

We will all (children and staff) congregate on the field on the final day at 1.45 - 2.15pm. You are warmly welcomed to come and say goodbye to the staff leaving, it will also give our Y4s an opportunity to say goodbye to all the children in school. We haven't done this before-I am hoping it will be a lovely social occasion for all.

Children will be able to leave from school with their adult anytime from this point.

Induction Day

Children are to go directly to their new classrooms in the mornings. Staff will be there to assist. Reception can line up on the playground- Reception parents ONLY are welcomed on to the playground.

Children will be dismissed from their NEW class on Wednesday 6th July i.e.:-

Current CLASS	Collection
Nursery (New Reception)	Playground double doors
Reception	Year 1 (around the back by Nursery)
Year 1	Year 2 on the playground
Year 2	Year 3 on the playground
Year 3	Year 4 Mobile (back door by canopy)

I will be on the gate/playground to help-just ask me please!

Dates for the Diary

4 th July	Y1 Art Gallery Trip
5 th July	Nursery/Reception Induction Evenings
6 th July	INDUCTION DAY
7 th July	Y2 Sealife Centre and Lego Discovery Trip
11 th July	End of Year Reports
14 th July	Open Afternoon 1.30-3.00pm, 3.30-4.00pm Interviews 4.00-4.30pm
18 th	Special Award Assembly-INVITE ONLY
19 th	Y4 Leavers' Evening
20 th	Farewell on the Field 1.45pm-2.15pm Break up 2.15pm NO CLUB
SEPTEMBER 6 th	WELCOME BACK! 2022-2023

Academic Year 2022- 2023

Please note the following Inset Days for your diaries:-

Monday 5th September 2022

Monday 31st October 2022

Friday 17th February 2023

Friday 28th April 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

Autumn Term 2022

Inset day: Monday 5 September

Term starts: Tuesday 6 September

Holiday: Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October

Term ends: Friday 16 December

Holiday: Monday 19 December – Monday 2 January

Spring Term 2023

Term starts: Tuesday 3 January

Holiday: Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

Term ends: Friday 31 March

Holiday: Monday 3 April – Friday 14 April

Summer Term 2023

Term starts: Monday 17 April

May Day: Monday 1 May

Holiday: Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Term ends: Tuesday 25 July

Holiday: Wednesday 26 July – Friday 1 September

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September

Term starts: Tuesday 5 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.