



Birches First School

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

12th September 2022

School Information-First Week Back!

Dear Parents

What a wonderful first week we have had! I am so proud of all the children and how they have settled into school so magnificently. Reception and Nursery have adapted to school life with ease and the children throughout the school have been exemplary role models and now familiar with their new teachers and classrooms.

We have our new School Council Representative who were voted in following the Rule of Democracy:

Year 1, **Leo and Bryony**, Y2, **Elsie and Frankie**, Y3, **Seb and Kassidy** and Y4 **Josh B, Zac, Emily and Emma**. Reception children have been chosen by Mrs Buckley, **Carys and Casper**. They are the 'school voice' and will be meeting with me every other Friday to plan and discuss how to make the school better for their peers and raise money for charities and our school.

Children have all been assigned a House Team now and are currently moving around the school to different Roald Dahl activities lead by our new Y4 House Captains... Ash: **Isabel and Niall**, Maple: **Lucie and Josh H**, Elm: **Charlie and Elvie**, Oak: **Shelby-Jo and Izaak**. I know they will take their jobs on very dutifully!

I was delighted to see so many parents attend our 'Welcome to...' Meeting, I have received some feedback from parents, and I am very happy it was all positive! I hope that the information provided was useful and you can use the PowerPoint sent out to refer to if you need to at any time. Alternatively, always do get in touch, we are here to support you and your child and want the very best for them as always.

I thank you for sending in book bags throughout the school, it has made a HUGE difference. I have peace of mind that all children including our wheelchair user can exit the school safely and quickly without any obstacles, thank you, I sincerely appreciate it.

Monday 19th September 2022 State Funeral

Following the announcement from Buckingham Palace of the death of our sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a period of National Mourning has started and will continue until the end of the State Funeral. This is a period of time for reflection in response to the death of the Sovereign. The official date of the State Funeral is **19 September 2022**. This day will be a bank holiday and as Birches First School would normally be closed on a bank holiday Birches will be **closed** on this day as a mark of respect.

I am thrilled that today we received the following from Her Majesty the Queen. During the Jubilee celebrations as a school, we sent cards and well wishes to Her Majesty and I explained we may/may not receive a reply-but we have not been disappointed! The timing is very pertinent, and we will certainly be framing our card and letter with pride and remembering the fantastic week we had to celebrate our truly amazing Queen Elizabeth II 70th Platinum Jubilee at Birches.



BALMORAL CASTLE

To: The Pupils at Birches First School

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for the letters which you sent to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen was glad to hear from you and, although unable to reply to you personally, Her Majesty greatly appreciated the nice things you said.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in response; as I am sure you will understand, The Queen has received a large volume of post in recent months and, as a result, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

I am to thank you again for your messages of good wishes to Her Majesty in this, her Platinum Jubilee year.

Richenda Elton

Lady-in-Waiting

6th September 2022



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Platinum Jubilee

1952 - 2022

*I send you my grateful thanks for
your kind message on the occasion
of the Seventieth Anniversary of my
Accession to the Throne*

ELIZABETH R

2022

Finally just some quick reminders:

- When children are dismissed at the end of the day, I appreciate they say they are 'STARVING'! Please could you wait until you are off the school site before opening snacks and eating them.
- Although I do love dogs, unfortunately they are not permitted on school premises due to Health and Safety Policies, so please could dogs be left at home whilst you collect your child(ren).
- Mrs Banks has kindly asked me to remind all club parents that they are to use the intercom on the pedestrian gate for collection and arrival.
- **Mobile phones.** We ask that mobile phones are not used on school site. This is in guidance with Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

I am very aware we have launched another two initiatives at school, and it is so hard to get to grips with new technology/apps when we are unfamiliar and have another million and one others things to be doing...so Miss Hulme has kindly set up the following information page to help and refer to for **Boom Reader**, **Marvellous Me**, **My Maths**, **Numbots**, **TT Rockstars**, **Purple Mash** and **1 Minute Maths** for parents and any adults who may use the apps with your child. I hope it provides some additional support.

<http://www.birches.staffs.sch.uk/information-and-advice/>

We will continue to add to this page with other apps we are using in school to try to help and support.

If anyone would like to ask me any questions, I am always available to talk whilst at the gate on a morning and afternoon, or if you wish to discuss anything privately, I am more than happy to arrange a suitably convenient time with you to do so.

Thank you so much for your support and making the first week a success, the children (and teachers!) are very settled and happy!

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher