



Birches First School

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

October 2022

Issue: 2

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British Value: *Individual Liberty*

Birches Value: *Belief & Independence*

Dear Parents...

Well, I can hardly believe we have been back at school for a month and what a month it has been. All children have settled in remarkably well and it is lovely to see all our new children in a variety of year groups happy and enjoying being part of our Birches Family. We have had a super time celebrating Roald Dahl Day, supporting Jeans for



Genes and Macmillan Coffee morning, KS1 and KS2 have enjoyed



their after-school clubs and football has

been a huge hit again with Mrs Burkitt and Mrs Lawley! All children are thoroughly enjoying their Friday afternoons where their hard work and exceptional behaviour is rewarded during our special Golden Time activities chosen by the children. Further to that it has been so special to invite Grandparents into school today for our annual Grandparent event, I hope they all enjoyed themselves and the children too it really has been such a wonderful and special day!



I hope that you all manage to have a wonderful half term break; I know there are many wonderful celebrations that happen at this time of year...have as much fun as possible and most importantly please take care, stay safe and come back healthy and happy ready for (dare I say it).....C H R I S T M A S!!

Best wishes from Miss Varricchione & the Birches Team

Cross Country Event

I am delighted to say that our Sporting Events are about to start! First in the calendar for this year is the Y3 and Y4 Cross Country Event at Perton First School, Wednesday 5th October, 4pm -5pm. The following children will be representing the school:

<u>Y3:</u> Maxwell Freddie J Nathan C Henry W-J	<u>Y4:</u> Oliver B Zac D Oscar S Jesse U
Isla Millie Poppy Ella	Evie C Emma H Isabel M Harriet B

They have practising at lunchtime, and I know they will do the 'best' they possibly can, and they know no matter what the outcome we are so proud of them for being confident and willing to participate in an unfamiliar event!

Go Birches!

Harvest Donations

We would like to continue our tradition of helping others who are less fortunate than us and are asking if our school community would be kind enough to donate gifts of tinned and packaged food to help and aid The Well Charity or Local Residents.

The Well is based in the City of Wolverhampton where they distribute food to families and single people who are struggling to buy food and other essentials. In addition, if you know of anyone locally who would benefit from a Harvest parcel, please do get in touch and the School Council and I will organise this for you.

A box will be placed at the entrance to the school gate from **Monday 3rd October** to **Friday 7th October** for you to place any items you may wish to donate.

Welcome to Parent Meetings

I cannot thank you enough for the support you have expressed coming to the Welcome to Meetings. I hope that you found them useful and feel more informed about the year ahead.

I am fully aware that we have launched several new initiatives such as BoomReader, Marvellous Me and parents new to the school are getting to grips with all the additional support offered such as MyMaths, 1 Minute Maths, Purple Mash, Ten Town, Numbots/TT Rockstars etc how the brain frazzles!

A page has been created on our website to assist in the first instance, however, please do contact us/speak to me if you need any guidance on the above.

Please remember it is not our expectation that children access all the above every night. Your class teacher will have informed you of the priorities each week such as phonics, spellings, reading, handwriting...if you have any questions please do get in touch, we are here to support you with any aspect of home learning.

School Website-Parents-Information and Advice

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

I hope it helps.

Dyslexia Friendly Week 4th October – 10th October

We are looking forward to celebrating and raising awareness in school. This year teachers are setting tasks within the classroom to help children understand the daily challenges anyone with dyslexia may have to overcome. We will be looking at famous celebrities with Dyslexia and discussing our personal Growth Mindset in order to achieve!

Jeans for Genes/Macmillan Coffee Morning Fundraising

Thank you all so much for donating to and coming along to our coffee morning to support the above special charities. A special thank you to all who made/donated cakes-so very kind of you.

We raised an amazing **£101** to support families and children with birth defects or incurable genetic diseases and **£100.50** for Macmillan to support families through very tough and upsetting times.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

School Council Thursday 20th October



The School Council and I have met to discuss options of what they would like to do to raise funds for our school followed by a democratic vote!



They voted that on **Thursday 20th October** children will be allowed to come to school in their pyjamas for a 50p donation and if they would like to bring a teddy, they can donate 50p.

Children can do either both or one of the activities-as the School Council said...then people have the choice-linking to our British Values of 'Individual Liberty'. There was quite a discussion regarding how not everyone would be willing to dress in their nightwear, hence the two options!!

I am aware this is Y2 and Year 4 Games Day, therefore, please can GAMES kits come into school on this day if your child chooses to wear pyjamas.



We look forward to a fun filled day.



PFA Fundraising

It was really good to have our first AGM Meeting of the year (in person!) and welcome some new faces to the PFA. I hope that even more people join the meetings as the year progresses...here are a few exciting things we have planned from now until Christmas!

Monday 10th October- Donate a Bottle for wearing Own Clothes

Own Clothes Day for children. Children can come to school in their own clothes for a donation of a bottle, this can be a bottle of any sort...wine, squash, bubble bath.....T H A N K Y O U!

Friday 21st October- Spooky Movie Night!

All the children are invited to stay after school to watch a movie of their choice with their friends. A google form will be sent to parents to allow us to organise the event. Please select which film your child would like to watch from the three choices supplied. Children will be given popcorn and drinks whilst watching the movie!

Friday 25th November- Christmas Fare (Adults Only)

The School Hall will have twinkling lights, minced pies, mulled wine, a festive atmosphere and fabulous gifts on sale for you to buy for Christmas. Further details of market stalls to follow. We hope you can come to this evening event to kick-start the Christmas festive season!

Attendance

As you are aware we are monitoring attendance throughout school. If your child's attendance drops below 90% you will receive a letter which explains further course of action produced by our Education Welfare Officer, VIP. I would also like to bring to your attention your child's punctuality, if they are late to school after the register closes this will be marked as a 'Late' and this is deemed as an 'unauthorised absence'. All unauthorised absences are closely monitored by the local authority. If the lateness to school persists, legal action in the form of a Penalty Notice or Prosecution under Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996 may follow.

Further to this, you will be aware that the Department of Education made important changes to the law for families wanting to request leave of absence in term time (holidays). As a school we are obliged to inform you that you may be subject to a Penalty Notice issued by the Local Authority if your child's absence from school is unauthorised for a holiday.

The Penalty Notice fine would be: -

- £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to
- £120 per parent, per child if paid between 21 - 28 days.
- If the fine is not paid within 28 days, you may be prosecuted under S444.1 of the Education Act 1996

If anyone would like to discuss any attendance issues/concerns with me than I am happy to meet with you to listen.

Safeguarding Leads

At Birches First School the safety of our children is of upmost importance. It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard our children but speak to one of the people below if you have concerns.



Miss Varricchione
Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Miss Hulme
Year 2 Teacher/
Assistant Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Lloyd
Nursery Teacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Banks
Club Manager/ Year 3 TA
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Safeguarding

As you are fully aware Safeguarding is our priority at Birches, we pride ourselves on the care, nurture and support we offer our children.

Please click on the below link to our Safeguarding Page where our Safeguarding Policy and information may be found. If anyone has any Safeguarding concerns, questions or comments please do contact me and I will be willing to offer any support, guidance you may need.

<http://www.birches.staffs.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Dates for the Diary	
3 rd October	Cross Country Event
4-10 th October	Dyslexia Friendly Week Awareness
10 th October	'Bring in a Bottle' Wear own clothes and donate a bottle to school
11 th October	Parent Interviews Reception – Year Four 3.30pm – 5.30pm
13 th October	Parent Interviews Reception – Year Four 6.00pm – 8.00pm Nursery – 12.30pm – 5.30pm
17 th October	English Workshop
20 th October	School Council Fund Raising Day Wear Pyjamas – 50p Bring a Teddy – 50p
21 st October	Multi Faith- Diwali day Details to follow
21 st October	Spooky Movie Night Please see information in Newsletter
21 st October	Break Up- Happy Half Term
31 st October	INSET School CLOSED to Children
1 st November	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.