



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

February/March 2023

Issue: 7

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British Value: **Mutual Respect**

Birches Value: **Honesty**

**March Newsletter**

Dear Parents...

We are all happy to see March approaching, those signs that Spring is firmly 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 once again and welcome the lighter mornings and evenings! It has been a cold half term!

I can hardly believe when we return from the half term holiday, we will be moving into the second half of the year! This last half term was finished in style with



School Council  
Break the Rules



Day, looking back we had such an amazing time also celebrating Chinese New Year, NSPCC Numbers Day Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day. Y2 had a visit from the Fire Brigade to enhance



their learning unit 'The Great Fire of London', Y4 had a



Viking Day, Y3 visited Enginuity, Reception and Nursery visited Kingswood....what a busy half term,





such lucky children having all the wider enhancement opportunities to embed their learning.



I am delighted to inform you that Miss Hulme has now completed her post graduate SENDCO Qualification. She has completed the course during the evenings and weekends for the past year, whilst working full-time. Huge congratulations, I know it has been a tremendous number of lectures and assignments! In addition, Mrs Buckley has completed her Level 2 Safeguarding Qualification and is now a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leader in school, forming a strong Safeguarding Team at Birches, alongside Mrs Banks, Miss Hulme and myself as Safeguarding Leader.

I hope that you all enjoyed coming into school and viewing your child's work last week, speaking to class teachers during parents' evening. The teachers and I really value our partnership with you.

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.

I hope you have a lovely half term and the team and I look forward to seeing you back on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**.

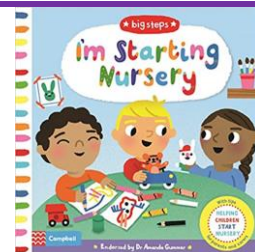
Best wishes,

S Varricchione

Headteacher



## Nursery Reminder Applications for September 2023 Deadline 24th March 2023.



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.

### Y4 Kingswood Visit

Y4 will soon be off to Kingswood for their 2-night residential, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March! We hope that they have a fantastic time and make lots of happy memories that will stay with them for many years to come.



### Parking

Thank you to all the parents/relatives etc who do park considerably and legally. I receive 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.



## After School Clubs

From next half term we have several after school clubs available, **Forest School** Y1/2/3/4, **Multi Skills** Reception, **Football** Y3/4. All details have been sent however if you have missed any of the above please do contact the School Office.

There will be further clubs led by all teachers, over the next Spring and Summer Term, Phonics, Story Writing, Maths to name a few. Teachers will be sending these directly to you with surveys to complete for allocation.

If there are any clubs, you would like to see please do let me know and we will do our best to accommodate.

## 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.

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





## Red Nose Day 2022 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

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



School Councillors met today and have decided on a range of fun activities to raise money. Firstly, they are inviting everyone to come dressed in red, with any red/Red Nose Day accessories for a donation. During the day each class will participate in 'Pin the Red Nose to the Character', and there will be a winner from each class. School councillors will be painting red noses for any children who wish to have their nose painted and finally during Golden Time we will be having Red Nose activities.

A survey will be sent for permission if your child would like a red Nose. We are asking for **£1 donation** to come to school dressed in red, have nose painted (if wish to) and to enter 'Pin the Red Nose on the Character'.

Thank you for your support with this significant charity, helping children who are less fortunate than those in the UK.

## Birches Value

### Spring 2 Birches Value focus: **Honesty**

This half-term's Birches Value focus is **honesty**. Children will be thinking about what it means to be honest. In class, the children will be discussing what this means to them and hearing stories about the importance of being honest. The children will have an assembly on the value of honesty, including:

- Honesty is telling the truth about things.
- Honesty is being reliable and doing what you say you will.
- Honesty is keeping promises.
- Honesty builds trust.
- If you tell a lie or don't tell the whole truth – people will find it hard to believe you.
- We need to be able to trust our friends and the people around us.
- Honesty means doing the right thing even if no-one is around.
- We will share ideas on the reason that people are tempted to be dishonest.
- We will think about how we felt when people lied to us, and how it felt to tell the truth.

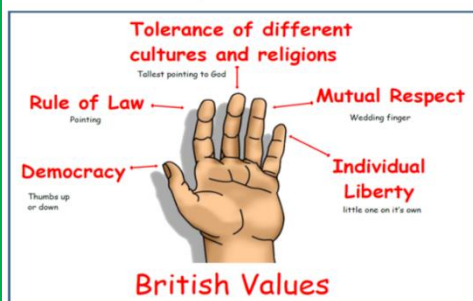
As always, we will be using the values the children have learned when discussing friendships, behaviour and in our learning overall. Children trust others when they are honest. In turn, children tell the truth when they trust. Honesty is a virtue and it can be taught to children. The children will be reminded that honest people tell the truth despite consequences and voice their opinions in a kind, thoughtful way.

The children will be reminded that Birches' is a telling school, meaning we tell an adult if we see someone being unkind, doing damage or taking something that is not theirs. This is how we can help keep everyone safe.

Things you can do at home to support this theme.

- Discuss what it means to be honest-but is it always right to be honest? If you are asked for an opinion, for example.
- Talk about everyday events.
- Read 'The Boy who Cried Wolf' or other stories about honesty and trust.
- Behave honestly yourself and talk about it, especially when it is difficult.

I Really Do Matter



## British Value Spring 2

### **Mutual Respect**

The key message that we continue to learn about this value this half term is that we all need to show mutual respect to others because it means you care about other people's feelings. Mutual Respect means that we treat other people the way we want to be treated which can be difficult especially when others have not shown mutual respect. We will be looking at the idea that people can see things from different points of view and we need to learn to respect everyone's different point of view. The fundamental aspect of this value is teaching the children to understand why and how to show respect to everyone no matter what our differences may be. We celebrate this diversity daily in our curriculum and children will be reminded of examples such as our celebration of different religious festivals throughout the year, the participation of all our children, from a wide range of backgrounds, includes people with special needs or a disability and people who come from a range of different cultural backgrounds.

Dates for the Diary	
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Welcome Back Children
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Bikeability – Y4 Children Only
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day-Dress up as your favourite BOOK character
3 <sup>rd</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Fare in School
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Height/Weight Check
8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Kingswood Residential
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Two Parent Lunches
13 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week
14 <sup>th</sup> March	STEM Day
15 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mother's Day Lunches
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
17 <sup>th</sup> March	PFA-Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Party-further PFA details to follow
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Easter Models/Bonnet Entries in school
26 <sup>th</sup> March	PFA Easter Hunt
w/c 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Bonnet/Model Parades & Special Awards
27 <sup>th</sup> March -	EYFS- 2.30pm
28 <sup>th</sup> March -	Y1/2- 2.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup> March -	Y3/4- 2.30pm
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter School Disco Details to follow
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Break Up – Happy Easter
April	
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to School – Summer Term Commences

**Birches Values:**

**B**elief **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.**