



Birches First School

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

April/May 2023

Issue: 8

office@birches.staffs.sch.uk

01902 297910

British Value: **Tolerance**

Birches Value: **Enthusiasm**

April/May Newsletter

Dear Parents...

What a wonderful (and busy!) half term our children have had! With World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Science Week and the Easter Parade to name a few, it has certainly been an action packed few weeks. We must not forget about the superb progress the children have made, now we approach the final term of the school year.

Firstly, the children enjoyed a day of reading and fun book inspired activities in their Birches Houses on World Book Day. Thank you for your support with costumes; the children looked FANTASTIC, and I was very impressed with the creativity and range of costumes.



All classes had a fantastic time at their visit to Codsall Library, where they took part in a book hunt and enjoyed listening to a story read by the librarian. The children also had lots of fun guessing the staff 'Masked Readers' throughout the week and it certainly highlighted the love of reading we promote across school!



The children put their engineering skills to the test in our Science Week organised by Mr Jones. Early Years enjoyed solving problems linked to fairy tales and Y1-3 designed and created a 'royal themed' shoebox train. Y4 had a brilliant time at Codsall Middle School taking part in some practical Science activities.



Our Year 4s had a fantastic time during their Kingswood residential and were a real credit to us all! They certainly showed lots of independence, resilience and teamwork,



learning new skills and trying out new activities, making lots of special Birches' memories. Many of our Year 4s also took part in Bikeability training at school, developing confidence and learning important safety/ life skills. What a busy few weeks they have had!

A huge thank you to our lunch staff for hosting our Mother's Day lunches. We hope you enjoyed our delicious lunches and sharing precious time with your child.



The last week of half term saw our corridors filled with INCREDIBLE Easter bonnets and displays. I was overwhelmed with the participation and I know the children loved sharing these at our Easter Parades. Our Easter celebrations continued with our Easter Disco where it was lovely to see the dancing, crafting and certainly lots of smiles, laughter and fun!



Sadly, Mrs Saunders will be retiring after working at Birches for many years! We would like to thank Mrs Saunders for all of her hard work and dedication to Birches, and wish her and her family a happy, healthy and relaxing retirement.



Thank you, once again, for supporting our wonderful children with their learning and events in school. We hope you have a Happy Easter holiday with your family and friends and look forward to another exciting Summer Term ahead.

Best wishes,

S Varricchione (Headteacher)

Multi Faith Day



On **Friday 21st April** we look forward to learning and celebrating **Eid** as part of our Multi-Faith Day. Further information from Mrs Lloyd to follow.



Parking



A huge thank you to everybody who does park considerably and legally, continuing to keep our children and community safe.

However, we continue to receive numerous emails and telephone calls from residents and school community who are concerned for the children's safety by illegal and inconsiderate parking. We continue to signpost all complaints to the council.



After School Clubs

From next half term we have several after school clubs available:

Art YR

Multi Skills YR/1

Phonics Y1

Maths Y2

Singing Y3/4

Multiplication Y4

Football YR/1/2 and Y3/4

Forest School Y1/2 and Y3/4

Story Writers All Years

All surveys have been sent out and places will be allocated as soon as possible. If you have missed any of the above, please do contact the School Office.

A reminder that our Birches Club is also available for YN-Y4 before and after school between the hours of 7.30-8.30 and 3.00-5.30pm. Please contact the School Office for further information.

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



King Charles III Coronation Celebrations

We have started planning our celebrations for the significant, historic event of King Charles III's Coronation. We will be celebrating in school on **Friday 5th May** to commemorate this special occasion.

Further information to follow.

Sporting Fixtures



Cross Country

We had a fantastic time at the Cross-Country event held by Birchfield School. The children did brilliantly and ran a very difficult course. We are very proud of all the children who represented Birches.

An extra special mention to Oscar who ran a very close race and was beaten on the final line. You certainly deserved your second-place medal.



Good luck to Isla who will be competing in the District Final at Cheslyn Hay following her individual win with the Codsall Cluster schools earlier in the year.

Football Teams

Mrs Burkitt and Mrs Lawley have been working hard training our Girls and Boys football teams. We look forward to beginning our fixtures in April. Good luck Birches!

Pattingham Sixes

We look forward to taking part in the Pattingham Sixes event with local schools held at St Chads. Good luck to our Girls and Boys football teams who will be representing Birches!

Boys Team Pattingham Sixes Event: Wednesday 10th May 2023

Girls Team Pattingham Sixes Event: Thursday 11th May 2023

Play and Stay

It has been lovely seeing lots of our community join us for our Play and Stay sessions. You are welcome to join us with your baby or toddler every Friday 9-10am. Please share with family and friends who may enjoy too!



Birches Play and Stay



A **free** group for parents with babies and
Toddlers.

Every Friday 9-10am

Come along for a relaxed play and chat.
We cannot wait to meet you!

Drinks are provided– please bring your own
lidded cup.

Donations are welcome.

No need to book– just turn up!

Birches First School,
Birches Avenue, Codsall, Wolverhampton
WV8 2JG

PFA

Thank you again to our PFA for organising wonderful events for our children and local community.

It was lovely to see many families enjoying their Mother's Day afternoon tea. The hall was beautifully decorated by **Pop the Party**, and the food looked delicious, making it a special occasion for our children and their special adult/s.



We were very lucky to have a visit from the Easter Bunny at our Easter Egg hunt. The children and their families had lots of fun completing different challenges and activities around the school site organised by the PFA. It definitely got us all ready for the Easter Break!



The Summer Fayre is fast approaching, and preparations are underway. Children are invited to bring a small multi-pack of chocolate bars and/or a bottle to school and wear their own clothes for the day on **Friday 12th May 2023**. These donations will be most welcomed for the Summer Fayre!



School Council Fundraising

Thank you for helping us raise money for Red Nose Day. We raised a fantastic £148.00! School Council certainly had lots of fun painting red noses.

We look forward to our next School Council event!



Summer Uniform



As the weather warms up, children may wear our summer uniform of a white polo shirt (embroidered Birches logo optional) and grey school shorts or skirt, or red gingham summer dress. (No jumpsuits/ all in ones or 'culottes' please.)

Nursery children can wear red or grey shorts instead of their joggers or a red gingham summer dress.

Please ensure all items are labelled and children are wearing school shoes (not trainer or trainer style).

Please see our uniform page on the School Website for more information:

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

Thank you

New Nursery Starters

I would like to welcome all the new children, parents, grandparents, special adults who will be joining our lovely school after Easter.

We hope that you will all be very happy here and we are looking forward to working together in partnership with you.

Please remember there is no such thing as a 'silly question' we are here to help and support. If there is anything we can help you with, please do get in touch with Mrs Burkitt and Mrs Lawley in the office and they will happily help.

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Birches Value

Summer 1 Birches Value focus: **Enthusiasm**

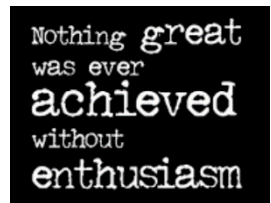
This half-term's Birches Value focus is **Enthusiasm**. Children will be thinking about what it means to be enthusiastic which links with our Birches motto 'Believe, Grow, Succeed... to be the best 'me' I can be'. In class, children will be discussing how they can be enthusiastic and situations where they show enthusiasm.

The children will have an assembly on the value of enthusiasm, understanding that it is 'putting their whole heart into everything they do'. Whatever the task, no matter how big or small, it will always turn out better if you put your whole heart into it!

Being enthusiastic helps your mental and physical health. As you work hard to achieve your goals, you become more positive, which boosts your self-confidence. Another great thing about enthusiasm is – it is contagious! A 'spark' of energy and excitement can ignite others to lead their lives with enthusiasm.

To be enthusiastic we need to:

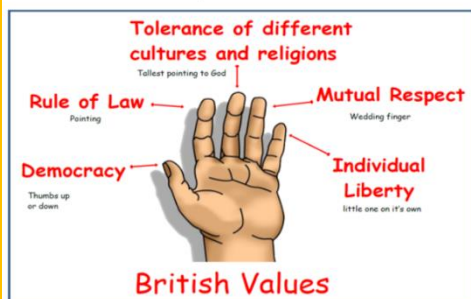
- Be an 'energy-giver'
- Smile
- Encourage and support others
- Treat every task or responsibility as important
- Not be discouraged when we make mistakes because we know that is when we are learning.
- Offer to do a task or help others
- Get stuck into a task
- Be the best 'me' I can be!



Things you can do at home to support this theme.

- Discuss how we can be enthusiastic and how this is important for the children
- Support your child when they make mistakes – help them to understand that mistakes help us learn
- Talk to your child about jobs and responsibilities they have and how show they are important

I Really Do Matter



British Value Summer 1

Tolerance of Different Cultures and Religions

The key message we continue to learn about this value is about showing tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. It is important to understand that people in our community may believe different things to us, but we should accept their right to believe in what they want to believe in and we do not impose our own beliefs on them. During our curriculum subjects, we actively learn about a diverse range of

religions and discuss how we can be tolerant of others in our class assemblies and PSHEe discussions. We celebrate and take part in Multi-Faith Days throughout the year, including Eid this half term, where we promote diversity with the children. Members of different faiths/ religions are encouraged to show their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. It is important that we show respect to everybody, regardless of who they are and what they believe.

April/ May/ June Dates for the Diary

17 th April	Welcome Back Children and Welcome New Children
18 th April	YR Parent lunch
20 th April	Year 3 and 4 Football Team Match
21 st April	Multi-Faith Day Eid Celebrations
27 th April	Year 3 and 4 Football Team Match
28 th April	School INSET-Closed for Children
May	
1 st May	May Day-School Closed
May	KS1 SATS
2 nd May	YR Trip – Information to Follow
4 th May	Year 3 and 4 Football Team Match
5 th May	School Celebrates King Charles III Coronation
8 th May	King Charles III Coronation-School Closed
10 th May	Boys Team Pattingham Sixes
11 th May	Girls Team Pattingham Sixes
11 th May	Year 3 and 4 Football Team Match
12 th May	Bottle Donation Day for Non-Uniform
16 th May	Lighthouse Photography: Class/ Leavers Photos
26 th May	Break Up: School Council Day
June-Advanced Notice	
5 th June	School INSET-Closed for Children
6 th June	Return to School (Final Half Term)
6 th June	Y4 Multiplication Timetable Check Commences
12 th June	Y1 Phonic Screening Check Commences
19 th June	Sports Day EYFS- 9.00am Main School – 10.30am
25 th June	Birches Summer Fayre

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.



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



...to be the best 'me' I can be.



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Do you have concerns?
- Has someone made a disclosure?
- Who can you talk to?

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 are worried.

Miss S Varricchione Headteacher Designated Safeguarding Lead		Miss S Hulme Assistant Headteacher (Year 2) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	
Mrs E Buckley EYFS Leader/ Reception Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead		Mrs C Banks Club Manager (Club/ Y3) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	



Protect and safeguard the welfare of all our children.



Academic Year 2023- 2024

Please note the following Inset Days for your diaries:

Monday 4th September 2023

Monday 6th November 2023

Monday 19th February 2024

Friday 3rd May 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

Full Diary Dates for 2023-2024 Academic Term

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September

Children Return to School: Tuesday 5 September

Holiday: Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November

Term ends: Friday 22 December

Holiday: Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 January

Holiday: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Term Ends: Friday 22 March

Easter Sunday: Sunday 31 March

Holiday: Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April

May Day: Monday 6 May

Holiday: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Term Ends: Monday 22 July

Holiday: Tuesday 23 July – Friday 30 August

Autumn Term 2024

Inset day: Monday 2 September

Children Return to School: Tuesday 3 September