



Birches First School

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

March 2024

Issue: 6

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British Value: **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**

Birches Value: **Curiosity**

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 and wet half term!

We are now moving into the second half of the year and this part always seems to whizz by! 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 with an enhancement opportunity for all children in the Hall, Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day. Y2 visited Jamaimasiad Mosque to enhance their learning in R.E. and Reception and Nursery visited Kingswood....what a busy half term, such lucky children having all the wider enhancement opportunities to embed their learning.

Our AMAZING Y3/4 Tag Rugby team represented Birches magnificently, they played with such spirit and sportsmanship and not only that we **WON!** Absolutely amazing achievement **WELL DONE BIRCHES!** Birches also competed in the Athletics Competition at Aldersley Stadium and again, they represented the school so admirably - what fantastic, sporty children we do have! Thank you to our parents/carers for your support with transport.

You may have noticed that the adventure playground has changed, there were several issues with the installation that were not agreed! However, this has now been rectified and we are awaiting a safety inspection and Risk Assessment to allow the children to start to enjoy the new equipment...what a wait-but least it is now right and fit for purpose!!

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

Our Ofsted Report has now been published via Ofsted's website for the public to access, initially, only parents of children at Birches see the report. We are

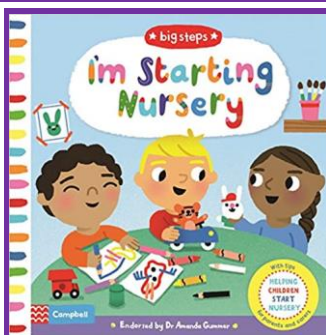
working very hard with the children to develop their presentation and handwriting skills as noted by Ofsted. We would very much like you to continue to support the school with this, ensuring children are holding their pencils correctly and forming letters accurately at home when completing homework. Please click [here](#) to access the letter formations and rhymes.

We have lots of activities planned already in this very short half term and are very much looking forward to another half term full of fun and learning!

Best wishes,

S Varricchione

Headteacher



Nursery Reminder:- Applications for September 2024 Deadline 15th March 2024.

Please see our website for details. Applications should be made direct to the school office. Please see our school website 'Admissions' for all the information. Alternatively, please 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-6th-8th 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.



Easter Competition 12th-14th March

We are very excited to hold our Easter Parade in the school Hall from 2.15pm on 18th-Y3/4, 19th Y1/2, 21st YN/R Parents will be welcomed into the Hall for the procession. Spring Special Award Certificates will be presented, and

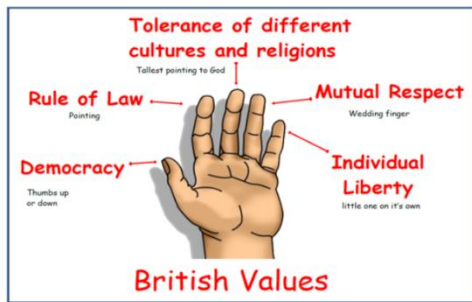


Easter winners will be announced....

Models/Easter Bonnets/Crafts can arrive from 12th March and children have until Thursday 14th March to bring an entry to school. **Good Luck!**



I Really Do Matter



Fundamental 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.

Birches Value- **Curiosity**

This half term we are encouraging children to be curious! We will be modelling an open, inquisitive attitude to new and familiar activities, ideas, people, and cultures. Curiosity is contagious...inspiring children to try a new sport, start a new hobby, or learn more about an unfamiliar subject. We will integrate this as part of our Fundamental British Values teaching by discussing and learning about people with different backgrounds and viewpoints.

We will be ensuring we ask open-ended questions that encourage children to seek out their own answers—questions that cannot be answered with a yes or a no or a shrug of the shoulders! Open-ended questions can begin with phrases like:

- What would happen if ...
- What would it be like to ...
- Why did ...
- How do we know that ...
- What did you think when ...



Parking

Firstly, **thank you** to all the parents/relatives who do park considerably and legally. Please continue to do so! However, unfortunately, I am receiving continuous emails and telephone calls from residents who complain regarding the parking of some of our school community. Towards the end of the last half term, parking has been increasingly bad, with outside agencies involved due to the illegal events occurring.



At Birches, we deliver lessons and assemblies to teach our children to show Respect and follow the Rule of Law through our Fundamental British Values and Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Curriculum. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** can I urge parents to be compliant with the law and show respect towards our residents within the Avenue and surrounding roads. Fundamentally, you as parents, are the primary teachers for your children to be their positive role model and instil and influence positive values and morals through your actions and conduct.

We have had far too many 'near misses' and illegally parking could lead to disastrous outcomes. Please think and park legally....thank you.

PLEASE SEE BELOW (taken from driving.co.uk):

Is it illegal to park on zig-zag lines outside schools?

Yes, it's always illegal to park on yellow zig-zag lines anywhere. Rule 243 of the Highway Code indicates a range of places where motorists must not park, including on a bend, a dropped kerb or the brow of a hill. It also states that drivers must not **park near a school entrance**, anywhere that would prevent access for emergency services or near a bus stop, tram stop or taxi rank. Again, the rule will often — but not always — be made obvious with yellow zig-zags on the road.

Parking outside a school specifically may obstruct visibility for parents and children trying to cross the road and is thus highly dangerous.



Hopefully the above 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.

School Uniform

As we approach the Summer Term children are invited to wear the School's Summer Uniform. Please see below our Uniform items available from Lads and Lasses.

A combination of red, grey and white:

- grey shorts or skirt/pinafore
- white Birches embroidered polo shirt (can be plain but logored is desirable and preferred)
- red Birches embroidered sweatshirt/cardigan
- red gingham dress
- white or grey socks
- sensible black shoes – not trainers or trainer style

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

(Please note 'all in one'/'jumpsuits' and 'culottes' are not school uniform)

We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents of our Games and PE Uniform.

PE

- White Birches **embroidered** round neck T-shirt
- Red Shorts

Games

- White Birches **embroidered** round neck T-shirt
- Plain black Jogging bottoms – no logos/brands
- Red Shorts (Summertime)
- Plain BLACK or WHITE trainers only – **Velcro Fastening**

Mrs Burkitt has noted the number of children wearing laced trainers. If your child **can** tie their own laces, then they are permitted to wear laced up trainers to school. If they are unable to tie their own laces, then **Velcro** trainers should be used. Generally, a milestone for tying shoelaces is **Year Two**. Please practise this skill at home with your child/ren.

World Book Day 11th March

Mrs Kandola has distributed a letter to the school community regarding our Birches World Book Day. We look forward to seeing all the children dressed up and their creative paper plates!





Red Nose Day 2024 Friday 15th March

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

School Councillors have met and voted for a Pyjama Day! All children are invited to bring a **£1 donation** to wear their PJs and bring a SMALL cuddly toy to school for the day. If you have any red pyjamas the School Council said this would be even better!



Again, School Council will be painting a red nose if children wish to have one! A Survey will follow nearer the time. As always, any Red Noses, Deely Boppers etc are more than welcome on this fundraising day.

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

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SPONSERED OUR
BREAK THE RULES DAY WE RAISED A TREMENDOUS £1323.40
THANK YOU SO MUCH**

PFA

Our amazing PFA have donated a whopping **£1500** towards a range of resources to help support our children with their learning, to name a few: -reading books, globes, lunchtime playground equipment, history artefacts etc.

Thank you so much!

We continue to need funds from PFA to support our very small budget...we have some fantastic events up and coming...please come along to support the school and have some fun...

Mother's Day Afternoon Tea-Friday 8th March, After School
Easter Bunny Breakfast-Saturday 16th March 2024, 8.45am
Father's Day Afternoon Tea- Friday 14th June, After School

We have already started planning our annual Summer Fayre, if anyone would like a stall please do get in touch! SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

I would really like to have the playground re-marked so we are actively fundraising for this and the on-going need for iPads and laptops.

Every penny counts and as a school the staff really appreciate all the support and money raised.

Dates for the Diary	
29 th February	Y3 Trip to Gurdwara
5 ^h March	Y1 and Y4 Codsall Library
6 th -8 th March	Y4 Kingswood Residential
11 th March	Birches World Book Day- Favourite Book Character
12 th March	Y1 Wolverhampton Art Gallery Y3 and Y2 Codsall Library
13 th -19 th March	Book Fare to School
13 th March	British Science Week STEM Day-Y4 to Codsall Middle
12 th -14 th March	Easter Models/Bonnet Entries in school
15 th March	Science Inter-School Competition at St Nicholas
15 th March	Red Nose Day
18 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade KS2 (Y3/Y4) 2.15pm
19 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade KS1 (Y1/Y2) 2.15pm
21 st March	Easter Bonnet Parade EYFS (YR/YN) 2.15pm
20 th March	Easter School Disco- Details to follow
22 nd March	Break Up – Happy Easter- Have a wonderful holiday
April	
8 th April	Return to School – Summer Term Commences

Birches Values:

Belief Independence Resilience Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success

Our Mission Statement:

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