



# Birches First School

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

April/May 2024

Issue: 8

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British Value: **Tolerance**

Birches Value: **Honesty**

## April/May Newsletter

Dear Parents...

I hope this Newsletter finds you all well and relaxed after the Easter break...we didn't get lucky with the weather, but hopefully, you all managed to get out and about and enjoy some time with loved ones....let's hope the weather is saving itself for our Summer Holidays!

Looking back what a wonderful (and busy!) half-term, our children have had-we crammed so much into 5 weeks! With World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Educational Visits, Science Week, and the Easter Parade to name a few, it has certainly been an action-packed few weeks. I know you have felt how busy it has been and I cannot thank you all enough for the support at home with the costumes, hats, models, and collecting all the materials for our Science Week Competition, which Birches came away with a Wormery as part of a Forest School Activity the children participated in at St Nicolas's. Below is a sample of all the wonderful activities throughout the school...

### KS1 Easter Parade



The Fire and  
Police Service  
visiting  
Nursery



Our children representing Birches at the Inter-School Science Competition



Y1 Art Gallery



Y3 visiting the Gurdwara



Y2 Visiting Codsall Library



Y4 completing one of their activities at their overnight residential at Kingswood!



Reception learning about our planet 'Earth' in their unit about Space.

...and that is just a tiny snapshot of all the fun! Looking through the diary the next 7 weeks will be remarkably busy also!

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the new children and families to Birches who are joining our amazing Nursery after Easter. I know Mrs. Lloyd has met with you all personally, and the children had extremely successful 'taster sessions'. If there is anything further you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask me at the gate in the mornings/afternoons or contact the office.

Thank you all again for your incredible support.

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher

## INSET Dates 2024- 2025

Please see end of Newsletter for full 2024- 2025 Academic Term

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The school will be closed to children on the above dates.

## Multi-Faith Day Eid

We are planning to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in school on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. We will be learning about the celebrations which commemorate the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Children are to wear Green, Yellow and White. **No football kits.**

Mrs Lloyd will be sharing a letter with further information.

## Parking

Thank you to all the parents/relatives etc. who do park considerably and legally. I am receiving continuous emails and telephone calls from residents who complain to the 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 is greatly appreciated.



## School Council Fundraising

The School Council will shortly be in touch regarding their half-term fundraising day and what this will be!

We need to meet this week to total up the amount raised so far for our Challenger Challenge and gather thoughts as to how we can raise additional funds for our equipment.

We cannot thank you enough, the children are really enjoying the opportunity to play with something different!





PFA  
Mother's Day  
Breakfast with the Easter Bunny  
Father's Day

Thank you to everyone who supported the wonderful events that the PFA provides. We are incredibly lucky to have such a strong and committed team. Considering how few members we have, they continue to amaze me with truly delightful events to help raise money for the school, which benefits ALL our children. I hope you enjoyed the Afternoon Tea and the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny...they both were such wonderful events; I know the children enjoyed a dance with the Bunny and many thanks were received by the PFA Team for all their hard work with the Mother's Day Afternoon Tea.

Father's Day is fast approaching and there will be an opportunity for all Dads/Uncles/Godfathers etc. to celebrate this day with our children on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** for a special Male afternoon Tea (Samosas/Scotch Eggs to name some of the items in the box!) Further details will follow. I am hoping it will be another wonderful opportunity and experience for all to celebrate the special occasion.



### School Uniform

As we enter the Summer Term, please see below for our Summer Uniform Dress Code.

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

If you have any uniform questions, please do speak to me directly.

### Games/PE Embroidered T-Shirt

We expect as part of the School Uniform children to wear a **Logored White T-Shirt** for their PE and Games Lessons. With Sports Day fast approaching please ensure your child has this in place. Thank you.

### Trainers

Children will only need trainers on their Games Day. As previously communicated, these are to be **plain black or white**. We continue to ask parents that children come dressed to school in their Games Uniform on Games Day.

## Dates for the Diary

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> April        | Welcome Back Children  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April        | Y4 Library Visit   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> April       | School Celebration of Eid- wear Green, White & Yellow- <b>No Football Kits</b> |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> April       | Y4 Visit to Mandir   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April       | Y4 Dudley Waterways Visit  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> April       | Y4 Visit to Grand Theatre  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April       | Y4 Bikeability   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> April       | Earth/ECO Day- Details to follow   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> May          | <b>SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY</b>   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> May          | <b>SCHOOL CLOSED MAY DAY</b>   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> May         | Birches Host Y2 Multi-Skills Competition                                       |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> May         | Y4 Visit to Cosford  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> May         | Break Up School Council Day  |
|                              | <i>June-Advanced Notice</i>  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June         | <i>School INSET-Closed for Children</i>  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June         | Return to School (Final Half Term)   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> June         | Reception 24/25 Induction Evening  |
| 3-14 <sup>th</sup> June      | Y4 Multiplication Times Table Check  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June        | Y1 Phonic Screening Check Commences  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June        | Father's Day Afternoon Tea (After School 3pm)                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June        | Sports Day<br>EYFS- 9.00 am.<br>Main School – 10.30 am                         |
|                              | <i>July-Advanced Notice</i>  |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July | School Finishes for Summer Holidays 1.15 pm<br>No Birches After School Club    |

## Academic Dates 2024- 2025

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

(SCHOOL CLOSED ON THE ABOVE DATES)

### Autumn Term 2024

Inset day: Monday 2 September

Term Starts: Tuesday 3 September

Holiday: Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

Term Ends: Friday 20 December

Holiday: Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January

### Spring Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 6 January

Holiday: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

Term Ends: Friday 11 April

Holiday: Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April

### Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28 April

May Day: Monday 5 May

Holiday: Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

Term Ends: Monday 21 July

Holiday: Tuesday 22 July – Friday 29 August

### Autumn Term 2025

Inset day: Monday 1 September

Term Starts: Tuesday 2 September

### **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.**