



Birches First School

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

1st October 2025

Key Dates for October 2025

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 and new staff have settled in remarkably well and it is lovely to see all our new children happy and enjoying being part of our Birches Family. We have had a super time as a school celebrating the author, Shirley Hughes, as an inspiration for Reading and Writing, supporting Jeans for Genes- we raised **£147.80 Thank you**, an amazing Tennis Enrichment experience for Y1-4, Nursery have had a wonderful Play and Stay Session with their loved ones and hosting a Macmillan Coffee morning/Cake Sale-we raised **£47.50**. I cannot thank you enough for the support you have expressed coming to the Welcome to Meetings. I trust that you found them useful and feel more informed about the year ahead, if there is anything further you need I am always on the gate to help.

I hope you all were happy with the photographs taken by David, he really does put the children at ease and ensures the children are as relaxed as possible to achieve the best pictures for you. Any feedback would be appreciated.

Further to that, it is with great excitement we can invite Grandparents into school this week for our annual Grandparent event, I hope they all enjoy themselves and the children too, such a wonderful and special day, one for the children and Grandparents to cherish!

I hope that you all manage to have a wonderful half term break; I know there are many delightful 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!!!

Diary Dates for October/November:

Friday 3rd October: National Poetry and Grandparents' Day

Monday 6th October: Dyslexia Friendly Week

Friday 10th October: World Mental Health Day- Information to Follow

Friday 17th October: Diwali

Wednesday 22nd October: Parents' Evening Nursery- Year Four 3.30 – 6.00pm

Thursday 23rd October: Parents' Evening Reception – Year Four 3.30 – 6.00pm

Christmas Cards returned to School

Friday 24th October: **Break Up and School Council Fundraising Day**

Monday 3rd November: **SCHOOL CLOSED-INSET DAY**

Tuesday 4th November: **Return to School/Y3/4 Cross Country**

Thursday 6th November: **Y3 Codsall Library**

Monday 10th November: **Nursery Rhyme Week/Anti-Bullying Week**

Thursday 13th November: **Y4 Think Tank**

Friday 14th November: **Children in Need**

Monday 17th November: **Road Safety Week**

Tuesday 18th November: **Flu Vaccination-Details to follow**

Key Notices and Reminders:

Gold Star Badges: Please search at home for any Gold Stars your child might have so they can be passed on to the next child in their class.

Please can parents ensure they stand in a line so that staff can dismiss safely and systematically.

Lunchboxes

Please can we remind you that we are a healthy school and that lunchboxes should contain a range of foods such as a sandwich, yoghurt, crisps, fruit and a small treat. Also, the amount you place in your lunchbox is the expectation of what your child will eat. **Please NO Popcorn for children in Reception Class.**

Can I also remind you that grapes and strawberries must be cut lengthways and then into quarters to reduce choking. Thank you.

Parents Evening

A link will be sent in due course to book your Parents' Evening slot with your child's teacher.

Celebrations

Many families like to celebrate their child's birthday and other special events by bringing in cakes or sweets to the setting to share. This can mean that some children are eating unhealthy foods several times a week. As per the guidance from the Department of Education we will continue to implement that if you wish to mark a birthday or special event 'to ensure any food brought in from home is balanced' and meets the Birches' food guidelines, therefore, we will continue to recommend **fruit platters only** (no milkshakes) to share or non-edible options to celebrate with such as bubbles or stickers. Any food shared in the setting should be checked for potential allergens with the office. Parents should ensure that they have prepared the fruit in a hygienic way and that the fruit is cut ensuring it is not a choking hazard (lengthways and quartered). Staff will not prepare the fruit; it must be brought to school readily prepared.

Weather/Coats

We are now approaching the colder weather and rain unfortunately! Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat that is labelled-please practise fastening your coat with your child so they can become independent, especially in Nursery and Reception.

Games/PE

If your child is not participating in Games or PE they must come to school in their School Uniform not their Games Kit. Thank you.

Juniper

I am still waiting for information from Juniper. I am as frustrated as you all are. Please keep checking the School Website for any further information on the Letters Tab. All correspondence will be there. Class teachers are duplicating information into Homework Books so that hopefully you do not miss anything, I certainly didn't anticipate the amount of time and energy that this has taken. My sincere apologies for their lack of urgency with this to resolve our issues.

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 6th October to Friday 17th October** for you to place any items you may wish to donate.

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher

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.