



Birches First School

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

3rd November 2025

Key Dates for November/December 2025

Dear Parents...

Diary Dates for November/December:

Monday 3rd November: SCHOOL CLOSED-INSET DAY

Tuesday 4th November: Return to School/Y3/4 Cross Country Perton Middle 4.15pm

Thursday 6th November: Y3 Codsall Library

Monday 10th November: Nursery Rhyme Week/Anti-Bullying Week/Odd Socks Day

Thursday 13th November: Y4 Think Tank

Friday 14th November: Children in Need-Letter from School Council to follow

Monday 17th November: Road Safety Week

Tuesday 18th November: Flu Vaccination-Permissions must be in by 10am, 14/11/2025- Letter Posted on Website last month under 'Letters Tab'

Friday 28th November: Bilbrook Light Switch On, 6.15pm, Meet to Sing

December:

Friday 5th December: Codsall Light Switch On 7pm

Dress Rehearsal/Grandparents Performance 9am-Y1/2, 10.15am-Y3/4

Monday 8th December: Y3/4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm

Tuesday 9th December: Christmas Jumper Day and Pantomime Performance for all Children

Wednesday 10th December: Y1/2 Christmas Performance 1.30pm

Thursday 11th December: Nursery/Reception Christmas Performance 1.30pm

Friday 12th December: Christmas Disco-Details to follow

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Parties-Details to follow

Thursday 18th December: Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 19th December: Break Up 1pm (YN 1pm YR 1.05pm, Y1/2 1.10pm, Y3/4 1.15pm)

January 2026

Monday 5th January: Return to School

Key Notices and Reminders:

CHRISTMAS!

I know we are a month away, but preparations will begin this week! For you to make plans I have included 'December' in this month's Dates for the Diary.

A letter will be sent out closer to the time to inform parents of how we organise the Christmas Performances and how many seats are allocated per child.

I would like to inform parents now to enable you to make arrangements that on the Nursery/Reception and Y1/2, Y3/4 performances **babies** and **pre-school children** will **not** be invited to attend. I fully understand this causes a divide, however for all the children to be heard and their 10 seconds of fame to be celebrated we simply say '**no**' to **pre-school children (0-5 years)** to avoid any disappointment. I hope you can understand that this is a very difficult decision but one for the best interest of all the children performing and all parents who wish to capture that moment perfectly. All children will have the opportunity to watch one another within the school as part of their practices.

Please note we will also be hosting a Grandparents **Dress Rehearsal** on **Friday 5th December** for Year 1 and Year 2, then Year 3 and Year 4.

Lunchboxes

Please can we remind you that we are a healthy school and that lunchboxes should not contain smoothie drinks, orange juice cartons, fruit shoots or any other type of drink. Children have access to fresh water all day.

Addresses and Contacts

For Safeguarding and statutory requirements, we must have 2 contact details for your child. Mrs Burkitt will be in touch with parents who only have 1 for their child. In addition, please can you ensure all your emails are accurate and that your addresses are all up to date for our Safeguarding files. Thank you.

Class Dojo

Hopefully everyone will have accessed their child's Dojo account. Please do let me know if you are having any trouble using this platform. We will not be using Juniper from 2nd November and have now cut our losses, please delete this app from your phone. Again, I sincerely apologise for the poor service they have provided.

Policies

There are many policies available on our website for you to view, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour Policy, Attendance Policy and many more. Please remember all Letters that are sent are always uploaded to the website under the 'Letters' tab for you to refer to rather than scrolling back on Class Dojo.

First School (Reception)/Middle (Y5) School Admissions 2025/6

Please be aware that the School Admissions Application System opened on **1st November 2025** for First and Middle Schools. Staffordshire Nursery parents should have received an Admission Letter for Main School 2026, Y4 parents applications will be available from 1st November from here

[Admission to primary and middle schools - Staffordshire County Council](#)

You should only use this system if your child lives in **Staffordshire**. The closing date is **15th January 2026**. Please see link below to assist you:-

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

Please note if you reside in Wolverhampton, please contact Wolverhampton Admissions directly.

Please note that children who currently attend our school Nursery will need to apply for Reception 2026/27. Admission to the Nursery class does **NOT** guarantee a place in the Reception class; a separate application must be made which will be subject to the admissions criteria.

Nursery September 2026/2027

Applications opened **1st September 2025** until **13th March 2026**. All applications should be delivered to **Birches First School Office** marked **Nursery Admissions 2026**. Offer letters will be posted to parent/carers on **27th March 2026**. An application form can be found on our website, or the link below:-

<http://www.birches.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Application-for-Admission-to-Birches-First-School-Nursery.pdf>

Current Nursery 2025/2026

We currently have availability for both morning and afternoon sessions, please contact the school office. We can take children as soon as they are 3 years old (some charges apply) offering a 'Rising 3' provision (funded from their 3rd birthday) so your child may start our Nursery after the date of their 3rd birthday. Please contact the school office for more information...we will always be happy to help.

Safeguarding

As you are fully aware Safeguarding is our priority at Birches, we pride ourselves on the care, nurture and support we offer our children.

Please click on the below link to our Safeguarding Page where our Safeguarding Policy and information may be found. If anyone has any Safeguarding concerns, questions or comments please do contact me and I will be willing to offer any support, guidance you may need.

[Safeguarding Policy](#)



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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.

PLEASE LOG ANY CONCERNS ON CPOMS

Miss S Varricchione Headteacher Designated Safeguarding Lead		Miss S Hulme Assistant Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Year 2)	
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.



If you have a concern about the safety of a child contact **Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS)** by clicking [here](#) or by phone; 0300 111 8007

Opening times: **Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm**

Outside of the hours above, on weekends or bank holidays, please contact the **Emergency Duty Team** by phoning 0345 604 2886

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.