



# Birches First School

## Believe, Grow, Succeed ...

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

### Key Dates for March 2026

Dear Parents,

It will be wonderful to have the children back safe and well after their well-deserved break! It has been super to finally see some light in the mornings and evenings, despite the awful cold, rain and snow we've had... I am desperate to see that big ball of fire in the sky! We have a very short term as we progress to the Summer Term, however, it is as busy as ever! Please see below for key dates and information, I apologise for the length this month.

### March

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day = Dress as your favourite **WORD** from a book.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March:** Y3 Author Visit Wolverhampton Grand Station

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** British Science Week – Mr Jones to send out information

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Y3 Carding Mill Valley Trip

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Y4 STEM Afternoon at Codsall Middle School

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March:** Book Fare Arrives

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Book Fare Leaves

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Y2 Multi Skills Event-Details to Follow

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Rock Steady Performance 2.00pm, INVITE Only

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** School Easter Disco

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade-2pm

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Y1/2 Easter Bonnet Parade-2pm

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Y3/4 Easter Bonnet Parade-2pm

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Break up for Easter:- **YN-1pm**, **YR-1.05pm**, **Y1/2-1.10pm**, **Y3/4-1.15pm**

### April

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April:** Return to School

### Key Notices and Reminders:

#### **Easter Bonnet Parade**

Children are invited to bring an Easter Bonnet into school from **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. Spring Special Award Certificates will be presented during the parade, and Easter winners will be announced.... **GOOD LUCK!** The PFA will be selling raffle tickets for Easter Hampers/Treats/Treasures!

**Nursery morning children are warmly invited to return to school for the parade -please come to the school office at 1.50pm.**

**All children participating will be able to go home straight after the parade.**

**Mrs Burkitt's Clubs:** Do sign up for Mrs Burkitt's Clubs if your child is interested.

**Birches Before and After School Club:** Remember to book in advance to avoid additional costs.

**Lunchboxes:** Please ensure there are no sweets, grapes are cut -lengthways and children have an empty water bottle to fill in the mornings.

**Birthday Treats:** No sweets/cakes to be given out, fruit platters or stickers/pencils etc. are all a good alternative if you so wish to do this.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please ensure that phones remain in bags and pockets during drop off and collection, we do this to keep in line with Safeguarding our children. Please, again, pass this message to anyone who collects.

### **Scooters/Bike- Dismount on arrival/walk down to exit**

As communicated before half term, I have received some complaints/concerns from several parents regarding the safety of all stakeholders on the path walking to and from the main gate. I certainly do not want children to stop coming to school on their bikes/scooters-completely the opposite I fully support this gross motor skill- I actively encourage it; however, I do not want to see any accidents and do not want any more complaints!! So please do ask children to walk with their bikes/scooters when they are on school property- THANK YOU!

### **Operation Encompass – Information for Parents**

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

Information is sent directly to the Head Teacher who may need to liaise with the police/child protection services. They will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families.

As a school we have ensured that members of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Leads) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. Operation Encompass has proved very effective in providing appropriate support in a timely manner. If you would like some more information about how Operation Encompass operates and the benefits, you can view it online at

<https://www.operationencompass.org>

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our children and we believe this initiative is extremely beneficial and supportive for all of those involved.

Please see below for any other Safeguarding concerns or questions you may have.



## 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.

**PLEASE LOG ANY CONCERNS ON CPOMS**

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



Protect and safeguard the welfare of all our children.

←

Working together to help safeguard our children

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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**

### Transitions

As previously communicated by Mrs Buckley, all Reception children are to be left at the gate in readiness for their move into Year 1! We are already discussing transitions! The children in

Reception walk capably in from the school playground after playtimes and lunchtimes to their classroom showing great independence.

### **Summer Uniform**

Children are invited to wear their Summer Uniform on return from the Easter Holidays. Please note **Jumpsuits** and **Culottes** are not part of our school uniform. Girls are welcomed to wear grey shorts if they wish. For more details, please see our website.

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

Whilst mentioning uniform...our Preloved rack will be back out on Tuesday and we welcome any clothes that are in good condition to be donated. It has been so successful this year, so thank you for your support.

You may be aware of the new legislation and guidance surrounding school uniform, I am delighted to say that we have always conformed to this and will continue to follow government guidance with limited compulsory uniform of which is: -

**Logoed** White- PE T-shirts

**Logoed** Jumper/Cardigans

**Logoed** Games Hoodies

Grey skirts/pinafores, trousers, white T-shirts, plain black Tracksuit bottoms and red shiny PE shorts do not need to be logoed and can be bought from any supermarket/clothes shop you wish.

If you have any questions about uniform, please see me or please refer to the link above for ease and clarity.

Thank you for your continued support...here's to a very short and fun filled 5 weeks!

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher