



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter
November / December 2021

Our Newsletter will keep you up to date with areas of school life, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher if you wish to discuss anything.

Christmas Performances

With Christmas fast approaching, we have been talking about ways we can celebrate this. Each class will be carrying out a range of activities and we will be in touch with further information later in the term.

Anti-Bullying Week 2021 - Monday 15 November – Friday 19 November

Anti-Bullying Week 2021 will take place from Monday 15 November to Friday 19 November 2021.

The theme is **One Kind Word** and the week will start with Odd Socks Day on Monday 15 November. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique. Our pupils will be taking part in a range of activities throughout the week. The concepts and themes that will be explored will be used throughout the school year in conjunction with our Pastoral Care policies and ethos in Birches Primary School.

Parent Teacher Consultations

This year the majority of our parent teacher consultations will take place via School Cloud. If you have not booked a slot with your child's class teacher, please contact them via Seesaw.

Christmas Dinner - Friday 10 December

Christmas dinner for P1 to P7 will take place on Friday 10 December. If your child wishes to take school dinner on this day, it is very important that they let their teacher know on Monday 6 December for catering purposes.

Save the Children – Friday 10 December – Christmas Jumper Day

Children can wear a special 'Christmas Jumper', a Santa hat or come to school in their own clothes to help raise money for Save the Children. If children wish to take part they can bring £2.00 in a sealed envelope.

Non-Uniform Days – Thursday 16 and Friday 17 December

Non-uniform days on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 December - £1.00 per child for both days.

Each class will have their own Christmas party, in their classroom on Thursday 16 December. A contribution of £1.00 per child will go towards food for the party day.

Early Closing

Friday 17 December - School will close early. There will be no dinner on this day

Older brothers / sisters can leave at the earlier time with their siblings through their normal gate

- P1 and P2 12.00pm
- P3 and P4 12.10pm
- P5 to P7 12.20pm
- School bus 12.20pm available for children who normally travel on the bus

Please arrive promptly to collect your child to aid congestion in the car park and social distancing. Thank you

PTA – Friends of Birches

We are delighted that a new committee has been elected and the position of Chairperson is shared between Jenny Davison and Claire Smith. Our new PTA have completed the next stage of paperwork for Charity Status which means we will be able to apply for a greater range of grants. This year, our focus will be on enhancing our outdoor areas. The PTA intend to hold a raffle at Christmas. If anyone would like to contribute a prize towards this, please contact Mrs Watson and she will pass on the details to the committee.

Swimming

Swimming for P7 children will take place in November and December. Children from P4, P5 and P6 will be taking part in the swimming programme in terms 2 and 3.

General Information

Free School Meals

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Parents/Guardians can apply if your son or daughter is in full-time education and if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:-

Income Support; Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income Related Employment and Support Allowance; Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit; Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of £16,190 or less; Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Money Wallets

Money wallets are available to buy from school. These come in packs of 40 and cost £3.00 per pack. These can be purchased from your child's class teacher. The correct money can be sent to school in a clearly marked envelope.

SEESAW

Seesaw is currently being used as a communication tool between staff and parents as well as for homework.

Drop off and collection times

The procedures currently in place will continue for the rest of this term.

When waiting for your child, please be mindful of social distancing.

Illness

There are occasions when your child may suffer from childhood illnesses eg: chickenpox, vomiting or diarrhoea. As has always been the case, a child who is unwell should not be attending school.

Absent Notes

If your child is absent, please email a note to our school secretary Mrs Neill on the day they return to school stating the reason for their absence ineill722@c2kni.net.

Emergency Contact Numbers / Personal Details

Please ensure the school has at least three up to date contact numbers for your child should you need to be contacted during school hours and while your child is travelling home on the school bus.

Medical Information

Please keep the school informed of any recently diagnosed allergies or other medical conditions.

Allergies - Reminder

We have children in school who have severe allergies. Therefore, it is extremely important that **NO NUTS or foods containing nuts** are to be brought to school by the children. Thank you.

Contact Details

Please ensure that school has an up to date phone number on which to contact you on. If you have moved house recently, please make sure that you have notified school of your child's new address. If you have not been receiving text messages from school, please contact Mrs Watson.

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all coats and sweatshirts. Please use name tabs as names written in ink can wear off during the year.

The only piece of jewellery to be worn in school is a watch.

For health and safety reasons **earrings, rings and necklaces are not to be worn.**

Contacting School

If you are concerned or unsure of anything relating to your child please do not worry at home, pick up the phone and speak to either Mrs Watson or your child's teacher. We will be only too willing to talk to you after school at a mutually convenient time.



School Holidays 2021 / 2022

Christmas Holidays

Monday 20 December - School closed to
Monday 3 January
School starts again on Tuesday 4 January

Half Term

Wednesday 16 February - School closed to
Friday 18 February
School starts again on Monday 21 February

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday 17 March
Friday 18 March

Easter Holidays

Monday 11 April - School closed to
Friday 22 April
School starts again on Monday 25 April

Friday 29 April

Monday 2 May Bank Holiday

Thursday 2 June

Re-arranged May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 3 June

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 November 'Odd Sock Day' – Anti-bullying week
Children can wear their own clothes and odd socks (No charge)

Friday 10 December Christmas Dinner
This is also our Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 10 December Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day
Children can wear their own clothes and a Christmas jumper
£2.00 per child to go to Save the Children

Thursday 16 December - Christmas Parties – Non-Uniform Day - £1.00 charge

Friday 17 December Early Closing – Non-Uniform Day
NO DINNER SERVED TODAY

School Reopens
Tuesday 4 January

***I would like to wish everyone a safe and
Happy Christmas and New Year***