



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL Newsletter

April, May and June 2022

Aid for Ukrainian Refugees

I would like to thank everyone who donated such a wide range of items to help families in Ukraine. I know your kindness and generosity will be very much appreciated by everyone who received them.

PTA

Thank you for supporting our Peter Pans PTA Takeover on Wednesday 16th March. All of the children were so well behaved and it was a pleasure to see them have fun together. We raised £780.00 and we hope to make this an annual fundraiser for the children to enjoy. Our PTA is now in a position to receive Gift Aid donations which fortunately will allow money fundraised to go further.

Recently, our PTA have purchased a range of outdoor play equipment, two picnic tables, and a portable sound system (inc. music vouchers) for all classes to use. PTA is also supporting the Launchpad Transition programme for our Primary 7 children which will run in June.

We continue to actively apply for grants in order to develop an outdoor learning space at school. If anyone would be interested in coming on board to help with grant applications, please do let Mrs Watson know. Finally, we are hoping to organise an exciting fundraising event for the children during the summer term – details to follow soon.

Internet Safety

We have an Internet Safety information page on our website www.birchesps.com which I hope you find informative.

As we are now living in a digital world, it is hard not to be worried or concerned when letting your child use devices which connect to the internet. This is why we have included some information regarding E-Safety for yourselves as parents and for the children.



Above is a chart showing age restrictions for social media sites: Age 13 includes Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat ; Age 16 for WhatsApp and Age 18 for YouTube.

If you have any worries or concerns regarding internet safety, you can find more information at:

- www.psni.police.uk/advice_information/internet-safety/
- www.getsafeonline.org

Swimming Programme

The swimming programme for P4 children will begin on **Wednesday 27 April until Wednesday 1 June**. Further information will be sent home with the children.

School closures

Monday 2 May and Tuesday 3 May – Bank holiday and School Closure

Thursday 5 May

– Elections

The school will be closed on Thursday 5 May as it is used as a polling station.

Farm Safety Talks for P1 and P7 – Wednesday 4 May

A representative from the Health and Safety Executive will be coming to school to talk to the children from P1 and P7 about safety on the farm.

Belfast Zoo – P6 – Friday 6 May

Children from P6 will be given the opportunity to visit Belfast Zoo and take part in a workshop based on the topic of the Rainforest. The children will leave school around 9am and return in time for the school bus in the afternoon.

School Photographer – P1 and P7 Photograph – Tuesday 17 May

The School Photographer is coming on Tuesday 17 May to take the P7 leaver photograph and P1 whole class group. Any child who missed their school photograph earlier this year will also be able to get their photograph taken. Codes from Dandelion photography will be sent out in the third term.

P6 and P7 Trip to the Share Centre - Friday 20 May

On Friday 20 May children from P6 and P7 will be offered the opportunity to take part in a day of activities at the Share Centre, Lisnaskea.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Wednesday 1 June

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are holding a 'June Jubilee Party Day' for all our pupils on Wednesday 1st June. The children will take part in a range of activities to celebrate this special occasion. More details to follow after Easter.

Bank Holidays - Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June

The Government have changed the date of the late May 2022 bank holiday to Thursday 2 June and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June for a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sports Day - Tuesday 7 June – P1 to P3 and Tuesday 14 June – P4 to P7 (provisional dates – weather permitting)

We are delighted to invite parents to watch the children take part in Sports Day on our fabulous new pitch!

Sports day has been provisionally arranged for Tuesday 7 June for children from P1 to P3 and on Tuesday 14 June for children from P4 to P7 starting at **10am**.

Everyone is welcome – current covid guidance measures will be in place.

P7 Trip to W5 - Thursday 9 June

On Thursday 9 June our children from P7 will have an exciting day exploring the range of activities at W5.

Colour Run – Fund Raising Day – Friday 10 June

Our Healthy Kids coaches have organised a great day for the children to help raise money for school funds. All of the children in school will have the opportunity to take part in a 'Colour Run'. Further details will be sent out closer to the time.

P7 Prize Day including awards and performances - Friday 24 June

All parents/carers of children in primary seven are welcome to come to school for 10am.

Final Assembly – Wednesday 29 June

The final assembly for all children will take place on **Wednesday 29 June**.

School closes at:

- **12.45pm** for children from P1-P3
- **12.55pm** for P4-P7.
- The school bus will leave at 1pm for children who normally travel on the bus.

Last Day of Term - Thursday 30 June

School closes at:

- **10.45am** for children from P1-P3
 - **10.55am** for P4-P7.
 - The school bus will leave at 11am for children who normally travel on the bus
- There will be no school dinners.**

General Information

Nut Allergy - Reminder

As we have a child in school with a nut allergy, 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.

If you have moved house recently 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 – pwatson676@c2kni.net

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all coats, sweatshirts and on clothes that are removed to change for P.E and swimming. If possible, use name tabs as names written in ink can wear off during the year.

Money Wallets

Money wallets are still available to buy from school. These come in packs of 40 at a cost of £3.00.

These can be purchased from your child's class teacher.

Medical Information

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

I hope everyone has a lovely Easter break.

Mrs Watson





Dates For Your Diary May and June 2022

School Holidays / Closures

Monday 2 May	-	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 May	-	School Closure
Thursday 5 May	-	Elections (school is used as a polling station)
Wednesday 1 June	-	Jubilee Party Day
Thursday 2 June	-	Bank Holiday
Friday 3 June	-	Bank Holiday – Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

Other Dates

Friday 6 May	-	P6 trip to Belfast Zoo
Tuesday 17 May	-	School Photographer - P1 and P7 photographs
Friday 20 May	-	P6 and P7 trip to the Share Centre
Tuesday 7 June	-	P1 to P3 Sports Day
Thursday 9 June	-	P7 Trip to W5
Friday 10 June	-	The Colour Run for P1 to P7 in school
Tuesday 14 June	-	P4 to P7 Sports Day
Friday 24 June	-	P7 Prize Day 10.00am
Wednesday 29 June	-	Final Assembly
	-	P1- P3 children home at 12.45pm
	-	P4 – P7 children home at 12.55pm
		The school bus will be available to take children home at 1.00pm
Thursday 30 June	-	Last day of term
	-	P1- P3 children home at 10.45am
	-	P4 – P7 children home at 10.55am
		The school bus will be available to take children home at 11.00am

NEW TERM 2022

2022/2023 School Year

School Starts back on Tuesday 30 August, 2022

*Tuesday 30 August	-	School will close at 12.00pm
*Wednesday 31 August	-	School will close at 12.00pm
Thursday 1 September	-	Normal School Hours

* There will be no lunch served on these days.

The bus will be available to bring children to and from school who normally travel on the b



Birches Primary School

Holiday List

2022 / 2023 School Year

When booking family holidays make sure they are booked when the school is closed.

Hallowe'en Break:	Thursday 27 October to Wednesday 2 November start back Thursday 3 November
Christmas:	Wednesday 21 December to Tuesday 3 January start back Wednesday 4 January
Half Term:	Thursday 16 February to Wednesday 22 February start back Thursday 23 February
St. Patrick's:	Friday 17 March
Easter:	Thursday 6 April to Wednesday 19 April start back Thursday 20 April
May Day:	Monday 1 May
May break:	Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 May start back Wednesday 31 May