



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL Newsletter

April, May and June 2023

Families First NI Education Awards

We Are Finalists!

I am delighted to let you know that several parents have kindly nominated our school for a 'Families First Award'. We would really appreciate your support in this by leaving comments on their website <https://www.familiesfirstfinalists.com/copy-of-badges-spring-awards-2023>

The on-line comments page is open until Tuesday 4 April at 5pm.

PTA - Friends of Birches

Thank you for supporting our Craigavon Omniplex Takeover in February. We hope the children enjoyed watching 'Puss in Boots: The Last Wish'. We raised £310 from running this.

PTA Easter Fun Day – Saturday 1st April 11am – 3pm

Our Spring fundraiser, Easter Fun Day at Peatlands Park, takes place on Saturday 1st April. Please do call between 11am-3pm and join in with the fun activities that the PTA are arranging.

All money raised this year is going into developing the outdoor learning area at school.

Swimming Programme

A four-week swimming programme for P7 children will begin on **Wednesday 26 April until Wednesday 17 May**. Further information will be sent home with the children.

Cash For Clobber – Friday 28 April and Tuesday 2 May

We are having another Cash for Clobber collection.

Clothes can be left in the entrance foyer on Friday 28 April and Tuesday 2 May.

Please do not send in items after these dates. Thank you

School closures

- Monday 1 May** - Bank holiday
- Monday 8 May** - The Coronation of His Majesty The King
- Thursday 18 May** - Northern Ireland Local Elections
The school will be closed on Thursday 18 May as it is used as a polling station.
- Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 May** - Bank holiday and School Closure

Love for Life Programme - Wednesday 3 May / Thursday 4 May

Children from P4 and P5 will be taking part in the Love for Life Programme on Wednesday 3 May and P6 and P7 on Thursday 4 May. Further information regarding these programmes will be sent home closer to the time.

King Charles III's Coronation – Friday 5 May

To celebrate King Charles III's Coronation, we are holding a 'Coronation Party Day' for all our pupils on Friday 5 May. The children will take part in a range of activities to celebrate this special occasion.

More details to follow.

'Coronation tea towel'

Each child in school has drawn a picture of themselves for our coronation tea-towel. You will be able to purchase these on-line through the parent portal. A leaflet from 'Mychild'sart' will be sent home shortly with details.

You can order by logging onto www.mychild'sart.co.uk/order with the username – Birches / password - b7PwwVzg. You need to enter your child's first and last names. If you have any problems, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Watson – 02838851443 / pwatson676@c2kni.net

World Drumming Workshops

The EA Music Service will be carrying out 'World Drumming' workshops with our P6 and P7 children.

Richmount Football Tournaments – Wednesday 17 May and Wednesday 24 May

Our football teams will take part in the boys' and girls' tournaments at Richmount.

Neill Buckley Football Tournament – Friday 19 May

Our football team will be taking part in the Neill Buckley Tournament at Loughgall.

P6 Trip to Belfast Zoo – Thursday 1 June (to be confirmed)

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.

P7 Trip to the Share Centre - Friday 2 June

On Friday 2 June children from P7 will be offered the opportunity to take part in a day of activities at the Share Centre, Lisnaskea.

Sports Day - Tuesday 6 June – P1 to P3 and Wednesday 7 June – P4 to P7 (provisional dates – weather permitting)

We would like to invite parents to watch the children take part in Sports Day. It has been provisionally arranged for **Tuesday 6 June for children from P1 to P3** and on **Wednesday 7 June for children from P4 to P7** starting at 10am.

Everyone is welcome

Fitness Day – Fund Raising Day – Thursday 15 June

On Thursday 15 June Freddy from 'Energy Fitness' will be coming out to carry out fitness work with each class and their teachers.

This is a fund-raising day for school funds and each child will be sent home a sponsor form. One form can be used for a family.

P7 Prize Day - Friday 23 June

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

Final Assembly – Thursday 29 June

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

Early Closing

Thursday 29 June - School will close early.

12.45pm P4 - P7 Children with no siblings at school

12.55pm P1 - P7 Children who normally get the school bus (please make sure your child knows if they are to get the bus home)

1.10pm All other children from P1 to P7

Early Closing

Friday 30 June - School will close early.

10.45am P4 - P7 Children with no siblings at school

10.55am P1 - P7 Children who normally get the school bus (please make sure your child knows if they are to get the bus home)

11.10am All other children from P1 to P7

There will be no dinner today

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

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.

Here 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

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 2023

School Holidays / Closures

- Monday 1 May** - Bank holiday
- Monday 8 May** - The Coronation of His Majesty The King
- Thursday 18 May** - Northern Ireland Local Elections
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- Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 May** - Bank holiday and School Closure

Other Dates

- Thursday 1 June** - P6 trip to Belfast Zoo
- Friday 2 June** - P7 trip to the Share Centre
- Tuesday 6 June** - P1 to P3 Sports Day
- Wednesday 7 June** - P4 to P7 Sports Day
- Thursday 15 June** - Energy Fitness Day P1 to P7 in school
- Friday 23 June** - P7 Prize Day 10.00am
- Thursday 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 1.10pm
- Friday 30 June** - Last day of term
- P1- P3 children home at 10.45am
- P4 – P7 children home at 10.55am
There will be no lunch served today.
The school bus will be available to take children home at 11.10am

NEW TERM 2023

2023/2024 School Year

School Starts back on Wednesday 30 August 2023

- *Wednesday 30 August - School will close at 12.00pm
- *Thursday 31 August - School will close at 12.00pm
- Friday 1 September - Normal School Hours – 8.40am start

* 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 bus



Birches Primary School

Holiday List

2023 / 2024 School Year

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

Hallowe'en Break:	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November start back Monday 6 November
Christmas:	Friday 22 December to Friday 5 January start back Monday 8 January
Half Term:	Wednesday 14 February to Friday 16 February start back Monday 19 February
St. Patrick's:	Monday 18 March
Easter:	Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 10 April start back Thursday 11 April
May Day:	Monday 6 May
May break:	Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 May start back Wednesday 29 May