



Birches Primary School
BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWS LETTER

January / February / March / April 2020

After School Activities

Children who had paid for Soccer Stars and Gymnastics in term one will receive their last two sessions during the first two weeks back after Christmas.

Tuesday 7 and 14 January Soccer Stars P2/P3 1.30pm – 2.30pm and P4-P7 2.35pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 8 and 15 January Gymnastics P2/P3 1.30pm – 2.30pm and P4-P7 2.35pm – 3.30pm

Starting from Monday 13 January

Monday	Film Club	P6/P7	Miss Archer	2.35pm – 3.30pm
	Netball	P4/P5	Mrs Patterson	2.35pm – 3.30pm

Thursday	Music/Drama Club	P4-P7	£1.00 per week	2.35pm – 3.30pm
		£24	KCP Drama Coach	

from Monday 20 January

Tuesday	Scrum and Try Rugby	P2/P3	Healthy Kidz	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	Scrum and Try Rugby	P4-P7	Healthy Kidz	2.35pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday	Gymnastics	P2/P3	Healthy Kidz	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	Gymnastics	P4-P7	Healthy Kidz	2.35pm – 3.30pm

(The link to purchase tickets will follow)

Swimming Programme

The swimming programme for **P5** children will begin on **Tuesday 7 January until Tuesday 11 February**.
The swimming programme for **P4** children will commence on **Tuesday 25 February until Tuesday 31 March**.
Children are to bring their swimming kit along with a contribution of £1.75 each week for the swimming lesson and the school will cover the cost of the bus.

Children are not to bring any valuables with them to the pool.

Killicomaine Junior High School Talk to P6 and P7 children – Tuesday 14 January

Members of staff and pupils from Killicomaine Junior High School will come and talk to children in P6 and P7 about their school and give them an opportunity to ask questions about life at Killicomaine JH.

Police Internet Safety and Social Media Talk – Thursday 16 January – P6 and P7

Members of the local community police will be coming out to talk to children regarding Internet Safety and the use of Social Media.

Dungannon Integrated Secondary School Talk to P6 and P7 children – Friday 17 January

Members of staff and pupils from Dungannon Integrated Secondary School will come and talk to children in P6 and P7 about their school and give them an opportunity to ask questions.

Police Internet Safety and Social Media Talk – Wednesday 22 January – For Parents – 7pm

Members of the local community police will be coming out to talk to parents regarding Internet Safety and the use of Social Media.

Vaccinations – Thursday 23 January

In December, the staff and children received the first of two injections for the meningococcal vaccination. The second injection will be taking place on Thursday 23 January. A letter will be sent home regarding this to make a timetable for parents who wish to accompany their child.

Eco Team – Cash for Clobber – Week beginning Monday 27 January

Notes regarding our cash for clobber collection have been sent home. If you wish to send in items please leave them in collection bags at reception on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28, they are to be collected on Wednesday 29 January.

WWII Trip – Wednesday 29 January

Children from P4 have been learning about World WarII in World Around Us. They will be given the opportunity to visit the Palace Stables, Armagh on Wednesday 29 January and through various interactive activities they will explore 'Life during the War' focusing on the Blitz, Evacuees and Rationing.

Clounagh Play – Friday 31 January

On Friday 31 January children from P6 and P7 will be going to watch 'Summer Holiday' at Clounagh Junior High School.

School Photographer – Wednesday 5 February

The photographer will come to school on Wednesday 5 February to take individual and family group photographs. Further details will be sent home with the children.

Charities – Southern Area Hospice – Love your Heart Day

Friday 14 February – NON UNIFORM DAY

On Friday 14 February Mrs Neill will be organising a special menu to focus on healthy foods which are important to maintain a healthy heart. This will be a non-uniform day and the children will be encouraged to wear something red. There will be a charge of £1.00 and the money will go the Southern Area Hospice.

Friends of Birches - PTA

On behalf of the staff and pupils, I would like to thank everyone for helping to support the PTA in a range of ways, from helping out at the school disco and tuck shops, attending meetings to discuss different events to hold, giving donations to school and providing prizes for the prize draw.

Over the summer holidays we had four new interactive panels installed in the P1, P4, P5 and P7 classrooms. These have been a great success and add greatly to the type of ICT experience we are able to offer the children. Last year the PTA, Friends of Birches, paid £5,000 towards these panels with a remaining £4,000 to raise this year.

Over the next two terms we are aiming to hold a range of events including a Quiz and Stew night on Friday 24 January at 'The Head o The Road', a school disco, a fashion show for the end of the Spring Term and a Colour Run to be held in the third term, organised by Healthy Kidz.

We will be having prize draws at the Quiz night and at the Fashion Show if anyone has an item they would like to donate please contact Mrs Watson.

We are delighted to announce that we made £900 at the school disco held in November. It was a great night and was enjoyed by all pupils, staff and parents.

I would like to thank everyone who donated a prize for our prize draw. The draw took place before Christmas and we raised £1012.50.

I would like to thank the committee and everyone who helped at the school disco and helped to organise the prize draw. This money will go towards the interactive panels and other resources for the children.

Your help and support was very much appreciated by all of the staff.



Dinner money

School meals cost £2.60 per day - £13.00 per week. Please consult the monthly menu and send the correct money on a **Monday** morning for the whole week. We are unable to lodge cheques and can only accept cash. Thank you.

Medical Information

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

Allergies - Reminder

We have several 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. 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.

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. 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.

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.

Easter Holidays

Thursday 2 April - School will close early.

In order to ease traffic congestion, we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 1.00pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 1.10pm.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it at 1.15pm

Friday 3 April - School will close early.

In order to ease traffic congestion, we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 12.00pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 12.10pm.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it at 12.15pm

Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April

School will be closed for Easter Holidays

Monday 20 April

School will reopen

Dates for your Diary - Term Two 2020

P5 Swimming Programme

Tuesday 7 January to Tuesday 11 February

Police Internet Safety and Social Media Talk

Thursday 16 January – P6 and P7

Police Internet Safety and Social Media Talk

Wednesday 22 January – For Parents

WWII trip to Armagh Palace Stables - for P4 children

Wednesday 29 January

Clounagh JHS Play 'Holiday' - for P6 and P7 children

Friday 31 January

Eco Team – Cash for Clobber

Drop off dates: - Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 January

School Photographer

Wednesday 5 February

Love Your Heart Non-Uniform Day

Friday 14 February

P4 Swimming Programme

Tuesday 25 February to Tuesday 31 March

"Toys in the Attic" trip to Armagh Palace Stables – for P3 children

Monday 16 March

School Photographer for P1 and P7 groups

Wednesday 25 March

School Holidays

Term Two and Term Three 2020

Half Term

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

School starts again on Monday 24th February

St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday 17th March

Easter Holidays

Thursday 2nd April

School ends at **1pm** (*see newsletter for details*)

Friday 3rd April

School ends at **12noon** (*see newsletter for details*)

Monday 6th April - Friday 17th April

School starts again on Monday 20th April

May Holidays and End of Term

***Friday 8th May

School closed***

in celebration of 75th Anniversary of VE Day (instead of Mon 4th)

Friday 22nd May

School closed

Monday 25th May

School closed

Tuesday 23 June

Prize Day 10am

Friday 26 June

Final Assembly

Monday 29th June

School ends **12noon**

Tuesday 30th June

School ends **11am**