



# Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed ...

...to be the best 'me' I can be.

July 2024

Issue: 10

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**British Value:** All Fundamental British Values

**Birches Value:** Success (Belief)

**July Newsletter**

Dear Parents...

I am writing this after coming away from the Summer Fayre today! What an incredible day it was, the weather was very kind to us, and the sun did make an appearance! I cannot begin to thank the PFA for all the hard work not just yesterday (Saturday-over 5 hours!) or this morning from 9am setting up to tidying away, but all the planning and preparation that goes beforehand into making it such a wonderful event. Everyone had the most amazing time and the children had a ball! Thank you, I should imagine Anna and the team will certainly have their feet up tonight!

A special thank you to Carol Suttie Saturday Dance Class, Codsall Fire Brigade, Dave Morgan's fab singing, Fancy Dress Entries and finally our very own Singing Club for coming and showcasing their talents making it even more special! THANK YOU ALL! You made it so special!

June has been as busy as ever, what an incredible day we had for Sports Day...thank you for all the wonderful comments and emails regarding



Sports Day. We really value your comments and appreciate you taking the time to send such lovely messages, it really means such a lot to the staff! So much work goes into the organisation of this event and for parents to recognise this is very well received, thank you! I know you will

agree, the children were AMAZING, I was such a proud Headteacher, they all did immensely well.





D-Day was another amazing day for the children, again with only a couple of practices the school performed a spectacular, informative assembly where our special visitors from RAF Cosford and Codsall Parish were immensely impressed with how the children performed and celebrated such a momentous historical day. Thank you for your efforts with their costumes they looked splendid!

What a hit the Father's Day Afternoon Tea was! Thank you so much to all the male adults who came to dine with us, the children LOVED it -they were so excited! It was lovely to meet many of you for the first time. Thank you for coming! I would like to say a HUGE thank you to the PFA for organising this wonderful event, making our children have a very special memory to treasure!



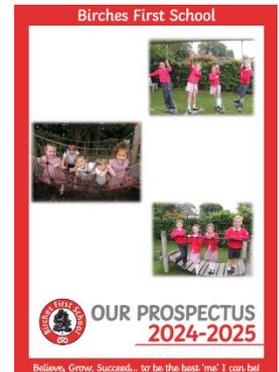
The whole school enjoyed their boxing experience, Y2 had a lovely time at RAF Cosford and Nursery at Dudley Zoo. Reception are preparing to go on their final trip of the year to Hoo Zoo this week and Year One will be visiting the Library on Tuesday then climbing the ropes at Baggeridge the week after! Y4 are having a well-deserved end of Year treat at Laches Wood for the day and Y3 are going to make Pizzas at Telford and have a day trip to Enginuity!

I am sure they will learn lots and have a tremendous time. The children throughout the school have had a wealth of enhancement opportunities this year, the list is too long to write, but we really haven't stopped ensuring they have the best experiences to enhance their learning beyond the classroom.



Behind the scenes staff have been very busy with the statutory assessments required in Reception (Good Level of Development) Year 1 (Phonics Screening) and Y4 (Multiplication Timetable Check), the children have worked incredibly hard and have been AMAZING also! National Results are not yet released to make comparisons, however, all I can say is that I am a **VERY** happy Headteacher who is immensely proud of the children's achievements! Which leads me on to thank the wonderful Teachers and TAs for all their hard work and quality first teaching at Birches...the results say it all!

'Step Up' day has been another huge success, it was fantastic! We have welcomed new Nursery and Reception children into the school and Miss Cartwright and Mrs Fear have stepped into their roles seamlessly. Year Four have been for their full transition day at Codsall Middle School and have another this Wednesday...ready to fly the nest! The year has literally flown!



Parents new to Birches and already with us, please do familiarise yourself with our new prospectuses for both [Main School](#) and [Nursery](#) over the summer holiday to answer any questions you may have about our wonderful school...you may spot some familiar faces!

As this is the last Newsletter of the year, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to every one of you (and your extended families- all those wonderful Grandparents who also collect/drop off that do take the time to speak to me!) for your kindness, appreciation and support during this year. You and your children make it all worthwhile. I would also like to express my thanks, gratitude and pride in our incredible staff team who always go the extra mile for the children, for you and for each other. We really do have a fantastic team here –and it is a genuine privilege to come to work every day with such wonderful staff who genuinely care about the whole child, which was indeed recognised in our Ofsted Inspection way back in November!

Have a safe and happy break and good luck to our wonderful Year 4s, some of our Nursery children and Mrs Lloyd—we will really miss you all in September. Go and shine like the stars you are! Stay safe, take care and remember to go and sprinkle the Birches magic!

Have an amazing, VERY well-deserved summer holiday. Thank you for your incredible support this year, it has been a 'Good' one 😊! See you in September! **Best wishes from Miss Varricchione & the Birches Team.**



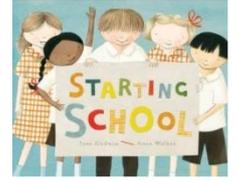
## September Information

Please note the following times for September:  
**Nursery 8.30-11.30 (11.30-12.00 lunch) 12.00-3.00pm**

**Reception 8.30-8.40- 3.05pm**

**Year 1/2 8.30-8.40 – 3.10pm**

**Year 3/4 8.30-8.40-3.15pm**



## PE/Games Uniform

Please remember our **PE shorts are Red only**, White **Logo** T-Shirt.  
Games Tracksuit bottoms are **Black only**, **logo** T-shirt and **Birches logo** hoodie.

## Trainers are White or Black for Games Day-NO LACES please!

As communicated throughout the year trainers are to be Black or White for their Games Uniform. Please DO NOT buy Black pumps for PE the children participate in bare feet!

## Book Bag/PE Kit

Children again this year will ONLY need a book bag and if sandwiches, a lunchbox. Please bring PE kits into school in the Birches Red Pump Bag.  
Thank you.

## School Uniform

This remains the same. Please see below for a link to the website for our school expectations.

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

## Forest School

As communicated last month please do not buy any new items until you are informed when your session will run.

## Water Bottles

Please bring in an **EMPTY** water bottle. Please label the bottle as we have several of the same!

## Swap Shop

If you have any used jumpers, skirts, T-shirts that are in good condition, please do hand them into the office and we will place them on the rack -please then help yourself!

**PLEASE LABEL ALL UNIFORM!**

Please if you are thinking of having your child's ear pierced do so in the holidays!  
Thank you!

## Meet Your New Teacher

Due to the success of the Welcome to Year Group meetings at the end of last academic term we are pleased to have the opportunity to deliver them once again in readiness for the year ahead. This will give you the opportunity to meet your child/ren's new teacher, receive day-to-day information, such as, when PE/Games are, Spelling Tests, what the Homework expectation is etc. including the opportunity to ask any questions.

It is such an important session to attend as with every year group change, there are a lot of differences and the session will inform and support you in supporting your child. As your child moves through the school, each year progresses and the expectations change in line with the National Curriculum, therefore the meeting really does help as it certainly has changed since we were all at school!

We really are proud of our School/Parent partnership at Birches, and we hope this meeting will develop this further.

**A survey will follow to book a place. Dates are listed at the end of the Newsletter.**

## SPECIAL AWARDS

If your child has been chosen for an End of Term Special Certificate the office will invite you into school so you and your family (adults only) can see the certificates being presented on the following date and time.

**Nursery and Reception** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 9am  
**Year One, Two and Three** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 10am

**Year 4** will be presented their awards/certificates at their Leavers' Evening performance.

Congratulations to all the children throughout the year-they have all worked very hard and have been also recognised for their hard work and efforts weekly in our Special Celebrations Assembly every Friday.



## Reports and Open Day Main School Y1-Y4



You will receive your child's report on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July.  
We are opening school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July between **9am-10.15am** for **Year 1 – Y4** parents to come in and look

through the children's books with them in the School Hall. Please note we will not admit any parents after **9.45am** and everyone will be asked to leave at **10.15am** for safeguarding purposes.

### Nursery/Reception

Nursery/Reception parents are invited for a Play and Stay session **10.30-11.30** on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July in your child's classroom**. Nursery children may go straight home with parents if they wish after this session-please ensure you sign your child out at the main office for Safeguarding/Fire regulations-thank you!

### After School

At **3.30pm** all year groups may come into the classrooms to look at books/the environment and speak to the class teachers if you would like an informal chat about your child's report and progress.

We are offering the opportunity for a **private interview** on the same evening from **4.00pm** should any parent wish to speak in confidence with the class teacher.

Please email the teachers directly to arrange an appointment.

We are very excited to open the school up and hope you enjoy sharing your child's progress and achievements with them.

## Pupil Premium/School Lunches

All children in Reception and KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to Free School Meals. However, it is important that families who previously qualified for Free School Meals still apply as school receives additional funding for your child which will benefit your child in school. Please can we encourage any parents who are new to Birches and are in receipt of the following benefits to apply. We offer incentives of uniform vouchers to families who qualify for all new free school meal registrations. The Economic criteria for qualifying would be to be in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance. Please note the 'new style' job seekers allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance. Please note the 'new style' employment and support allowance is not a qualifying benefit, as this is based upon payment of National Insurance contributions and not the household income
- Eligible for Child Tax Credit **but not** Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. **Please note:** anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

**To make an application under any of these criteria please use our [online application form](#)**

**Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) is extra funding that is available to support eligible children.**

From April 2024, Children could be eligible if they receive one of the following:

- 15 hours as the universal entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds

Mrs Lawley will identify families who could be eligible against the **economic** criteria providing that parents have filled out the Carer details form-provided by school and ticked 'yes' to share information for the above funding

### **Service Pupil Premium (SPP)**

State schools, academies and free schools in England, which have children of Service families in school years Reception to Year 11, can receive the SPP funding. It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that these children may need and is currently worth £335 per Service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Pupils attract SPP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full-time reserve service)
- they have been registered as a 'Service child' on a school census in the past six years, see note on the DfE's ever 6 Service child measure
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme
- one of their parents is in the armed forces of another nation and is stationed in England

Please do contact the school office if you require any support with any of the above and we will happily help.

## RAF Cosford Partnership Y4/Y3

Some parents may be aware that this academic year, Year Four have had an amazing opportunity and been lucky enough to work with RAF Cosford to help with their creation of the Outdoor Area/Learning Zones. The work our children produced as communicated was displayed at the Museum-such a privilege and proud moment, I hope many of you were able to go and see their fabulous work!

After such a successful partnership, they have indeed approached me once again to ask if Birches can participate in their next step of their very exciting period of development with the Heritage Lottery Fund, with the aim of making big changes to RAF Cosford and their offer to visitors. Y3 will work with the staff from RAF Cosford producing a co-creation project that will engage with a variety of learners to generate a resource visitors can use whilst on site. It sounds incredibly exciting, and Year 3 will have their first visit on Wednesday this week to start working collaboratively with RAF Cosford!

I will keep you all posted with their ideas and work! Watch this space...!

## Induction Day 3<sup>th</sup> July

Children are to go directly to their new classrooms in the morning following last week's success. Staff will be there to assist. Reception can line up on the playground-**NEW Nursery**/Reception parents ONLY are welcomed on to the playground.

Children will be dismissed from their NEW class on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July i.e.:-

| <b>Current CLASS</b>                            | <b>Collection</b>                            |
|---|--|
| <b>Rising 3s (Will be Nursery September 24)</b> | Playground double doors <b>3pm</b>           |
| <b>Nursery (New Reception)</b>                  | Playground double doors <b>3.05pm</b>        |
| Reception                                       | Y1 Class (around the back by Nursery) 3.10pm |
| Year 1  | Year 2 Class on the playground 3.10pm        |
| Year 2  | Playground double doors 3.15pm               |
| Year 3  | Year 4 Mobile (back door by canopy) 3.15pm   |

**I will be on the gate/playground to help-just ask me please!**

**PLEASE REMEMBER COLLECTION IS FROM YOUR CHILD'S NEW CLASSROOM**

| <b>Dates for the Diary</b>      |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>      | Y1 Library Visit  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>      | INDUCTION DAY<br>RAF Cosford in to work with Y3 in the Afternoon  |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> July</b>      | Reception Hoo Zoo Trip<br>Y2 Parent Lunch   |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> July</b>      | End of Year Reports   |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Y1 Baggeridge Trip  |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Y1 – Y4 Open Morning 9-10.15am ( <b>NO ENTRY AFTER 9.45am</b> )<br>YN/YR Play and Stay 10.30-11.30<br>YN-Y4 Open Afternoon in classes 3.30-4.00pm<br>Teacher Interviews 4.00-5.30pm |
| <b>12<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Birches Got Talent Final  |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | School Council Cake Sale-Details to follow  |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Welcome to Year 1 Meeting <b>4pm</b>  |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Y4 Leavers' Evening & Special Awards 6pm  |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Y3 Enginuity Visit<br>Welcome to Year 2 Meeting <b>4pm</b><br>Welcome to Year 3 Meeting <b>4.30pm</b>   |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Special End of Term Award Assembly-INVITE ONLY<br>YN/YR-9am<br>Y1/2/3-10am<br>Welcome to Year 4 Meeting <b>4pm</b>  |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup> July</b>     | Y3 Pizza Express Visit<br>Y4 Laches Wood Visit  |
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>     | Break up <b>1.15pm School End for 2023-2024</b><br>Happy Holidays to you all!<br>NO CLUB- <b>AFTERSCHOOL</b> (Morning Club as Normal)   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b>                |   |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> September</b> | WELCOME BACK!<br>2024-2025  |

## Safeguarding

Please see below for Birches' Safeguarding Team. Safeguarding is all staffs' responsibility. At Birches, we have and pride ourselves on our strong Safeguarding Culture. All staff are Level 1 trained, and everyone below has received Level 1/2/3 Safeguarding Training. (Miss Varricchione Level 4 in addition).

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



*Protect and safeguard the welfare of all our children.*



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**

## Academic Year 2024- 2025

Please note the following **Inset Days** for your diaries:

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

(SCHOOL CLOSED ON THE ABOVE DATES)

### **Autumn Term 2024**

**Inset day:** Monday 2 September

**Term Starts:** Tuesday 3 September

**Holiday:** Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

**Term Ends:** Friday 20 December

**Holiday:** Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January

### **Spring Term 2025**

**Term Starts:** Monday 6 January

**Holiday:** Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

**Term Ends:** Friday 11 April

**Holiday:** Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April

### **Summer Term 2025**

**Term Starts:** Monday 28 April

**May Day:** Monday 5 May

**Holiday:** Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

**Term Ends:** Monday 21 July

**Holiday:** Tuesday 22 July – Friday 29 August

### **Autumn Term 2025**

**Inset day:** Monday 1 September

**Term Starts:** Tuesday 2 September

### **Birches Values:**

**Belief Independence Resilience Curiosity Honesty Enthusiasm Success**

Our Mission Statement:

**Believe, Grow, Succeed...to be the best 'me' I can be.**