



Head Teacher's Welcome



The birds are singing, the sun is shining and the grass has been cut – it must be Spring!

I hope that your Easter holiday was good – *welcome back!*

Richard Culham

Exciting Curriculum

"You can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink!"

This old saying can be applied to many things in life and it can be true for some children and learning. If you are interested in something you are more likely to put more effort into it. Making learning interesting is a challenge for educators and I am delighted that so much creativity is brought into our curriculum to make it interesting and fun!

At the end of the last day we had several good examples of this going on, which many of you came into school and joined in with.

The **Y5** boat building, the **Y4** chocolate tasting (strange how popular that was!!). **Y1** had a pet afternoon which was lovely – thank you for bringing your pets into school. **YR** had lovely trips to Gore farm. **Y3** have been to the Roman Baths in Bath. **Y2 and Y6** have also been working very hard in many exciting ways but particularly focusing on SATs!

Staffing Budgets



To follow up on the last Newsletter, our Governors have now agreed the budget proposals that I presented.

This year's budget (2017/18) is very tight and in order to be financially viable I have had to 'trim' many areas of our work.

It is very disappointing for us having worked so hard over the years to make Birchfield as strong and successful as it is to have to dismantle parts of our work and start again!

I am afraid that money allocated to Grammar schools and Free Schools does not impact on our school budget and with costs (some of them new eg the Apprentice Levy) rising, we are worse off – despite what politicians tell us.

Please do not be alarmed though. The core function of school will continue – your children will be safe and they will be very well taught.

Staffing

There have been some staffing changes recently:

Mr Caddick (Sports Coach) has left us and is pursuing a career in the Army.

Mrs Mounty (YR LSA) is seeking work nearer to her Crewkerne home.

Mrs Julie Robinson (Meals Server) for personal circumstances. We wish them all well and thank them for their services to our school.

I am delighted to inform you that **Mrs Lock** gave birth to a baby boy, Henry, last month. **Congratulations.**



Double Yellow Lines



Many thanks to everyone who is not parking on them - they are there to help keep our children safe!

Fundraising



Many thanks for all the generous contributions to our various fundraising activities:

Book Fair: £645 total sales which gives the school £327 commission

Red Nose Day: £250

Easter Egg Raffle: £213 (this was a great increase on the amount raised last year)

Tennis Coaching



Luke Andrews, from Yeovil Tennis Club, has been working with the school and is offering pupils 20% discount on a coaching program at Yeovil Tennis Club. The sessions are on weekdays and weekends plus the holidays. Please contact Luke on 07437 404242 or latennis@hotmail.com for more information. There is also coaching available for parents.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 24 April: 4GS trip to Gore Farm
2WA trip to Tesco – ‘Farm to Fork’
Tue 25 April: 2BP trip to Tesco – ‘Farm to Fork’
Vision screening for Reception
Wed 26 April: 4JR trip to Gore Farm
Mon 1 May: Bank Holiday – school closed
Tue 2 May: 1JM trip to Gore Farm
Wed 3 May: 1JW trip to Gore Farm
Y5 Bikeability

Thur 4 May: Y5 Bikeability
Mon 8 – 11 May: Y6 SATs (no swimming on 11 May)
Wed 17 – Fri 19 May: Y5 London Residential Trip
Wed 24 – Thur 25 May: Class and Club photographs
Thur 25 May: Birchfield Tournament
Fri 26 May: Last day of term
Mon 5 June: School re-opens
Fri 14 July: School reports sent out