



Head Teacher's Welcome

Welcome back! I hope that the Christmas holiday was good and enjoyable for you all. Can I also wish you every success and happiness for 2017.

Richard Culham

Exciting European Opportunity!



For quite a while I have been negotiating our involvement in an Europe wide schools project. I'm delighted to tell you that Birchfield is a partner in an 'Erasmus' project entitled "How our history unites us!"

There are 10 schools involved – one each from UK, Italy, Bulgaria, Portugal, Turkey, Lithuania, France, Sweden, Belgium, Spain so it really is an Europe wide project and it is a great honour for us to be involved!

The funding for this comes from the E.U. so I was worried after Brexit but we are guaranteed the money for the whole project which runs until July 2019.

Central to the project will be the exchange of ideas, information and good practice between school staff and pupils. On the 26 and 27 January, staff from the other 9 schools will visit us to 'kick start' the project. Later on there will be the chance for some of our children to visit schools in either Portugal or Italy – all very exciting!

More news to follow.

Staff News



I am delighted to inform you that **Miss Shutler** gave birth to a baby boy, George, last month. **Congratulations.**

Mrs Lock is beginning her maternity leave on 23 January. Her replacement **Mr Tucker** has already started with us so that he can get to know the children and our systems and will ensure good consistency and continuity. Please feel free to pop in and say "hello".

Mrs Harpur (Year 4 LSA) is also going on maternity leave from 13 January. **Mrs Rowe** has joined us as her maternity cover.

Good luck to all.

E-Safety Update for Children, Staff and Parents/Carers

Recently we have held these sessions every 2 years but with there being so much ICT related change we have decided to hold them annually. This year our Internet Safety day is 7 February. Come and find out how we can all work together to make the children's experiences of ICT positive ones! Our meetings are 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm. If you have not received our information letter, please call into the school office to obtain a copy. More details to follow.

Breakfast and Tea Time Club

As you may be aware, the electrical supply to Pre-School and the Breakfast/Tea Time club buildings was lost. We have managed to get a temporary supply run in from the Children's Centre building. Unfortunately it will take a while longer for the supply to be fully restored. This means that both the Breakfast and Tea Time clubs will continue being held in the main building. Breakfast club will always be in the Hall but due to other events Tea Time club will be in different rooms –signs will be put out in school directing you to where the club is being held.

I am sorry for any inconvenience and we all hope that normal service will be resumed soon!

Please may I remind you that it is really important that if you wish your child to attend either of these clubs that we have advance notice (at least 24 hours) and the appropriate booking form and payment has been received.

St Gilda's Come On Board!

As from 16 January, our kitchen will be providing meals to St Gilda's Primary School. This is a real 'pat on the back' for our wonderful kitchen team led by Miss Spicer. Copies of our menu and booking forms can be found on our website.

Pre-School Move



In case you are not aware, our Pre-School will move into the Children's Centre building. Work starts on 16 January to convert the building into a suitable Pre-School setting which we can move into from the middle of February. I am particularly excited by this project as it confirms the Pre-School's development from a part-time provision in the Community Centre (as some of you may remember) to a purpose designed brick built permanent structure.

We can also expand our current numbers so if you are a parent of our Pre-School and want extra hours or know someone who wants a place, then please do get in touch (we have had quite a few enquiries already).

Dates for your Diary

Tues 24 Jan: 2BP trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Thurs 26 Jan: 2WA trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Tues 7 Feb: E Safety Day – parents meeting 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm / 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm. Information letter has been sent out to parents in December.

Mon 13 – Fri 17 Feb: Half Term

Mon 20 Feb: School re-opens

Thurs 2 March: World Book Day

Tues 7 March: Y1 trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Wed 8 March: Y1 trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Tues 28 March: YR trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Wed 29 March: YR trip to Gore farm (further details to follow)

Thurs 30 March: Last day of term

Fri 31 March: INSET Day

Mon 3 April – Mon 17 April: School closed for Easter

Tues 18 April: School re-opens

Best wishes for 2017

Richard Allham