



Head Teacher's Welcome



Being British I love the variety in the weather and the extremes that we experience. We've certainly had wide ranging conditions to deal with recently which has result in 'wet' playtimes to the newly invented 'sweat' playtimes!

Your support in ensuring that the children are appropriately dressed ready for whatever our lovely British weather throws at us is very much appreciated.

Richard Culham

Budget Cuts and Staff Changes

I make no apology for linking these 2 topics because like most schools across the country we have been forced into making "efficiency savings".

Some staff are moving on and are not necessarily being replaced as myself and the Governors restructure.

In the Leadership Team, *Mrs Parker* will become our Deputy Head with specific responsibility for Special Needs, Pastoral Support and Early Years.

Miss Walker remains as an Assistant Head and takes on responsibility for both KS1 and KS2.

Mrs Garbett is leaving us after 15 years to take on the Headship of Westonzoyland Primary School. As you will be aware, she has played a very big part in our successful development over the years and so huge thanks and very best wishes follow her across the Somerset levels.

Miss Boyce and *Mr Tucker* will also be leaving their maternity cover posts as *Miss Shutler* returns at the end of term and *Mrs Lock* will return in October. Many thanks and best wishes to them too.

Miss Rogers, our Finance Manager, is also leaving to take up a post as Finance and HR Manager at Willowdown Primary School. Her role will be taken on by our existing wonderful Admin team. Grateful thanks to Miss Rogers for her work on behalf of our school.

Mr Weeks, our ICT Technician, is also moving on to Falmouth University to begin a degree in Creative Music Technology. He has made a great impact in his time with us. Thank you.

Mrs Hawkins, our Music teacher, is retiring at the end of term. Our music provision has grown over the years that Mrs Hawkins has been with us and we have had some wonderful performances from choir, band, recorders and many other musical groups all led by her. We will miss her but wish her well in her

retirement.

So the budget cuts have meant that I could not replace Mrs Garbett or Miss Rogers or indeed other staff during the year. These include a LSA, sports coach, midday meal server, midday meals assistant and cleaner. We have though been able to recruit a new Y2 class teacher, Mrs Pimm, who will be working Monday – Wednesday.

I love change so a part of me does just shrug my shoulders, roll my sleeves up and enjoy the challenge. Part of me though, is also hugely disappointed that as we have built a good and successful school that we have to dismantle and re-structure.

Other cuts have also had to be made. There is less money for the resources for the curriculum, for trips, curriculum visitors, there is no longer daily fruit for KS2 children and many other budgets across school are squeezed!

But my glass is half full. I am actually greatly excited by next year because whilst acknowledging the contributions made by all 'leavers' we have a superb staff team who are talented, focused and ready to take Birchfield on even further to a successful future.

Class Lists and End of Year Reports

On Wednesday 12 July we will be sending out a letter regarding next year's classes. They will then meet their new teacher on Thursday 13 July. When parents come to collect their child they will have the opportunity to meet their child's new teacher after school that evening.

The end of year reports will be sent on Friday 14 July 2017.

Summer Fete – Saturday 15 July: 12 noon – 2.30 pm



This years fete promises to be an amazing day!

Our FoBS team have been working very hard to pull it all together with great success.

There are donkey rides, storm troopers, majorettes, Tai Kwando, various stalls, BBQ, our choir and country dancers will also be performing, Y6 Young Enterprise and the most amazing raffle prizes including £100 voucher, ladies and gentleman hamper, meat hamper, fruit hamper, champagne and chocolates, theatre tickets, various store vouchers, wine, Fit bit etc etc. There is also going to a Silent Auction and much more! The silent auction items will be on display in the school foyer area from Monday 10 July.

There will also be refreshments, cream teas and a cake stall where you can purchase some amazing cakes.

We look forward to you all joining us and hope that the weather is good for us.

E-Safety

Last week, Snapchat announced a new feature to their photo and video sharing app called 'Snap Maps', which allows users to share and access 'snaps' by location.



"We've built a whole new way to explore the world! See what's happening, find your friends, and get inspired to go on an adventure! It's easy to get started — just pinch to zoom out and view the Map!"

When talking to children and young people about online safety, it is vital that we (as adults) acknowledge the attraction and exciting opportunities that new technology offers, as well as offering sensible advice and guidance.

You could use this opportunity to start talking to pupils about location services and how to keep themselves safe. Why not let your children themselves lead the discussion on how they might use this new technology and what the potential risks may be; encourage them to explore ways in which they can minimise the risks and keep themselves and others safe. Asking our children to think critically about the online tools they use and their own behaviour is likely to be more effective than simply telling them not to use it! You may also find Childnet International's top tips about location services useful to share with pupils.

The following links provide general advice about the SnapChat app, including their community guidelines, privacy settings and how to block content or other users:

- www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/snapchat
- www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-help/snapchat
- www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/snapchat-safety-how-to-guide-for-parents
- www.snapchat.com/l/en-gb/safety- Snapchat's own advice for parents
- www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-%E2%80%98snap-maps%E2%80%99-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat

Questionnaire



It is important for me and our Governors to know your thoughts on school.

I have compiled a questionnaire that I would really appreciate your help with. It can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/birchfield2017> on our school website and via the text message that has been sent to parents. Paper copies are also available from the school office. Please could you complete or return the questionnaire by **Wednesday 19 July**. Thank you.

Sports Day

Many thanks for your support. The weather was really good for both days and I hope that you enjoyed watching your child take part and for some parents taking part in the races themselves. For KS2 'Maple' house won the House award. It was great that parents and grandparents could remain to eat their lunch on the field.



Dates for your Diary

Fri 7 July: Non school uniform day – in lieu of grocery items for hamper and unwanted gifts for school fete
Pre-School Sports Morning

Tue 11 July: Reception trip to Watermarque

Wed 12 July: Pre-School New Starters meeting (4.30 pm – 5.30 pm)

Thurs 13 July: Meet The Teacher

Fri 14 July: Y1 visiting St Michaels Church
School reports to be sent out
Non school uniform day – in lieu of bottles for tombola for school fete

Sat 15 July: School Fete: 12 noon – 2.30 pm

Mon 17 – Y6 Production ' Pirates of the Curry

Tues 18 July: Bean'

Thurs 20 July: Y6 trip to Crealy

Fri 21 July: Y6 leavers assembly (am)
Y6 BBQ (pm)
Last day of term

Mon 4 and INSET day

Tues 5 Sept: INSET day

Wed 6 Sept: School starts for the Autumn term

Mon 11 Sept: New Reception start

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Information to Parents

We are always thinking of ways to keep parents informed of what is going on in school. We currently primarily send home paper letters/newsletters etc and occasional texts but it would be very useful to know what YOU, as parents/carers would prefer or how you would like to receive information:

Please complete the section below and return it to the school office by **Wednesday 19 July**.

Paper/Letter Electronic Letter Emails Texts

Other preferred options:

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