



### *Head Teacher's Welcome*

I am writing this during the half term holiday and reflecting that just 5 weeks ago it was the end of our Christmas holidays and in 5 short weeks we start our Easter holidays! Obviously an early Easter this year has dictated the holiday dates but even with the majority of teachers that I know (in and out of Birchfield) working 50+ hours per week it was good going into this half term holiday feeling relatively human! Mind you, the summer term will be very long!!

*Richard Culham*

### Budget



Funnily enough the all important budget figures for 2018/19 were published on the last day before the holiday! Despite this, early preparation work and calculations made over the holiday suggest that, we should be able to successfully set a budget this year without too many cuts.

Some of you may wonder about this as there has been so much talk about "The Fairer Funding Formula" for schools. It is true that along with many Somerset schools, we have benefitted but sadly any surplus has been eaten away by increased costs, some of which were completely unexpected.

Fortunately, we have a strong business model and this will enable us to move forward with confidence and security. This year I have the privilege of being the Chair of the Somerset Primary Head Teachers Association so I can tell you that we are in a good position compared, sadly, to some others.

### Parents Code of Conduct Policy

Our Governors recently approved the above policy. I have written this because unfortunately sometimes there are problems that need considerable time and effort to resolve. We understand that emotions can be highly charged but we will not tolerate staff being verbally abused. No other profession will allow this and I am pleased that our school has taken this stance.

Please, if you do have a question to raise then do come and talk to myself or our staff. If you still have a concern then there are policies and procedures available on our website.

## Mobile Phones



Can I please remind you that the use of mobile phones in the building is not allowed. This is in line with most public buildings and is in place as a key safeguarding factor as most phones have cameras.

One exception will be Achievement Assemblies when we permit you to take a photograph of your child only and as long as there are staff present in the Hall.

Other exceptions are the infant nativity, the Y6 play, sports days and similar events. At these, we ask you to take photographs of your child only and that these are only shared between your family and close friends and not on social media.

## Website - any thoughts or ideas?

We are currently reviewing our website in terms of the quality of the content and its ease of use. Miss Walker is undertaking this piece of work so if you have any contributions then please let her know.

## Parent Consultation Meetings

These are taking place on Monday 12, Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 March 2018 between 3.40 pm and 6.30 pm. As usual we will have our 'online booking system' available to make bookings. This will be open from 6 pm on Friday 2 March.

We will also be holding a Book Fair on all 3 days in the Hall at the same time as the parent meetings.

## Hot School Meals

We have a good number of children having our school meals but to help our kitchen staff know how much food is required to be ordered, could you please ensure that the deadline for ordering school meals, which is on the ordering form, is complied with.

Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

## Farewell



We are saying 'farewell' to our Finance Assistant, Mrs Ginno, who is leaving us at the end of next week to start a new job in Exeter. Mrs Ginno started at Birchfield 12 years ago as a LSA and then transferred to the school office. We will all miss her but wish her well in her new job.

## Date for your Diary

**Mon 26 Feb:** Y3 Indian Dance and Art day

**Thur 1 March:** World Book Day – the children will not be dressing up this year but instead they will be taking part in a reading challenge (more details to follow)

**Tues 6 March:** Y4 trip to Cheddar Chocolate Factory

**Fri 9 March:** School Disco:

KS1 6 – 7 pm / KS2 7.15 – 8.30 pm

**Mon 12 to Wed - 14 March:**

Parent Consultation Meetings and Book Fair

**Mon 19 – Fri 23 March:** Sports Relief Week – School Councillors will be running an event (further details to follow)

**Wed 21 Mar:** Y5 Viking Boat Day

**Fri 23 March:** INSET Day and start of Easter holidays

**Mon 9 April:** School re-opens