

Birchfield Community Primary School & Pre-School

Newsletter: October 2018



Head Teacher's Welcome

This is a bit of a 'wordy' newsletter this month – sorry! There is important information and reminders that I wanted to pass on though!

Richard Culham

Open Morning / Evening

On **Wednesday 17 October** between 9 am and 12 noon, we will be holding our Open Morning. This is designed for both new Reception aged children for September 2019 but also an opportunity for current parents to come and see us 'in action'. Many of you regularly attend our curriculum events – this term has already seen us hold a Y1 Underpants events and a Y5 Greek morning. This Open Morning is a chance for you to see and enjoy a more 'normal' morning of lessons.

For new YR parents school will also be open for guided tours by our Y6 School Councillors on the evening of **Thursday 18 October** between 6 pm – 7 pm. Myself and other staff will also be available to answer any questions.

Reception Admissions - September 2019

Y6 Transfer to Senior School - September 2019

Reception - Is your child going to be 4 years old before 31 August 2019? You will need to apply for a place for your child to start school in September 2019 by **15 January 2019**. For an application form and further information please visit our school website or you can go on the Somerset County website at www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions to read the Primary or Secondary Admissions Guide.

Y6 Transfer – children due to transfer to secondary school in September 2019, the closing date for applications is **31 October 2018**. Please go on the Somerset County website www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions and click on 'starting at a secondary or upper school in September', if you are unable to go on the website we do have paper copies in the school office. It is vital that you register your child for a school place in September.

Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival this year will be held on **Friday 19 October**. More details will follow shortly but I do hope that you will be able to support our Harvest celebrations. We will again be raising funds for Child.org and food products for The Lord's Larder.

Reading and Maths

These are key focus curriculum areas for us this year.

'Maths No Problem', which is our new scheme, is well established consistently across school. We are intending to hold our parents event on this later this term so that you can find out more about how it is taught and how you can support your child.

Reading is incredibly important for all our learning and key to success in all curriculum subjects. Our expectation is easily achievable in my opinion, which is that, as a minimum a child should be heard read at least 3 times per week. Accelerated quizzes can be taken each morning from 8.40 am in the ICT suite. Your support in these key areas is very much appreciated.

Online Safety - E360 Award

We are delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the prestigious E360 online safety award. Following a rigorous assessment process it has been confirmed that our online safety arrangements, pupil training and parental engagement have resulted in this award.

Very well done to our E Safety Team of Mr Garbett, Mr Coate, Danielle Barter, Matt Merriam (Governor) and myself!

Attendance



We are working hard to improve our attendance figures as they 'dipped' last year.

I know that sometimes an illness can make attending school difficult but often a 'tummy ache' can disappear once the school day starts and the children become engrossed in their learning.

Currently our attendance figure for this term is 96.90%.

Unfortunately several term time holidays have already been taken which have had a negative impact on the children's learning and the school attendance figure.

Your child's attendance at school is vitally important to their future success.

Staffing

Last week we saw *Miss Saunders* leave us after 3 years as a wonderful Sports Coach and class LSA. She is exploring new options closer to her home in the Bridgwater area. We wish her well and thank her for her work. Her replacement - **Mr Eveleigh** will begin very soon once all paperwork is completed.

Mr Coate is also moving on. His last day will be this Friday (12 October). He is exploring new opportunities taking up a position with Yarlington. He has played a key role within school – most notably perhaps in our recently awarded online safety qualification the 'E360'. We wish him well for the future too. His post will be advertised soon.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Thank you for your support at our recent fundraising morning for Macmillan Cancer Support – a wonderful £138.11 was raised.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Our online booking system will be live from 6 pm on Friday 12 October for you to book your Parent Consultation meetings. If you have any problems logging in please contact the school office.

Internet Matters.org

This time of year is a demanding time for families as children get used to being back at school, making new friends and experiencing the challenges of a new year group. As a child's world expands, so does their 'digital social circle' (relationships they make with others online and in the real world).

To support families, Internet Matters are promoting their back-to-school guides for parents. For more information please visit their website

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/back-to-school-online-safety-guides>.

New Chair of Governors

At our Governors meeting in September, Matt Merriam stood down as Chair of Governors after 7 years. His time as Chair has been a very important and successful period and we are all in his debt. On a personal note his support and challenge to me has also been a key factor in our work. *Thank you Matt.*

His successor is Lesley Leighton. Lesley's daughter has just started in Y7 at Bucklers Mead and we are all delighted that she has stayed on the Governing Body and is now Chair! Thank you Lesley.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 19 Oct: Harvest Assembly
Tues 23 – Thurs 25 Oct: Parent Consultation meetings
Mon 29 Oct – Fri 2 Nov: Half Term
Mon 5 Nov: First day back after half term
Tues 6 Nov: Y2 trip to SS Great Britain
Thurs 8 Nov: Y5 & Y6 trip to Cineworld (am)
Fri 9 Nov: Y3 trip to Cineworld (am)
Mon 19 Nov: R & KS1 trip to Cineworld (am)
Tues 20 Nov: Y5 trip to Taunton Museum
Wed 21 Nov: Y4 trip to Cineworld (am)
Fri 7 Dec: School Disco (more info to follow)
Tues 11 Dec: YR & KS1 Christmas Nativity (pm)

Wed 12 Dec: YR & KS1 Christmas Nativity (am)
Thurs 13 Dec: YR & KS1 Christmas Nativity (pm)
Fri 14 Dec: YR & KS1 Christmas Nativity (am)
Tues 18 Dec: Christmas Jumper Day and school Christmas Lunch
Wed 19 Dec: YR & KS1 Christmas parties
Thurs 20 Dec: YR & KS1 Pantomime trip to the Octagon (more details to follow)
2 pm – KS2 Carol Service at St Michaels Church (more details to follow)
Fri 21 Dec: INSET Day
Mon 7 January 2019: School re-opens