



Head Teacher's Welcome

This term has only been 4 weeks but it has been extremely busy in many different ways. I have included below some information about some important changes and new priorities for our school. As one of the staff to me said last week "the honeymoon period is well and truly over!"

Richard Culham

Federating

Hopefully by now you will have had a chance to read the letter that I sent out last Monday by email about us Federating with 2 local schools. I am very pleased that I have had conversations about this with a few parents but would welcome further discussions if you want to know more. There is a meeting scheduled for 3 pm on Thursday 3 October with both our Chair of Governors, Lesley Leighton, and myself.

In looking into establishing a Federation I was very aware that we have a very strong school now and, having worked hard to achieve this, none of us want to risk that. But it is clear that working collaboratively is the way forward for all schools and is definitively the preferred option for the Government and Ofsted. Therefore, I would prefer that we set the pace by working with schools that we already have a good relationship with and with whom we have a similar ethos and direction.

As the Executive Head, I have been having several planning meetings with the other Heads and we are establishing some exciting plans and opportunities for all schools but for the children particularly – ultimately the main thrust here for me is that the children have an even better education. We can achieve this by working closely together, sharing good practice, sharing resources and from learning from our colleagues from across the Federation.

Can I just make a few points clear that were asked of me – there will be no job losses as a result of us Federating, there will be no change to our school name or uniform but there will be even more educational opportunities to benefit our staff and children.

Time Capsule



As the wall building gathers pace, we have decided that this is a good time to bury a "Time Capsule". In Assemblies and in classes we have been discussing what to put in it that reflects our school. If you have any ideas please feel free to mention them to the class teacher, myself or to the Office.

Hopefully in 50 – 100 years' time future generations will be able to look back with interest at Birchfield in 2019!

Named Uniform

You can guess where this paragraph is heading! We try hard to return lost uniform but are constantly hindered by the lack of names in the clothing. Please do this asap!

I hear that some parents get cross with us when clothes go missing – this, in my opinion, is wrong. Although it is encouraged, it's not our job to teach the children to look after their possessions!

Assemblies

During the last year I increasingly felt that our celebration assemblies were becoming too long and complicated. I didn't feel that we properly celebrated the children's successes because it was such a rush.

This year we have debated this amongst the teaching staff and have a new plan that celebrates properly the children's achievements but in a more measured way.

Each week the classes will select "a Learner (or similar wording) of the week". They will celebrate this in their Year Group assemblies with a certificate and a HUGE round of applause. Mrs Parker and I will know who the winners are each week and will be able to celebrate as we see the children during the week.



On a Wednesday we will celebrate altogether our Birchfield Award children. Each child receiving an award will come to the Hall with their work that reflects the reasons why they achieved their award. You will be invited to join us so that they can show you all their successes. This will be a celebration that concludes with the awarding of their badges and a photo opportunity.

I hope that you or other members of your family will be able to join us when it is your child's turn.

Bearded Dragons

As I write this we are purchasing 2 Bearded Dragons to replace "Freddy". Hopefully they will be in the Vivarium near the Hall very soon.



ParentPay

We are now at 88% sign up for this which is brilliant! It is saving us and you a lot of time and energy and is proving very popular! If you are one of the few who haven't signed up yet then please pop into the office as soon as possible to collect the relevant information. Staff are always happy to help you if any problems arise!

Harvest

Many thanks indeed for the wonderful contributions both to our Harvest appeal on behalf of the Lord's Larder and to the Child.org charity. Our assembly featured a talk given to the children and staff by a volunteer from The Lord's Larder who explained all about their work and how your contributions make a difference to so many people in the Yeovil area.



Dates for your Diary

Thurs 3 Oct: Circus themed school lunch

Federation meeting for parents @ 3 pm

Tues 8 Oct: Y4 trip to Tutankhamun Exhibition

Thurs 10 & Fri 11 Oct: Welcoming our Erasmus visitors to school

Mon 14 Oct: FOBs meeting @ 3.30 pm. All welcome

Tues 15 Oct: Y1 Alien party (am)

Open Morning from 9 am – 12 noon

Thurs 17 Oct: Open Evening from 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Fri 18 Oct: School Disco – further details to follow

Tues 22 – Thurs 24: Parent Consultation meetings
3.40 pm – 6.30 pm (further information to follow)

Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov: Half Term

Mon 4 Nov: School reopens

Wed 6 Nov: YR, Y1, Y2 trip to the cinema (am)

Thurs 7 Nov: Y5 & Y6 trip to the cinema (am)

Fri 8 Nov: Y3 & Y4 trip to the cinema (am)

Mon 11 Nov: Flu Immunisation for the whole school

Tues 19 Nov: Y2 trip to SS Great Britain

Fri 6 Dec: School Bingo – further details to follow

Tues 10 Dec: Reception and Pre-School Christmas performance (am – exact time to be confirmed)
Y1 & Y2 Christmas Nativity @ 2 pm

Thurs 12 Dec: Y1 & Y2 Christmas Nativity (am – time to be confirmed)

Reception and Pre-School Christmas performance
2 pm

Y4 last swimming session

Tue 17 Dec: Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day

Wed 18 Dec: KS1 Christmas parties (pm)

Thurs 19 Dec: Last day of term

KS1 pantomime trip at the Octagon (am)

KS2 Carol service 2 pm @ **St John's Church**

Mon 6 Jan 2020: School reopens