

Birchfield Community Primary School & Pre-School

Newsletter: January 2020



Head Teacher's Welcome



A belated 'welcome back'!

We had a very busy and successful first week back after our Christmas holiday. I do hope that your festive celebrations were very enjoyable and that your new year brings you all that you hope for.

Richard Culham

Staffing

At the end of last term we said 'Au Revoir' to Mr McClelland and Miss Amos.



This term we welcome *Mrs Carter* and *Miss Green* in Reception (RSM will now be known as RCG) and *Miss Lockyer* in Year 1 (1SA is now called 1NL).

In addition we welcome *Mrs Humby* who joins us in our Admin team and *Miss Hodges* who joins our lunchtime team.

We also welcome back *Danielle Barter* as our Pastoral Lead who returns after her maternity leave and we welcome *Mrs Charles* to the team (see below).

Pastoral Support

At Birchfield we have always recognised the importance of supporting our pupils and families which is why we have a strong Pastoral team. Danielle takes the lead for us but works alongside a strong team of others across school including Mrs Bateson and Mrs Bowring who work closely with several children.

I am pleased to report that we now have a new PFSA. *Mrs Charles* started with us this term bringing with her a whole range of skills and experience.

We understand that there will often be a need for a 'drop in' but so that we can more efficiently manage our provision we are moving to an appointment system. Please speak to Mandy Saunders in Reception.

Attendance



Can I please remind everyone of the importance of good attendance. Not only is good attendance teaching the children good life skills but there is a direct link to academic success.

You will have received a "Traffic Light" letter recently which details your children's attendance so far this year. Any questions about your child's traffic light colour or anything else about attendance, please contact Mrs White.

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please can you provide the office with proof of the appointment. Please do not collect your child early unless it is an emergency or a pre-booked appointment that you have informed the office of beforehand.

Please can I remind you that the school day is KS1 8.55 am – 3.15 pm and KS2 8.55 am - 3.20 pm. We encourage that children are not collected early.

Breakfast and Tea Time Club

Both of these are important to our work and very successful. Can I please remind you of the need to book your child's place **in advance**. There has to be a limit to numbers and several times last term we reached this number and simply could not take any more. We understand that emergencies do happen and we do try to help out as necessary but we cannot be used as a frequent problem solver!

Birchfield Two/Too



I came up with the above name several years ago when we were approached by County to re-open the old Bucklers Mead Pre-School – then the badgers moved in!

Several years later the badgers have moved on so plans are being made to open our new Pre-School on the Bucklers site. This will happen either at Easter or in September depending on how quickly we can get into the building and get started! More news to follow.

Trees



I have been thinking a lot about climate change recently especially as I have a daughter living in Australia at the moment!

As a result of discussions with the staff at Gore Farm Educational Trust and with the County Ecological Department we are looking to plant over 100 trees on our site over the next few months. This has been made possible by the generosity of one of our parents who is financially supporting this initiative.

I know that this is an issue that many of our children are concerned about so anything that we can all do together to safeguard their future is important.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 17 Jan: School Disco 6 pm – 7 pm KS1
7.15 pm – 8.30 pm KS2

Fri 24 Jan: Non school uniform in lieu of bingo prizes

Fri 31 Jan: FoBS Doughnut sale at 3.10 pm

Fri 7 Feb: FoBS Bingo (further details to follow)

Thurs 13 Feb: FoBS Book Sale (further details to follow)

Fri 14 Feb: Height and Weight check for YR and Y6
Last day of term

Mon 17 –

Fri 21 Feb: Half Term

Mon 24 Feb: School re-opens