



### Head Teacher's Welcome



The mornings are getting brighter earlier and the evenings are getting lighter so spring must be on its way!

**Richard Culham**

### Assemblies

As I have mentioned previously, our new celebration assembly has proven very popular with parents/carers and the children. We have had a few 'no shows' from children's families which has been very upsetting for the child. We always try to bring in a member of staff as a 'substitute'. From this week we will email you on the Monday of your child's assembly to check that your invite is not at the bottom of a book bag! It would be helpful if you could let us know whether you can attend or not.

### West Coker Primary School

At the end of last term, I was asked if I could cover West Coker Primary School whilst their Head is absent. I am spending the equivalent of 2 days per week there at the moment but am in constant contact with Birchfield.

I feel confident that this will be successful and not have a negative impact on our school, mainly because we have a wonderful staff team.

As ever, if you have any questions whilst I am not here, please ask at the office or see Mrs Parker.

### Parents Evening

Although the dates are at the bottom of this email, we can confirm that Parents Evenings are on 31 March, 1 and 2 April. Booking via <https://www.parents-booking.co.uk/birchfield> can be made from 6 pm 19 March 2020. Please make every effort to attend to discuss your child's learning progress.

### Playground Wall

Finally, it is nearly finished! There are just a couple of bits of fence to go. I know that it was supposed to be finished in September but the finished look is brilliant! Thank you Somerset Landscapes!

## Attendance



Inevitably at this time of year our attention is drawn to our summer holidays. Can I please ask that holidays are not taken in term time as this can seriously impact on your child's learning and you do run the risk of a fine.

## Coronavirus

### Coronavirus – Advice for all early years providers, schools and further education providers

The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad.

The overall risk of Coronavirus to the UK remains moderate. However we understand that people may be concerned where there are children, students or staff returning from or visiting China.

### Advice for parents/guardians

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice.

### What action you can take

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus. You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours.

To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

**Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)**

We will discuss this with the children and do everything we can to encourage good healthy hygiene practices.

## Staff Retirement



After almost a total of 40 years service to the pupils and staff at Birchfield Primary School, we say farewell to 2 of our cleaning team. **Nancy Muir and Doris McDonnell** will be retiring on Friday 28 February after almost 24 years service and 16 ½ years service respectively. We thank them enormously for their hard work, loyalty and dedication and wish them all the very best in their well-earned retirement.

## Dates for your Diary

**Thurs 13 Feb:** FoBS Book Sale 8.30 am School Hall  
50p per book

**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

**Fri 28 Feb:** FOBS Doughnut sale from 3.10 pm –  
money raised will go towards Tilly’s charity ‘DHK’

**Mon 2 – Fri 6 March:** Y3 Erasmus trip to Italy

**Fri 13 March:** Red Nose Day – wrist bands £1 will  
be on sale (further details to follow)

**Wed 25 – Fri 27 March:** Y3 residential trip

**Fri 27 March:** FOBS Disco (further details to follow)

**Tues 31 March, Wed 1 April, Thurs 2 April:**

Parent Consultation evenings  
from 3.40 pm – 6.30 pm (further details to follow)

**Fri 3 April:** INSET day – school closed

**Mon 6 – Fri 17 April:** Easter holidays

**Mon 20 April:** School re-opens

**Fri 24 April:** FOBS Bingo (further details to follow)