



Birchgrove Primary School

September 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome

On behalf of staff and governors it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone back to school. A very special welcome to all our new children and families; we hope that you settle quickly and that your association with the school is a long, happy and fulfilling one.

It has been lovely to see so many happy faces and children excited and engaged in their learning.

We welcome Mrs Milner to the team. Her daughter was at the school when I first started so she has reconnected with the school which is lovely. Mrs Pesticcio, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Roberts have all returned from maternity leave and Mrs Bertelli is now working full time.

I am very pleased that the new arrangements for the start of the day seem to be working smoothly. As you are aware the school gate opens at 8:45am to enable staff time to prepare the classrooms for the school day. Please aim to arrive at 8:45 as learning begins in class at 8:50. Please make sure that children are in class by 8:50. Many become distressed at the prospect of walking into lessons late and not knowing what is happening. The school gate needs to be locked by 8:55 at the latest so that pupils can move freely around the site. Staff are all in a staff meeting until 8:45 on a Friday morning.

The local authority has been completing repairs to the roof over the summer. Hopefully these will be completed very shortly and the scaffolding removed. We will then be able to tidy up the front of the school. We are delighted to launch our new school website. My thanks to Mrs Miles for co-ordinating the change and transferring lots of the information. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

[Birchgrove Primary School - Home](http://birchgroveprimaryschool.co.uk)
(birchgrovecardiff.co.uk)

We are continuing the rollout of free school meals to more children in line with the local authority. Please remember that all meals need to be ordered in advance to ensure that sufficient food is cooked each day. I understand that there have been a few problems with the system this week but hopefully these difficulties have been remedied. It was a problem across the city.

We are delighted that once again we are able to offer many of the activities and experiences which help to make school life such a rich and varied one. Please look out for further information on clubs for different year groups.

We look forward to a very busy and fulfilling term.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Morgan - Headteacher

Forthcoming Events and Further Information

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

14th September Year 1 audiology screening

20th September Year 4 trip to Bethesda Church

21st September Year 5 trip to Bethesda Church

22nd September Year 6 trip to Bethesda Church

25th September Year 4 Anti-Racism workshop

26th September Year 3 trip to Bryngarw Park

28th September Individual and sibling photos

6th October INSET DAY

19th October LUSH cosmetics visit Year 6

25th + 26th October Virtual Parents' Evenings

30th October – 3rd November HALF TERM holiday

15th November Flu nasal spray all year groups

16th November Year 6 Magistrates in the community

Christmas Activities

12th December **10am Year 1, 2pm Reception**

13th December **10am Year 2, 2pm Year 1**

14th December **10am Reception, 2pm Year 2**

18th December Years 3 + 4 party

19th December Rec, Years 1 + 2 party

20th December Years 5 + 6 party

20th December Christmas Carol Concert 6:30pm tbc

Last day of autumn term **Friday 22nd December**

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

6B	Thursday 23rd November
6J	Friday 24th November
4B	Thursday 25th January
4V	Friday 26th January
5W	Thursday 1st February
5M	Friday 2nd February
1O	Thursday 8th February
1N	Friday 9th February
2P	Thursday 14th March
2G	Friday 15th March
3J	Thursday 21st March
3L	Friday 22nd March
RC	Thursday 25th April
RBC	Friday 26th April

Assemblies begin at 9am and parents, friends and family are very welcome to join us.

Active Travel

This school year Birchgrove is again part of a project encouraging Active Travel. Each day in class pupils will record how they have travelled to school. Pupils are encouraged to walk, scoot or bike to school for as much of their journey as possible.

Each month pupils who have travelled actively at least 3 times each week will be awarded a WOW badge. This year's theme is The British Nature Walk and we are thrilled that one of the badges was designed by Rose, one of our year 6 stars. Her design was based on a Welsh landscape. Over 2000 schools across the UK are signed up to the tracker so her design will be seen across the country.

Please support your child and the school in doing our bit to increase active travel and healthy living.

If you would like to learn more about the project, please follow this link:

www.keepingcardiffmoving.co.uk/schools



Attendance

It is extremely important that your child is in school as much as possible. The Welsh Government set a target of at least 95% for each child. Please be honest with us and contact the school office either by ringing and leaving a message on the absence line or by email on the first day of any absence. Holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

PTFA

Our amazing PTFA continue to organise a range of fantastic activities and events for pupils and their families. **Their first meeting of the school year is Tuesday 19th September at 6:15 in school. They are seeking new members so please come along to see how you can become an important part of this team.** The first event this term is a Bingo Gingo night on Friday 22nd September. Look out for more details coming shortly.

Thank you to everyone who has donated pre-loved school uniform. This is an excellent way of recycling whilst also saving money and raising funds for the school. We are delighted that it is such a great success.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 28th September** taking photographs of individuals and sibling groups.

Flu Nasal Spray

The date for our school is 15th November. More details will be sent out when available.

Speaking to Teachers

With the current arrangements we understand that it may be difficult to speak with teachers. If you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to telephone us at school, Dojo or write a short note – we will be happy to arrange an appointment for you to speak to either myself or to the class teacher. Teachers will also send important messages regarding the class through Class Dojo so please check your messages.

Food and Fun

In the summer we were delighted to once again run a Food and Fun Welsh Government funded summer holiday programme. The project ran for 12 days over 3 weeks and was a huge success. Please look back at our Twitter feed over the summer to see examples of the great experiences our pupils had. Hopefully WG will release funding to enable us to participate again next year.

Breakfast Club

Unfortunately the Breakfast Club is full. If you would like your child's name to be added to the waiting list then please speak to Mrs Thorne in the school office. The waiting list is already quite substantial.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in a role in breakfast club please ask them to contact the office. We will not be able to increase the number attending, thus decreasing the waiting list, until we have secured additional staff.

Parking around the school

Parking around the school site remains a problematic issue. Please may I ask for your consideration to our neighbours when collecting or dropping off children and your support in ensuring the safety of all our families.

INSET DAYS

Friday 6th October

Monday 22nd July

Please note there are another 3 Inset Days still to be confirmed.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the past pupils who achieved so well in their GCSEs, AS and A level results. You make us very proud and remain Birchgrove Stars!



