



# Birchgrove Primary School

## November 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the long but thoroughly enjoyable autumn term. Despite the cold, damp weather and start of the winter bugs there is so much to look forward to in the lead up to Christmas, and it always passes in a flash.

There have been a few staff changes to make you aware of. Sadly last half term we said goodbye to Mrs Barras from the office who has gone to work full time at her local school and TAs Mrs Godden, Mrs Griffin and Ms Smith. We wish them all well in their new roles. Miss Davies also left just before half term to travel to Australia for an amazing adventure. We are hoping she will send us some photos to share with the children.

We therefore welcome a number of new staff including Mrs Sheikh who will be taking over from Miss Davies, She will be working Wednesday – Friday each week. Miss Hinksman, Mrs Rees and Mrs Cummings will be working as TAs across the younger classes.

Attendance in school is extremely important to ensure that children achieve their full potential. Each week the class with the highest attendance receives the attendance cup. Our school target for this year is to have attendance of at least 96% across the school. For the first half term the figures for each class were as follows:

RC	95.4%
RBC	96%
1N	97.4%
1O	97.6%
2P	95.9%
2G	97.7%
3J	95.7%
3L	97.7%
4B	96.9%
4V	94.6%
5M	94.2%
5W	95.4%
6B	97.6%
6J	97.5%

**CONGRATULATIONS** to 2G and 3L for being at the top of the league table at the moment. It is very close though!

It has been a very busy term already with numerous trips and visitors helping to make our Birchgrove curriculum a varied, interesting and authentic one. Please follow our X (previously Twitter) feed to see what we are up to.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Sarah Morgan - Headteacher*

### Forthcoming Events and Further Information

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 10<sup>th</sup> November** PTFA Movie Night
- 14<sup>th</sup> November** Spectrum workshops Year 2 + 6
- 15<sup>th</sup> November** Flu Nasal spray – whole school
- 16<sup>th</sup> November** Magistrates in the Community – Yr 6
- 17<sup>th</sup> November** Crucial Crew trip – Yr 6
- 17<sup>th</sup> November** Children in Need
- 21<sup>st</sup> November** Spectrum workshops Year 2 + 6
- 24<sup>th</sup> November** Animal Zone visit Year 5
- 27<sup>th</sup> November** Spectrum workshops Year 2 + 6
- 29<sup>th</sup> November** School Council visit Tesco to assist with Food Bank appeal
- 30<sup>th</sup> November** Senedd visit – Yr 6
- 1<sup>st</sup> December** Year 4 + 6 visit Bethel Baptist for Christmas play.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December** PTFA Christmas Fayre
- 4<sup>th</sup> December** Dwr Cymru assembly
- 7<sup>th</sup> December** Choir singing at Tesco am
- 15<sup>th</sup> December** Choir singing in town in aid of City Hospice
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December** Christmas Jumper day

#### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

##### Reception Concert

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30am

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

##### Year 1 Concert

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm

##### Year 2 Concert

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm

Tickets for concerts will cost £2 each and be available from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December from the school office. There is no limit to the number of tickets each family may purchase.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December Yr 3+4 Christmas party

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December Rec, Yr 1+2 Christmas party

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December Yr 5+6 Christmas party

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service at St Marks church. More details to follow.

Last day of autumn term **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Start of spring term **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Half Term 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The last day of school in the summer term will be **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Please remember that it is extremely important that pupils are in school and on time each day. Learning begins at 8:50 every morning so children arriving after this time miss the start to the day. For many this is upsetting and unsettling as they miss important instructions and do not like walking into a class that is already settled and working.

### **School Council**

School Council were delighted to be able to organise an awareness raising day on 20<sup>th</sup> October for Show Racism the Red Card. A super £227 was raised whilst also reminding us of how we should behave to be responsible citizens.

Their next event is for Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. Please look out for more communication from them shortly.

### **Breakfast Club**

Unfortunately the Breakfast Club is full and there are currently 10 pupils on the waiting list. If you know of anyone who would be interested in a role in breakfast club please ask them to contact the school. Until we are able to recruit more staff I will be unable to release more places.

### **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. Please also ensure that if you or your child are cycling or scooting to school you are mindful of pedestrians who are also using the pavements. There have been a number of near misses recently.

### **ADMISSION TO PRIMARY / SECONDARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Applications for transfer to high school must be submitted by **20<sup>th</sup> November 2023**.**

**Applications for admission to reception class in September 2024 close on **7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.**

**Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of preference forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Other preference forms received will be considered as late applications. Please contact the school if you need support in completing the forms.**

**Also, please pass this information on to anybody you know that does not currently have a child in school to ensure they do not miss the dates. Thank you.**

### **Speaking to Teachers**

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. Please remember teachers cannot answer messages in the school day whilst they are teaching or late in the evening.

### **Lost Property**

We have a lot of lost property, jumpers, cardigans, coats, drinks bottles and lunch boxes. All items with names have been returned but still a huge pile remain!!! If your child has misplaced anything please look through the pile in the old hall. These items will be removed before the Christmas fayre. PLEASE remember to name all items so that if lost they can be returned immediately.

### **Christmas Cards**

With Christmas fast approaching we would ask that pupils who wish to send cards bring a single card written to the whole class which will be displayed for everyone to enjoy.

This will dramatically reduce the number of cards sent and support our commitment to the environment and becoming an Eco school.

### **PTFA**

Our wonderful PTFA have already been busy organising events. Many children enjoyed the discos before half term and Movie night has once again proved extremely popular selling out extremely quickly.

Please help by supporting the events to raise much needed funds to enhance the education of your children.

**Next major events:**

**Film Night 10<sup>th</sup> November – SOLD OUT**

**Christmas Fayre 2nd December**

### **Cooked school dinners**

The universal rollout of free school meals has continued this term with children up to and including year 3 currently able to take up this offer. A new menu has been introduced this week and I understand that year 4 are very likely to be included in the offer over the next couple of weeks. Please look out for further communication when we have been informed officially.

We continue to have logistical difficulties and sadly are still unable to offer grab bags on trip days. We apologise for this.

Please remember that any dinners must be ordered by 8am each morning. The software cuts off at this point and no more meals can be added.

Please do not include nuts in any packed lunches as we have children with severe nut allergies in school.

