



Birchgrove Primary School

January 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of staff and Governors I would like to wish all members of the Birchgrove community a Very Happy New Year.

"Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!"

Despite a great deal of illness towards the end of the autumn term it was lovely to be able to celebrate and share with so many of our families through events such as the Christmas concerts, fayre and Carol service. Thank you for all your amazing support once again to make these occasions so special.

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

RC	94.4%
RBC	94.8%
1N	95.7%
1O	95.2%
2P	94.4%
2G	96.6%
3J	95.2%
3L	97.3%
4B	96.3%
4V	93.7%
5M	94.4%
5W	95.0%
6B	96.3%
6J	97.5%

CONGRATULATIONS to 6J for being at the top of the league table at the moment. The figure for the whole school was 95.5% which is below our target. Hopefully we will see this improve through the spring term with less illness and fewer holidays being taken.

Please be honest with us, your children and their friends are, 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.

Yours sincerely
Sarah Morgan - Headteacher

Forthcoming Events and Further Information

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 11th January** Families learning together project for parents / carers of pupils in R, Yr1, and Yr 2
- 18th January** Design to Smile workshop for Yr 4
- 22nd January Online safety workshop 5:30pm**
- 25th January** Year 5 trip to NDEC Ebbw Vale
- 26th January** visit to years 2 and 5 by Whitchurch Fire Station
- w/b 29th January and 5th February** cycling proficiency for Yr 6
- 5th – 9th February** Children's Mental Health Week – more information to follow from School Council
- 8th February** Yr 5 trip to USW Treforest
- 12th – 17th February Half Term Holiday**
- 19th February INSET DAY**
- 22nd February** Year 6 trip to NDEC Ebbw Vale
- 1st March** Eisteddfod celebrations
- w/b 11th March** Year 6 residential trip to Morfa Bay
- 10th June** KS2 sports day
- 2nd July** FP Fun morning
- 4th July** FP Fun morning reserve date

Wednesday 6th + Thursday 7th March Parents' Evenings - in person, in school – more details to follow after half term

Last day of spring term **Friday 22nd March**

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

Please note INSET days for this academic year:
Monday 19th February
Tuesday 7th May
Monday 22nd July
There is 1 additional day still to be organised.



Online Safety

In a world of ever-increasing reliance on digital technology and fast paced developments, it is essential that we are all aware of how to keep safe online.

With this in mind a group of our pupils are helping to run a workshop for parents on Monday 22nd January at 5:30pm.

The world can be a scary place and there are many detrimental aspects and threats to using technology that can be avoided or reduced in simple ways.

Please come along to our workshop to learn directly from our pupils.

We would appreciate you sending an email into school to confirm your attendance so that we know how many people to accommodate.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

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.

Snacks

For those children who bring their own snacks, mainly in KS2 please remember that it should be fruit or vegetables only. This does not include e.g. fruit strings or cereal bars. These items can be kept for consumption at lunch time.

Active Travel

Birchgrove Primary continues to be a very active school with most pupils being active on their journey to and from school. We were delighted to recently learn that we were the top school in Wales during the summer term 2023. Remember to look out for Rose's beautiful design which was chosen for the January badge this year.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Please look out for information later this week regarding 2 vacancies for parent Governors on our Governing Body. This is an exciting opportunity to learn more and contribute to the running of our wonderful school.

Sports Days

Monday 10th June am - KS2 Sports Day at Cardiff Met
Tuesday 2nd July am – FP Fun morning
Thursday 4th July FP Fun morning reserve date

Spare PE kit

If you have any old PE kit or trainers that you would be willing to donate to the school we would be extremely grateful to receive them.

This would enable pupils who have forgotten their kit to participate in lessons.

Please place any donations in the doorway by Mrs Morgan's office.

Cooked school dinners

A reminder that cooked dinners must be ordered by 8am each day. This is to ensure that the correct number of dinners are cooked without wastage. If you forget to order unfortunately we cannot guarantee that there will be food available or that there will be a choice of food.

Lost Property

We continue to have a lot of lost property, jumpers, cardigans, coats, drink 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. PLEASE remember to name all items so that if lost they can be returned immediately.

Parking around the school

Once again, I need to remind a small number of parents to ensure they park safely and legally. We must show consideration to our neighbours when collecting and dropping off children ensuring the safety of all our families. Please do not park on the yellow lines directly adjacent to the school.

Reception Intake September 24

ADVANCE NOTICE

If you have a child due to start reception in September please note these dates:

Wednesday 19th June – New Intake meeting

24th June and 1st July – New Intake meet the teacher meetings

11th July – New Intake play date

Leavers' Events for Year 6

Thursday 11th July – Transition day at WHS

Monday 15th July – Disco 6pm

Wednesday 9th am and Tuesday 10th July pm
– Leavers' concert

Thursday 18th July – Awards night 6pm

