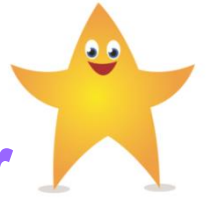




Birchgrove Primary School

September 2024 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 Mr Davies and Mrs Bijalwan to the team. 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.

I am very grateful to parent Mr Lee Jones who organised for a group of volunteers to come into school during the summer holiday to assist with tidying up the grounds. They made a great difference - diolch yn fawr!



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

16th September Families Learning Together project starts – see posters around school – Rec, Yr 1 + Yr 2

19th September Year 4 trip to Big Pit

25th September Year 2 trip to The Meadows

26th September Individual and sibling photos

27th September Litter pick after school

2nd October Flu Nasal Spray all year groups

3rd October Year 5 trip to Digital Forensics project

4th October **INSET DAY**

9th + 10th October **Parents' Evenings in person in school**

17th October Year 5 trip to NDEC

24th October Year 6 trip to NDEC

28th October – 1st November HALF TERM holiday

19th November Year 6 trip to Senedd

Christmas Activities

10th December **10am Year 2, 2:30pm Reception**

11th December **10am Year 1, 2:30pm Year 2**

12th December **10am Reception, 2:30pm Year 1**

16th December Years 3 + 4 party

17th December Rec, Years 1 + 2 party

18th December Years 5 + 6 party

18th December Christmas Carol Concert 6:30pm tbc

Last day of autumn term **Friday 20th December**
Pupils return to school on Monday 6th January

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

6B	Thursday 14th November
6J	Friday 15th November
5M	Thursday 23rd January
5D	Friday 24th January
4L	Thursday 13th February
4W	Friday 14th February
3G	Thursday 20th March
3V	Friday 21st March
2P	Thursday 27th March
2B	Friday 28th March
1O	Thursday 10th April
1BC	Friday 11th April
Rec	Thursday 19th June
Rec	Friday 20th June

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

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise the educational opportunities available to them and to achieve their full potential.

Unfortunately, the number of holidays taken in term time has increased significantly over the last few years. The Welsh Government introduced FPNs (Fixed Penalty Notices) as a means of addressing unauthorised absence from school.

Following a national and local campaign to improve attendance, this year we will be returning to issuing FPNs for a period of absence from school due to a holiday that was not authorised by school. This is for all holidays which last more than 10 sessions (5 school days). Please note that these days do not have to be consecutive so taking 2 short breaks within the year could lead to an FPN being issued.

An FPN is £60 if paid within 28 days, rising to £120 after that.

We understand that holidays are frequently cheaper at different times of the year but missing just 1 or 2 days of school rather than multiple days can often secure these lower prices. Individual circumstances and commitments vary; this is why we will consider each case on an individual basis. However, holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Please be honest with us, your children and their friends are. If we believe you have been away when you have said your child is unwell it will be up to you to prove the absence was not due to a holiday by providing medical evidence. If this is not provided a fine will be issued.

Outdoor Learning

Please remember that all pupils are expected to change for PE lessons. If pupils do not bring their own change of clothing then they will be given spare kit which we have in school.

Pupils will also be going outside for lessons and playtimes even if there is some rain. Please ensure that they have suitable footwear and clothing.

PTFA

Our amazing PTFA continue to organise a range of fantastic activities and events for pupils and their families. **Please look out for the date of their next meeting which will be organised shortly. They are seeking new members so please come along to see how you can become an important part of this team.**

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. If you need any items please contact the school or PTFA directly.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on **Thursday 26th September** taking photographs of individuals and sibling groups.

Flu Nasal Spray

The date for our school is Wednesday 2nd October. A link to complete the paperwork was sent out by email last week.

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 X (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.

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 4th October

Monday 21st July

Please note there are another 2 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!



