



Birchgrove Primary School



April 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the summer term which is always a busy and exciting one with lots to pack in. This is especially true this year as Easter was so late.

At the end of the spring term we were sad to say goodbye to Miss Dix who has taken up a post in another school. We will miss her input and excellent work she did with small groups of children.

I am however delighted to report that during the holiday Mrs Miles gave birth to little Taron. We wish the whole family well.



As you are aware, the week before the holiday Governors selected Mr Simon Johns as the new Headteacher from September. Please see the additional page of this newsletter which introduces Mr Johns to you in a little more detail. I am certain that he will be just as happy here at Birchgrove as I have been as he works with such a wonderful community.

The end of the summer term will also see the retirement of Mr Volk after more than 20 years at Birchgrove. Although this is sad for the school, I am sure you would join me in wishing him well in his new adventures. However, I understand he is hoping to follow Cardiff City a little more closely home and away which could be a challenge indeed!

Yours sincerely
Sarah Morgan - Headteacher

Forthcoming Events and Further Information

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 30th April + 1st May Spectrum workshops for Yr 2 + 5
- 30th April Police dogs visit Yr 6
- 30th April RWCMD workshop for Yr 4
- 1st May Animal Zone visit Yr 1

5th May BANK HOLIDAY

- 6th May Families Learning Together Money Smart Kids workshop starts
- 7th May Yr 3 trip to Bute Park
- 7th May Supporting Children's Wellbeing workshop for parents 6pm
- 8th May WHS staff to speak to Yr 6 pupils re transition 3:45 meeting for parents

14th May Class and Leavers Photos

- 26th – 30th May HALF TERM
- 4th June Cricket trip to see Glamorgan T20 match (evening)
- w/b 16th June Sports Ambassadors Challenge Week
- 17th June New Intake Meeting
- 19th June Yr 6 trip to Chapter
- 23rd + 26th June New Intake Meet the Teacher

2nd July INSET DAY

- 3rd July Summer music concert
- 5th July PTFA summer fayre
- 8th July Pupils' reports out to parents
- 8th + 9th July Year 6 Show
- 10th July Year 6 transition day at Whitchurch High
- 10th July New Reception play dates
- 14th July Year 6 leavers' disco 6pm
- 16th July Open afternoon 2:30 – 4:30pm
- 17th July Presentation Evening
- 18th July Last day of term

Monday 9th June KS2 Sports Day am at NIAC – Cyncoed Road

12th June FP Sports Day am (reserve date 25th June)

19th + 20th June Reception assembly

The last day of school in the summer term will be **Friday 18th July.**

Birchgrove Shining Stars

In my last newsletter I shared information about two Birchgrove Stars still shining brightly. Since then I am delighted to have heard about another Birchgrove Star.

Harvey Marshall has always enjoyed singing and was an excellent member of our school choir. Recently he won the part of Gherardino in the Puccini opera *Il Trittico*. He toured across the UK performing in September and October last year. Da iawn Harvey.



If you know of other Birchgrove Stars still shining brightly we would love to hear from you.

Fund Raising

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our recent fundraising efforts. You helped raise an amazing £475 for Comic Relief and an incredible £2,514 from the School Council Easter bunny race. School Council are now busy deciding how they will spend the money to refurbish the secret garden.

New Class Immersion Day

Once again, towards the end of term, we will be having a new class immersion day which will see pupils and staff in their new classes ready for September. Pupils will assist staff with planning their new topics and getting to know their new class mates. This has proved very successful over the last few years in helping pupils to feel more settled and enthusiastic about the following year.

Music Concert

On Thursday 3rd July we will be holding a summer music concert in aid of City Hospice. Tickets will be only £2 each and we would like to see as many members of our community there as possible. It is sure to be a fabulous evening raising money for a super cause. We will also have a donation station at the school for the evening to enable people to donate suitable items for the City Hospice to sell in their shops.

ATTENDANCE

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. Up until the end of the spring term the figures for each class were as follows.

RJ	95.3%
RNC	96.5%
1O	95.2%
1BC	96.4%
2P	95.9%
2B	95.8%
3G	95%
3V	95.4%
4W	96.1%
4L	95.5%
5M	96%
5D	96.9%
6B	96.1%
6J	94.4%

Well done to class 5D who are currently top of the leader board. This equates to a school attendance of 95.7%. Let's hope with the nicer weather we are able to hit the 96% target by the end of the year.

Welsh Ambassadors

Several members of our Criw Cymraeg have been working closely with pupils from Ysgol Y Wern to develop resources, stories, poems and songs in Welsh which can be used with nursery aged children. They thoroughly enjoyed sharing their work with families at St Andrew's play group.



PTFA

Our wonderful PTFA continue to work hard to raise money for the school.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 20th May in the school at 6:30pm. Please show your support and come along to hear what is happening and make plans for the summer term.

The summer fayre will take place on Saturday 5th July.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you and your families well.

It is with great pride and excitement that I introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Birchgrove Primary School. I feel incredibly privileged to join such a caring, inclusive, and ambitious school community, and I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your children in the coming weeks and months.

I bring with me 25 years of experience in teaching, including 13 years as a senior leader and 10 years as a Deputy Headteacher, including time in the role of Acting Headteacher. This experience has strengthened my belief in the importance of creating a school environment where every child feels seen, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.



Before anything else, I want to recognise the fantastic work that Mrs Morgan and the brilliant team at Birchgrove have done to make the school what it is today. Their dedication, care, and commitment have built a strong foundation, and I feel very fortunate to be stepping into a role where so much great work is already in place.

As a parent myself, I understand the trust you place in a school when you hand over your child each day. That sense of responsibility is never lost on me. I am passionate about building strong partnerships with families based on mutual respect, open communication, and shared goals.

I am also a strong advocate for a broad and balanced curriculum. I have a personal passion for sport and music, and I know how powerful these areas can be in helping children build confidence, develop resilience, and find joy in their learning. I'm committed to ensuring that all children have access to a rich and varied school experience that nurtures both their academic and personal development.

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to meeting many of you—whether at the school gates, during events, or in more informal conversations. Please don't hesitate to come and say hello or share your thoughts.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I am truly excited about the journey ahead and all that we can achieve together.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Simon Johns