



Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 1: Friday, 6th September 2019



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you've all had a good summer. Thank you from myself and all of the staff for your very generous presents, cards, thanks and good wishes at the end of the Summer Term, they are much appreciated.

School is looking beautiful and we have some more developments within school and in EYFS both inside and out. Thank you to all the staff who have prepared the classrooms during the holidays and to our cleaning team Gill, Claire, Kerry and Kirby and our caretaker Peter Jones for making sure it's lovely and clean and tidy ready for our lovelies! So we're all ready for the start of another exciting school year!

We have a wonderful school website www.birkwood.org.uk which has recently been updated, thanks to Mr Sandwith. It will hopefully be more parent/carer friendly as there is a new Parent Zone on the top tab. It is a really good showcase of some of the things that happen in school each day.

The children have come back really well and ready to learn; they all look so smart in their new school uniforms. It's good to see so many children wearing proper school shoes too, which are much better for supporting their feet. Thank you, they are a credit to you all.

A special welcome to our new children in the Daisies ~ our youngest children look so grown up in their uniforms and are settling in well, it's a big thing for our parents/carers and we promise to look after them! To our new **Sunflowers and Daffodils** and to **Troy, Jayden, Macey-Jo and Sophie**, we hope you will all be very happy at Birkwood. You are all very welcome.

Beat the Street! ~ Thank you so much for all your support. We came 3rd overall in the total points leaderboard and also 3rd in the North East schools' area. We are very proud and will receive £100 in book vouchers.

Music Achievements ~ Congratulations to Evie Wagstaffe and Holly Cleaver on passing their Grade 1 Flute. Also, to John Young on passing his piano Grade 1 with Merit.

Sadly, we have had some criminal damage over the holidays which is really unusual ~ a window in our very special Reading Bus has been smashed and the front window severely damaged. We won't be able to replace them either. Also, the polytunnel has had every single window broken. The Police are aware and Mr Jones has kindly boarded them all up. We are very sad and disappointed that the damage has actually been caused by some of our ex-pupils too; I am determined to find out who is responsible and take appropriate action. We work really hard to provide wonderful resources and experiences for our children and don't expect them to be deliberately vandalised; but as I say, this is really unusual for our school.

Staff news:

A very warm welcome to **Mr Richard Davis** who has been appointed as our new Behaviour Learning Support Mentor. He will work with those children who need some additional support and help in school.

Attendance at school is very important as children soon get behind if they are absent ~ School starts at **8.45am**. It is really important that your child attends school on time each day unless they are ill or they have an authorised absence. If your child has a medical appointment, please bring their appointment card to the School Office to be photocopied for their records so that they may be given a medical mark. If your child is ill, please ring the School Office before 10.00am to tell us why they are absent and how long they are likely to be away from school. Thank you.

Any child with attendance **below 90%** is classed as a persistent absentee under the latest Local Authority guidance; if this does happen, then the Education Welfare Officer may become involved.

The gates will be closed at 9.00am, a child will be classed as late after that time.

Holiday Requests

Please note, following Government regulations, **all holidays will be classed as unauthorised; we will not grant any leave of absence during term time.** If you go ahead with the holiday when unauthorised, you may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice issued through the Local Authority. **Per child, this will be £60 if paid within 21 days; payment after this time but within 28 days is £120.** If parents/carers do not inform us, then a visit will be made to the home by the Education Welfare Officer to establish the reason for absence. The fine will go ahead if the house is unoccupied unless the parents/carers have dated medical evidence for the period of absence.

Parents/carers are requested to seriously consider the effect that taking children out of school has on their education. **Any requests to take children on holiday at times, other than during school holidays, must be made in writing (via a Leave of Absence Request Form, available from Reception).**

School Dinners ~ Please ensure that you pay for your child/ren's dinners in advance please. The cost of dinners is £1.90 daily and £9.50 per week. For the next 2 weeks, we are trialling a new dinner menu ~ please see attached and let us know your thoughts.

PE Kit: Please ensure that your child/ren has their PE kit on the following days:

Class	Days PE kit needed
F2 Daffodils	Thursday
F2 Sunflowers	Thursday
Year 1 Butterflies	Weds & Thurs
Year 1/2 Bees	Tues & Weds
Year 2 Foxes	Mon & Thurs
Year 3 Hedgehogs	Weds & Thurs
Year 3/4 Owls	Tues & Thurs
Year 4 Robins	Mon & Tues
Year 5 Leopards	Tues & Thurs
Year 5/6 Tigers	Mon & Weds
Year 6 Jaguars	Mon & Tues

Indoor PE kit: Girls Black leotard or house t shirt (provided by school) and black shorts/skirt
Boys House t shirt (provided by school) and black shorts
Bare feet or black plimsolls whilst working in the Hall

Outdoor PE kit: Clothing as above, with extra jumper/tracksuit depending on time of year. During winter months, please be aware that clothing may become muddy. Trainers / football boots are allowed.

Jewellery - Please could the children only wear stud earrings to school and if they wish, a watch; all other jewellery should be kept safe at home, thank you.

Class Assemblies ~ parents/carers will be invited to share their child/ren's work in the classrooms during the Autumn Term; Assemblies will take place in the Hall during the Spring Term.

You would be most welcome to come to the following Class Assemblies:

Year 3/4 Owls Class Assembly ~ Tuesday, 15th October at 2.45pm
Year 2 Foxes Class Assembly ~ Wednesday, 23rd October at 2.45pm
Year 4 Robins Class Assembly ~ Tuesday, 12th November at 2.45pm
Year 1/2 Bees Class Assembly ~ Tuesday, 19th November at 2.45pm
Year 1 Butterflies Class Assembly ~ Wednesday, 20th November at 2.45pm
Year 6 Jaguars Class Assembly ~ Wednesday, 27th November at 2.45pm
Year 3 Hedgehogs Class Assembly ~ Tuesday, 3rd December at 2.45pm
Year 5 Leopards Class Assembly ~ Wednesday, 4th December at 2.45pm
Year 5/6 Tigers Class Assembly ~ Tuesday, 10th December at 2.45pm

Next week ~ Wednesday, 11th September the NSPCC will be visiting school. There will be an assembly in the morning and workshops in the afternoon. A letter will be coming home on Monday with further details.

With many thanks for your continued support and here's to another exciting year!
Mrs Julie Allen MBE, Headteacher



School Calendar 2019-2020

(1 more INSET day to be decided)

Autumn Term

Monday	02.09.2019	School closed (INSET)
Tuesday	03.09.2019	School closed (INSET)
Wednesday	04.09.2019	School reopened
Friday	25.10.2019	School closes (Mid-term)
Monday	04.11.2019	School reopens
Friday	20.12.2019	School closes (Christmas)

Spring Term

Monday	06.01.2020	School reopens
Friday	14.02.2020	School closes (Mid-term)
Monday	24.02.2020	School reopens
Friday	03.04.2020	School closes (Easter)

Summer Term

Monday	20.04.2020	School reopens
*Friday	08.05.2020	School closed (May Day)
Friday	22.05.2020	School closes (Mid-term)
Monday	01.06.2020	School closed (INSET)
Tuesday	02.06.2020	School reopens
Friday	17.07.2020	School closes (Summer)
Monday	20.07.2020	School closed (INSET)

*Please note May Day has been moved from Monday, 4th May 2020 to Friday, 8th May 2020, by the Government to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day.