



# Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 34: Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021



twitter.com/BirkwoodPrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Please kindly park considerately and safely for our neighbours and children.**  
We have had some complaints.

**Sports Day, Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June** ~ I have heard some rumblings about parents not being allowed to Sports Day at Dorothy Hyman. I agree with you that it is so sad that you are not able to see the children take part as we always do, especially our Year 6 children. We are bound by the legal guidance, which states that,

*'Sports days can go ahead. In line with the rest of the system of controls, pupils and students must remain in their bubbles, and early years children should remain in their consistent groups as is usual for your setting. Sports equipment should be regularly cleaned throughout the event.*

*Spectators must adhere to current social distancing requirements. Where events take place outdoors, spectators can gather in separate groups of up to 30 - the legal gathering limit. Multiple groups of 30 are permitted.'*

We have been in contact with Dorothy Hyman and as we are classed as a private booking, then we would have to 'man' the numbers coming into the Stadium and turn people away over 30. This is very difficult as we don't have additional staff to undertake this role as all staff will be with their classes. I am unwilling at this stage to put staff at risk with contact with so many parents/carers. I am very aware that some of you have never missed a Sports Day and are very keen to attend. I'm so sorry that you are unable to attend this year; I also know that other schools are doing the same as we are. We don't want to put you, our children or staff at risk, following our risk assessment process. As you know, we always try our best and we are so appreciative of the support from our community, but due to the restrictions we cannot allow parents/carers to attend.

We have also thought about Zoom to share it with you live, however, we have a number of children who are subject to child protection and we couldn't risk their safeguarding.

After discussions with a few parents, we have asked the children in each class if they would still like Sports Day to go ahead, even though their parents/carers will not be able to attend. This is what they have said:

Class	Outcome
FS2 Sunflowers	19/20 ~ YES
FS2 Daffodils	20/20 ~ YES
Year 1 Caterpillars	29/29 ~ YES
Year 1/2 Ladybirds	15/28 ~ YES
Year 2 Butterflies	26/30 ~ YES
Year 3 Foxes	24/30 ~ YES
Year 3/4 Badgers	12/30 ~ YES
Year 4 Hedgehogs	24/32 ~ YES
Year 5 Robins	22/25 ~ YES
Year 5/6 Tigers	15/30 ~ YES
Year 6 Leopards	14/26 ~ YES
Summary	220/300 ~ YES

If any children really do not want to take part, we won't make them, they can come and watch and cheer their friends on.

I'm sure this won't happen, but if at any time, our staff don't feel safe on the way or during Sports Day, we will make the difficult decision to return to school. We obviously don't want to do this for the sake of our children. We have discussed this at length to try and find a way, however, the most important thing is for us all to stay safe!

**Beat the Street** ~ Just a reminder to take part please when you can. Apparently, we're are not doing very well at the moment 😞

**Foundation Sunflowers and Daffodils** ~ visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park on Monday. We had a wonderful day and I felt very privileged to be with everyone (I am trying to spend as much time as I can with the children during my last few weeks). The children loved the painted dogs, okapi (I had never seen one of them before), the giraffes (I cried!), the polar bears, ringtail lemurs, meerkats and lots of others. The children were so good for the whole

day and loved every minute ~ I was very proud of them and Miss Ward, Miss Jenkins and all the staff for organising such a great day.

**Year 6 Tigers and Leopards ~ visit to Castleton** on Tuesday was another wonderful day. The weather was perfect for climbing a mountain ~ we all managed to climb Mam Tor which is 517m. No one moaned or complained and it was tough! We all enjoyed our lunch sitting by the Trig Point enjoying the views over the valleys in Derbyshire. What a special day it was and it made me realise how independent the children have become and how grown up they are and ready to leave us 😞 on the next stage of their life journey. We were all very proud. Thank you to Mr Summerfield, Mr Sandwith, Mr Wattam and Mrs Birch for such a special day for me and all the children.

The results of the **Year 2 Phonics Testing** will be included in the relevant children's reports. They all did really well and have improved a lot since their last tests.

**Pentathlon for FS2 - Year 6** ~ Mrs Porter and Mr Wattam worked really hard to work their way through all the classes, especially with the rain first thing on Thursday. We will let you know how they got on next week.

Dates to note:

- **New FS2 Dinner Day (1)** ~ Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June
- **Year 4 Hedgehogs ~ to Harry Potter World** on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June
- **Year 1/2 Ladybirds and Year 2 Butterflies ~ to Scarborough** on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June
- **Year 1 Caterpillars ~ to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park** on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June
- **New FS2 Dinner Day (2)** ~ Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June
- **Nursery closed all day** for new starter visits, sorry for any inconvenience ~ Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July
- **September Nursery starters Parents' Meeting** ~ Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 4.00pm



**Birkwood's Got Talent ~ Change of Plan!**

Mrs Porter, Mrs Sutton and Mr Summerfield have been filming all entries. There will be a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 video. I will confirm when they will be available to view and how.

We won't be having a formal panel of judges due to restrictions, however, there will be medals and trophies presented to winners.

- **Birkwood Brass Rehearsal** ~ Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> July at 9am
- **Little Big Dance workshop in Y1 'It's ok'** ~ Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July
- **Nursery Parents' Meetings**, details to follow ~ Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July
- **Afternoon Tea for the School Council with Mrs Allen** ~ Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm
- **Individual 'Stay and Play' session for new to FS2 for September** ~ Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July at 4.00-5.00pm
- **Transition Meeting for FS2 to Year 1 Parents /Carers in the Hall after school** ~ plans to be reviewed
- **14 children undertaking Music Exams** ~ Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July
- **FS2 to Year 1 Transition Day** for all children to experience Year 1 for the day. Children will start and end the day in FS2 as usual ~ Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July
- **New to FS2 Parents' Meeting** ~ was Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July. Having reviewed the guidance, instead of an actual meeting, Miss Jenkins and Miss Ward will deliver a film giving an overview of our wonderful EYFS which will be on the school's website from 6<sup>th</sup> July
- **Year 6 Sleepover (now Evening only)** This will be constantly reviewed dependent upon the government guidance ~ Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> July. Plans to be confirmed
- **Mrs Allen's Leaving Garden Party** ~ Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> July. Sadly, families of current and ex-pupils no longer able to attend
- **Nursery Parents' Meetings (Am)**, details to follow ~ Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July
- **Reports home to parents/carers** ~ Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July
- **Birkwood Brass Performance** (details to follow) ~ Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm



The proud winner of the Superstar Award this week is:  
**Ruby Alavi in the Year 5/6 Tigers**



The proud winners of the Attendance Award last week were:  
**The Robins with 98.9%**

With kind regards and many thanks for your continued support,  
Mrs Julie Allen MBE, Headteacher