



# Birkwood Primary School

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Newsletter 35: Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers,

**Sports Day on Tuesday** ~ Was a great success and the children loved it! The whole school went to Dorothy Hyman and all children sat in their bubbles to support each of the year groups ~ it was lovely to see them cheering on their brothers/sisters and friends. We have some very talented children throughout school from our littlest Foundation Stage children to the oldest children in Year 6 ~ they tried their absolute best and we were incredibly proud of them all. Thank you to Mrs Porter and Mr Wattam for organising the event and the revised races to ensure that equipment wasn't handled between bubbles. Thank you also to all the staff who supported on the day and to you all for following the rules and regulations.

We have noticed this week a rise in children isolating - 10 compared to 2 last week. There has also been a surge in parents testing positive, now more so than ever. Attendance this week has been **95.8%** compared to **97.8%** last week. So, we need to remain extra-vigilant, especially with the new Covid variant.

Within Afternoon Nursery on Monday, we were made aware of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19. Due to all staff having to self-isolate, we also had to close our Nursery Morning session, even though they haven't had direct contact, so therefore don't need to self-isolate.

**In line with the national guidance, children in Afternoon Nursery must stay at home and self-isolate until midnight on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

**New FS2 Dinner Days** ~ Monday and Wednesday. It was so lovely for our new little ones for September to have dinner with their special grown up in school and also meet Miss Ward and Miss Jenkins who will be their new teachers. We are re-organising the Dinner Day for children who were unable to attend this week. We promise we will look after them when they start with us in September

**Year 4 Hedgehogs visit to Harry Potter World** on Monday ~ was an amazing day (and also my last trip with the children). They were so excited to see all of the special effects, costumes, characters, the Great Hall and the Forbidden Forest ~ they couldn't believe their eyes! The children's behaviour was outstanding and we were all very proud. Thank you to Mrs Sutton, Miss Hayward and Mrs Musgreave for organising this special opportunity and for all the goody bags too, which they bought themselves for each of the children. Thank you to Mr Dodd and the other adults for supporting, we had an amazing day and weren't too late back either thanks to the traffic and Yorkshire Rose Coaches.

**Year 1/2 Ladybirds and Year 2 Butterflies had a day out to Scarborough** on Monday ~ they were so lucky with the weather and when they were on the beach they had to put suncream on! The children all loved it of course ~ they went on a pirate ship across the bay (the Ladybirds even got to see a pod of dolphins which is very rare), had a ride on a donkey and an ice cream! Some children had never been to the seaside before and especially loved it. Thank you to Mrs Cooke, Miss Gormanly and all the staff who supported.

**Year 1 Caterpillars went to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park** on Wednesday ~ they had missed out on this opportunity when they were in Foundation Stage, so today was the day! Their favourite animals were the meerkats, wallabies, the polar bears, the rhinos and of course my friends the giraffes. They loved every minute and were so good too. Thank you to Miss Porter and again the staff who supported on the day, including Mrs Porter who I think was even more excited than the children!

**Pentathlon for Year 6** ~ Mrs Porter and Mr Wattam will be completing the events with Year 6 today.

**Relationships, Health and Sex Education Policy** ~ Thank you to those parents/carers who were involved in the consultation process. As a result, we have reviewed the policy, consulted other agencies and made some amendments. The policy, which has been approved by Governors, is now on our website under the Information tab / Policies.

Our Head Boys and Head Girl attended the Full Governing Body Meeting last Thursday and presented their Annual Report. They shared with Governors:

- What we've done this year
- What we would've done if we could've done this year
- What we are proud of about our school
- What we could do to be even better
- What we have enjoyed about being a School Councillor

I was so proud of Joshua, Caden and Ella (Nicole was unable to attend), they spoke really confidently and Governors were very impressed! I am looking forward to Afternoon Tea with them next week 😊



**Birkwood's Got Talent**

Mrs Porter, Mrs Sutton and Mr Summerfield have been filming all entries. There will be a video on the school website from Monday  
A panel of judges from in school will be judging today; there will be medals and trophies presented to winners.

Dates to note:

- **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** ~ Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> July afternoon, now taking place by phone
- **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
- **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 continued (Am)** ~ Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, now taking place by phone
- **Reports home to parents/carers** ~ Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July (please advise of any parents/carers who need additional copies)
- **Birkwood Brass Performance** (details to follow) ~ Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm

Last week of the Summer Term:

- **Year 6 Leavers' Assembly**  
We are going to record a Special Assembly similar to the Christmas Show. We thought about this at length and the reasons for this decision are: rising Covid cases and absences, numbers of adults is restricted to 30 and there are 42 children across Year 6. All children could watch it across school and families could also watch it remotely. It's not ideal, but we think it's the best way to proceed.  
In preparation for our Year 6 leavers' video, please could you send a photograph of your child/ren as a baby and one of them slightly older into school as soon as possible, by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at the latest please
- **End of Year Disco** ~ Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July **sadly now cancelled due to the risk of mixing bubbles**
- **Moving Up Morning** ~ Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July (children meet their new teachers and Mr Wood our new Headteacher for September)
- **End of Year Celebration Assembly (outside)** ~ 9.30am **Thursday**, 15<sup>th</sup> July (school staff only and children)
- **Year 6 Leavers' Day** ~ Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Term Dates for the remainder of the school year are:**

Start back at school	Last day in school	INSET Days
	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September		Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> September

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