

Birchensale Headlines



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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the tenth newsletter of the year at Birchensale.

As we come towards the end of another successful year, we now have a chance to celebrate the achievements we have made. Our Prize Giving evening and Sports Awards evening are two absolute highlights and invitations to prize winners will be going out shortly.

We are currently involved in a lot of transition work, with Year 4 pupils from 18 different First Schools making regular visits to Birchensale. Many of our Year 8's are also visiting their new High Schools to familiarise themselves for their September start.

In the last week, we have been hit with a considerable amount of water damage, caused by the unbelievable amount of rain (on a flat

roof!) and accidental damage to hidden pipes in the Year 7 boy's toilets. This has resulted in the main computer server being damaged, costing £8,000 to replace (recovered from insurance) but also the roof repairs, costing £16,500 and planned replacement of carpets and blinds costing a further £12,000 means our reserves are dwindling fast. Rest assured, the school still has a healthy budget and we can continue to run a really well resourced and well looked after school.



Diary News

24/5/19: Miss Dalby organised the annual Year 8 'Battle of the Bands'. Eight groups were formed. They then composed the music and wrote the lyrics to their own songs. The winning group 'Wreckless' performed

their song 'Thinking' and impressed the judges with their singing ability, musical talent and their costumes. The band was made up of Ella Ashton, Lily Beris, Sanam Daud, Amelia Chew and Malaika Basharat. They will now get to perform the winning song at the Trinity Music Concert on 28/6/19.



4/6/19: Mrs Roberts hosted a group of Design Technology teachers to work alongside a number of our keen technology pupils. They worked in teams producing a number of interesting products.

5/6/19: Mr Wilkes attended a Physics conference at Coombe Abbey as part of his work with The Ogden Trust.

7/6/19: Mr Spafford and Mrs Cartwright took a team of

Year 5/6 pupils to a swimming gala. They performed really well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

10/6/19: Miss Vaughan took a number of our pupils to a World War 2 exhibition held in Webheath.

14/6/19: Carole Andrews of the Redditch Lions attended our commendation assembly to present Amelie Young with her prize for winning the Peace Poster competition.

14/6/19: Miss Hewitt and Miss Tate took a group of our pupils to experience glass cutting as part of the Arts Award experience.

14/6/19: The Year 5's went to The West Midland Safari Park for the day.

17&19/6/19: Miss Vaughan, Mr Homer and Mr Sullivan took two groups of Year 7 pupils to Goodrich Castle as part of their History studies.



17/6/19: Mrs Bentley took 12 of our 'more able' mathematicians to Trinity for a Maths Workshop.

18/6/19: Year 8 spent the day with Barclays Bank careers leaders, working on 'The Transformation Trust' as part of their Life Skills programme.

21/6/19: Mrs Bennett took a group of our 'more able' linguists to Trinity for a Modern Foreign Languages workshop.



21/6/19: Miss Dalby took our Brass group to play in front of pupils at Holyoakes Field First School.

24/6/19: Mrs Bennett took a group of her 'more able' Spanish students to run a language workshop at Holyoakes Field First School.

24/6/19: The Year 6's went to the cinema as their end of term treat.

25/6/19: Miss Hewitt took a group of our 'more able' artists to Trinity for an Art Workshop.

25/6/19: The Summer Production of 'Alice' took place with members of the choir and drama club.

27/6/19: Miss Dalby took a group of our more-able musicians to Symphony Hall in Birmingham.



27/6/19: Mr Homer and his Sports Leaders hosted the annual Year 2 Multi-Sports Events Day at Birchensale. Pupils from all of our feeder first schools took part and had an enjoyable time.

28/6/19: Miss Dalby took members of the choir, orchestra and Battle of the Bands winners to perform at the Trinity Music Concert.

28/6/19: Mr Wilkes took a group of our 'more able' Scientists to Trinity for a Science Workshop.

And coming up....

1&4/7/19: Miss Hewitt is taking two groups of Year 7 pupils to The Herbert Art Gallery in Coventry.

2/7/19: Our Year 8 Sports Leaders will be attending the Sports Day at Tardebigge First School, helping to organise and run the events.

3/7/19: Mr Bennett and his Police Dog will visit our Year 6 pupils.



4/7/19: New Intake evening takes place with parents and pupils from Year 4 joining us for the evening in preparation for them joining BMS in September.

5/7/19: The Year 8 Girls are receiving their second HPV vaccination.



5/7/19: The District Athletics Finals are taking place at The Abbey Stadium.

8/7/19: The last reward trip of the year takes place with the top 10% of pupils going to Weston Super Mare.

9/7/19: 'Prize Giving' evening takes place. We find out the winners for each form for Endeavour and Achievement. We also find out the winners of the coveted subject awards.

10&11/7/19: Transition Days: During these two days, we meet the Year 4 students who will be joining us in September and our Years 5, 6 & 7 will spend the days in Years 6, 7 & 8. Our Year 8 pupils will join their new High schools for their transition too.

15&16/7/19: Year 7 are spending the days at The Aztec Centre at Upton Warren experiencing a number of outdoor activities.

15/7/19: Year 8 are spending the day at Drayton Manor.

16/7/19: Our Celebration of Sport evening takes place with all of our District, County and Midland champions receiving recognition for an outstanding year at Birchensale. With over 116 champions and 26 trophies, it promises to be a long evening! We also find out the winners of the coveted sports awards.



17/7/19: Mrs Roberts is taking a group of pupils to Birmingham School of Jewellery.

18/7/19: Our Year 8 Leavers Ball takes place. We look forward to seeing what the Year 8 pupils look like in their new outfits and their modes of transport!



19/7/19: Pupils break up for summer holidays and return on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Attendance

The school attendance rate is currently 95.5%. The best attending classes are 5OCO (97.3%), 5EHO (97.2%). Government targets are 95%.



Head Teacher Awards

The latest awards went to; Alanna Dearman in Year 5 for producing a science revision booklet in her own time, Iraj Iman in Year 7 for her independent research on Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, Anya Oldrey in Year 7 for a fantastic story she has been working on, Lauren Parkes in Year 8 for her emotive diary report

from the WW2 trenches and Owen Guest and Owen Whitby in Year 8 for making fantastic models of the Great Fire of London as part of their history research.

They each received a certificate and 50 achievement points. Well done!



HPV Vaccinations

We have been contacted by Public Health England who commission the delivery of all school-based vaccines. They have announced that from September 2019 there is an extension of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) universal vaccine programme to include boys as well as girls. This is a great step forward in the protection of HP-related cancers. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

Sports

Our sports stars have produced more outstanding performances this month.

At the County Athletics finals, Sophie Fitzpatrick came second in the Year 8 javelin

and Heather Rigby came second in the Year 8 hurdles.

So far this year we have won 24 District trophies and 2 County trophies in Indoor Athletics, Indoor Rowing, Hockey, Football, Cross-Country, Table Tennis, Netball, Rounders and Basketball. Altogether 104 different pupils have been crowned as District or County Champions, winning 199 gold medals.

Fund Raising

We have been collecting loose change in 'form' moneyboxes for four weeks to raise money for Matt's Mission charity. The final amount should be known next week.

We have currently raised £3,813.25 for good causes so far this year.



Holiday Change

The Local Authority has notified us that next year's May Day Bank Holiday has been changed. The holiday that was scheduled for

Monday 4th May has now been moved to Friday 8th May. This is so the whole country can celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

School Uniform

To support parents when purchasing uniform we have now updated our School Uniform Policy with more information and diagrams. Prior to purchasing uniform for the new academic year starting September 2019, please read through the Policy which can be found in both the Pupil and Parent Zones on our website

Health & Safety Message

Several people have suffered potentially serious adverse effects caused by spray deodorants. From this point going forward, we are stating that NO PUPILS should bring spray deodorants into school. (A roll on can be used instead.)

I hope you have enjoyed reading the latest 'Headlines'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Jones'.

Tim Jones, Head teacher

For anyone interested:

Summer activities, email Funzone1td@hotmail.co.uk