

Birchensale Headlines



Volume 6; Edition 1; Sep 19

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year at Birchensale.

For those of you who are new to the school, I will be sending the newsletter out monthly and keeping you informed of the school's progress as well as celebrating the successes of our pupils in and out of school. You can also access the newsletter from our website. Go to Birchensale Middle School, school information, letters and notices, Headlines to download a copy each month.



It is an exciting time for the school as we have the highest number of pupils ever on roll, as news of our success is leading to a growing number of parents enquiring about transferring their pupils to us.

As of today, we have 600 pupils on roll and we are full!

I was really pleased to see all of the pupils on the first day, looking so smart in their new uniforms with a really positive attitude to school-life. I cannot believe how quickly they have settled in alongside our new staff, Mrs Oulmain, Miss Savva, Miss Edwards, Mr Garwood, Ms Tomlinson, Mrs Burrell, Mrs Wainwright and Miss White. The Year 5 pupils are 'super-confident' and I am sure that they will thrive at Birchensale.

We had a great deal of refurbishment and building work taking place during the holidays. Many classrooms were painted, carpets replaced and areas 'refreshed' as well as continued work in our gardens. Many thanks go to Mr Chew, Mr Duffill and Mr Freeman for their continued hard work.

Diary events

2/9/19; All staff received their annual safeguarding and Health and Safety training.

4/9/19; Pupils returned to school for the new academic year.

17/9/19; Following a walk-through last week, we had an unannounced fire drill, with the whole school being cleared and checked in just over 4 minutes.



10/9/19; Years 5&6 were visited by the NSPCC who held workshops about keeping safe.

11/9/19; Mr Taylor, Deputy Head from Trinity came into our Year 8 assembly to talk about high school choices. Please remember that Year 8's must apply for a high school place by 31st October if they are to get their first choice.

20/9/19; Individual and class photos were taken and are available for purchase on-line from the company.

24/9/19; West Bromwich Building Society were in school working with the Year 8 pupils on finance, as part of their careers programme.

24/9/19; Meet the Teacher evening took place with parents and pupils meeting form teachers to make sure they have settled in well, and to discuss any issues that may have arisen. The feedback I received was extremely positive.

27/9/19; Pupils have been working on the government's 'British Values' programme, researching information and debating opinion. Topics included Democracy, Respect of Differences, the Law and Freedom of Speech. I am sure you will agree that they are in fact, human values, not just British, and our pupils possess them in spades!



And coming up....

30/9/19; Bikeability is taking place this week with 32 pupils being assessed on their road safety and cycle knowledge.

Once they have this award, a helmet and parents' permission, they are entitled to ride to school.



1/10/19; Mrs Batchelor and Mrs Pugh are starting the training for this year's Peer Mentors. These pupils will have dedicated time with younger pupils helping them settle, and sign-posting them to adults for support.

2/10/19; The Police Cadet programme begins for 6 weeks for a group of our Year 6 pupils.

3/10/19; Open Evening will take place with our current pupils showing prospective parents and Year 4 pupils around the school.

9/10/19; The Inter-house cross-country takes place on the school field with pupils representing their houses in an exciting day of races.

10/9/19; We are holding a #HelloYellow 'own clothes' Day to raise awareness of mental health and the NSPCC. All children to wear something yellow or green and donate £1.00, the monies will be split between both charities.

11/9/19; Year 5&6 pupils will be having their nasal flu sprays.

18/9/19; The finals of the Spoken English Competition take place where we hear the fabulous speeches written and performed by our most eloquent students.

19/10/19; Miss Vaughan has been working with the Redditch Twinning Group and they are currently looking at the problem of rubbish. The school are contributing to the Redditch Rethinks Rubbish Expo. Alongside Miss Dalby, the choir, musicians and a 'rubbish band', (all instruments are made from discarded materials!), they will be at the Town Hall. Come along and hear what they have to say!



24/10/19; The first school disco of the year is taking place from 7.00 – 9.00 pm, £2 per ticket in advance, from the office.

25/10/19; The school is closed on Friday 25th October for a teacher training day.

School is then closed for half-term. Pupils return on **Monday 4th November.**

KS2 SAT'S Results

We have received our latest KS2 SAT'S results and were very pleased that the efforts of the children were rewarded. Our scores of 78% for Reading (National levels were 73%), 78% for Writing (National 78%), 76% for Spelling and Grammar (National 78%), 76% for Maths (National 79%) and 69% for Combined (National 65%) are comparable with all County and National schools. Well done to everyone!



Pupils of the Year

At the end of last term, we celebrated the 'pupils of the year'. I can inform you that the well-deserved winners were;

Year 5; Cai Potter

Year 6; Tanya Hewitt

Year 7; Jack Glover

Year 8; Heather Rigby

Congratulations to all of them for an outstanding year. I am sure that Cai, Tanya and Jack will continue to thrive at Birchensale and Heather will continue her progress at High School.

Congratulations go to the following pupils for their hard work and tremendous attitude in school, leading to them being elected to the following roles;

Head Boys; Jack Glover and Subhan Shahab

Head Girls; Cerys Dearman and Iraj Iman



House Captains; Harry Edwards, Maja Banas, Kaja Linda, Jacob Dacej, Riley Oxenbury, Maja Szymko, Yoan Ivanov and Esther Perkins.

Vice-Captains; Riley Styler, Harriett Alsop, Grace Court, Robbie Parker, Luke Duffin, Maddy Ball, Ellie-May Minton and Connor Miles.

Prefects; Anya Oldrey, Kishani Santhirakumar, Zofia Szeniak, Alfie White, Mia O'Brien, Sian McQuaid, Blake Mooney-Knight, Kali Guest,

Grace Loxley, Olivia Croft, Brooke Stanton, Niamh Turrell, Tula Williams, Emily Laing, Dominic Celec, Jed Morecombe, Nikki Danks, Sameed Ahmad, Joshua Harffey, Andrzej Kierski, Katrina Zake, Ethan Ball, Rosa Barton, Sophie Duffin, Rose Barnett, Kian Askey, Sophie Wiggett, Daisy Morgan, Haider Shah, Safiya Sharaz, Summer Godson, Kiera Powell, Phoebe Kennedy, Michael Braby, Tom Bridger, Emily Brown, Kyle Cash, Oliver Leck, Thomas Simons, Brandon Simpson, Rachel Whiley, Alice Whitworth, Jack Evetts and Amelie Young.

Other pupils will be added by Heads of Year to complete the teams at a later date.



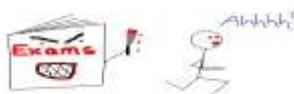
Trinity Results

Once again, news is coming in regarding our ex-pupils who attended Trinity High School and I am pleased to announce that many of them have produced outstanding results. Mr Ward informs me that pupils are off to a number of Universities. Destinations include Warwick, Birmingham, Liverpool, Cardiff and Plymouth. Students are

studying a wide range of degrees including Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Law, Fashion, Photography, Accountancy and International Development.

Other students are going on to study with higher-level apprenticeships and others into employment.

Congratulations go to Annicah Abid, Hubert Buczak, Aiden Cleary, Charlotte Cope, Daniel Glebocki, Ramisha Khan, Harris Mehmood, Wiktorja Monka, Georgia Newitt, Zobiya Shah, Aaliyah Sharaz and Usman Zahid, who all performed well in their 'A' Levels. With many of them now off to university to study and we look forward to hearing about them in the future.



The following pupils performed outstandingly well in their GCSE's, gaining many A* to C's (now grades 4-9);

Nine passes: Sabah Faheem, Ben Jones, Nelay Miah, Amena Riaz, Josh Shellum and Sam Wainwright.

Eight passes: Shane Carr, Adam Houghton, Katie Jarvis, Shamiso King, Jodie Lewis,

Hannah Turnbull and Jack Wallis.

Seven passes: Jay Boyd-Carpenter, Ryan Crumpton, Megan Garrett and Jacob Jukes.

Five and Six passes: Kiana Agar, Anees Akhtar, Fatima Cengiz, Charlie Court, Joshua Keyte, Samia Mahmood, Charlie Mayo, Sufyaan Tanveer and Dawid Wawrzynczyk. Many of these Year 11 students have decided to stay on and study 'A' levels at Trinity whilst others have secured college places or are starting on apprenticeships.



Attendance

Good attendance is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. Each child's attendance is monitored weekly and our school seeks to work actively with parents to ensure that regular attendance is maintained. The Department for Education has published data on their website that clearly

shows the link between attendance and attainment. This highlights the fact that there will be an impact on your child's education and test results if attendance is not consistently above 95% throughout their schooling.

We want all students to achieve high levels of attendance and give themselves the very best life chances and choices. Therefore, it is vital that parents/carers and the school work together to secure good attendance.

Please do not let your child miss the education they deserve.

The school attendance rate is currently 96.4%. The best attending classes are 5ROU (98.9%), 5AE (98.3%) and 6SHE (98.3%). Unauthorised absences, due mainly to holidays remain low at 1.4%.



At the end of last year all pupils who had achieved 100% attendance for the year were given a £5 gift voucher and a certificate and any pupils with a full terms attendance were given tickets for a raffle for a bike.

The lucky pupil who won the bike, donated by our governors was Justin Andrews.

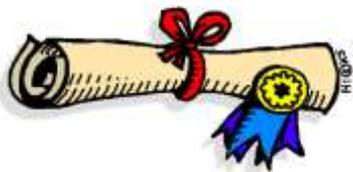


A special mention should also go to Abdul Wahhab Khan who managed to go from Year 5 to Year 8 without taking a single day off.

Head Teacher Awards

The first awards of the year went to Skye Turner for her ECO work, as she produced an informative PowerPoint presentation and then designed her own recycling unit in her own time and Viktoria Kupas for her fantastic artwork.

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



House Competition

All pupils belong to a House and we run a number of competitions throughout the year. All house points are

added up and shared during our commendation assembly on Fridays. In a closely fought completion, last year's victors were Bordesley House.

Bordesley House: 22,971 HP

Beoley House: 22,235 HP

Ipsley House: 21,893 HP

Studley House: 21,123 HP

Fund Raising

The pupils and families of the school were incredibly generous last year and raised almost £4,000 for charities and good causes. We hope to continue to support people less fortunate than ourselves once again this year.



School Award

Following yet another outstanding year, our PE Department have once again been awarded the **School Games Gold Award**. This award is due to the number of pupils who take part in extra-curricular sport, as well as the number of teams who have participated in the district, county and national events. Last year Birchensale won 25

District and 6 County tournaments, with 117 different pupils crowned as District or County Champions, winning 238 gold medals.

Tudor Grange Consultation

In what has proved to be a massive victory for the three-tier system, it was pleasing to read that Tudor Grange Redditch have decided to consult about becoming a High School. The consultation is now open and I encourage you to contact them and offer your support for this plan. Redditch was built around the three-tier system and we have proven that first, middle and high schools are the chosen system. Parents voted with feet and the decision to change in the first place was both arrogant and ill advised. It was good to read that Tudor Grange now acknowledged that they 'got it wrong' and 'should have listened to the community'. To support the change back to high school, the setting up of an Autism Base and refurbishment of the pool and gym for community use, go to; www.redditch.tgacademy.org.uk/media/consultation/

Governors

We have a hard working group of governors who assist

the Headteacher in the strategic running of the school. We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor, so if you would like to put yourself forward, please speak to myself as soon as possible.

Activities

Redditch Borough Council's Sports Development Team is delivering a Youth Sports Club at Birchensale Middle School on Wednesday evenings from 6pm – 8pm for Year 5 and above. They offer a variety of sports including Football, Basketball, Handball, Dodgeball and many more. It only costs £3 per week, and information is available if you call the Sports Development team on 01527 881356 or email sd@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

High School Applications

Once you have visited the High School Open Evenings, and decided which one you would like your Year 8 child to go to next September, you need to complete the application. With limited spaces available, it is wise to complete the forms as soon as possible, before the 31st October deadline.

If you would like help in completing the on-line

application, Mrs Pugh welcomes you to the Bungalow at the following times;

Thurs 26th Sep 1:30-3:30 pm
Tues 8th Oct 3:00-5:30 pm
Mon 14th Oct 9:00-11:00 am
Wed 23rd Oct 3:00-5:30 pm

A few parents in Redditch may be considering moving their 'new' Year 6 child to Secondary school as early as next year. If you are considering this, please see me as soon as possible for a meeting.

Car Parking

As I am sure that you are aware, we continue to experience rather chaotic parking during morning drop-off and evening pick up in Cedar Road and Bridley Moor Road.

Car parking is a major issue as the school has grown and we now have the largest number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff that we have ever had.

With budget cut-backs we cannot afford the additional 20 parking spaces that I would like as teaching and learning needs come first.

If I could ask you to park sensibly (not on the pavements) and show our neighbours respect when

outside their houses, it would be appreciated.

Dropping pupils at the end of Bridley Moor Road, or at the Redditch United car park in Bromsgrove Road are nearby alternatives.

Also remember that the library is open until 5.00 pm every night so if you stagger your arrival then you will be able to pick up comfortably after the early rush is completed. Our gates are closed from 3.00 – 3.30 pm for pupil safety.



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

Tim Jones, Head teacher

STOP PRESS; BIRCHENSALE OPEN EVENING

For Year 4 Parents and Pupils,
Thursday 3rd October.

Arrive at any time from 6.00-8.00 pm for a guided tour and an opportunity to speak to Senior Leaders, Staff and Pupils.