

Birchensale Headlines



Volume 6; Edition 2; Oct 19

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year at Birchensale.

News of the success of the school is reaching further each week and it is wonderful to see that Birchensale are in this year's edition of The Parliamentary Report. As a result of this publication, I have also been invited to attend a gala presentation dinner at Parliament, later in November.



Diary events

30/9/19: Bikeability took 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 started 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. The peer mentors are: Bobby Hill, Mia O'Brien, Romeo Robinson, Levi Grant, Sian Mc Quaid, Kaja Linda, Rehaan Iqbal, Shaibaan Khan, Emily Brown, Ellie-May Minton, Victoria Withorn, Viktoria Kupas, Kishani Santhirakumar, Haider Shah, Yacoba Viala-Elphson, Katrina Zake, Esther Perkins, Julianne Whiley, Iraj Iman, Rosa Barton, Rachel Whiley, Anya Oldrey, Tula Williams, Jack Glover, Kieron Dudley, Alice Whitworth, Cerys Dearman, Tom Bridger and Niamh Turrell.

2/10/19: The Police Cadet programme began for 6

weeks for a group of our Year 6 pupils. The course, run by PCSO Denise Thompson, aims to cover communication in the Police, road safety, security, forensics and anti-social behaviour. On completion of the course, there will be a Passing Out Ceremony. The cadets are; George Andrews, Robert Emmott, Cai Potter, Chloe West, Riley West, Riley Beedles, Dominik Rozsa, Olivia Sheppard and Lacey Ridge.



3/10/19: Birchensale held a most successful Open Evening. With our pupils acting as guides and teachers available to answer questions, the evening was really busy but very positive. Parents picked up on the 'family atmosphere', how proud the pupils were to be part of the school and how

approachable the staff were. With over 150 families in attendance and 50 of them coming from outside our normal catchment area, it shows how good our reputation is.



10/10/19; We held a #HelloYellow 'own clothes' Day to raise awareness of mental health (Young Minds) and the NSPCC. Altogether, we raised £467.55, to be shared between the two charities.



11/10/19; Year 5&6 pupils had their nasal flu sprays.

17&18/10/19; Our Year 5 parent lunches took place with a number of parents eating with their children.

18/10/19; The finals of the Spoken English Competition took place where we heard the fabulous speeches written and performed by our most eloquent students.

Results:

Year 5 Finalists: Cain Baker, Grace Whitworth, Brody

Honeyghan and winner, **Hasnain Shoaib.**

Year 6 Finalists: Thomas Morton, Amal Shah, Chloe West, Hadley Kilkenny, Chester Haynes and winner, **Desiree Broadbelt.**

Year 7 Finalists: Paige Walters, Evie Hexley, Safwan Rahman and winner, **Serenity Spooner.**

Year 8 Finalists: Subhan Shahab, George Dooley, Anya Oldrey, Iraj Iman and Cerys Dearman and winner, **Ali Shoaib.**



19/10/19; Miss Vaughan, Miss Dalby, the choir, musicians and a 'rubbish band', (all instruments are made from discarded materials!), performed at the Redditch Rethinks Rubbish exhibition at the Town Hall. Other pupils read speeches about waste and a number of our pupils entered the photography competition and were judged to be winners.

The winning photographers were; Abdullah Umer, Oliver Barnett and Luke Nutting.



22/10/19; Mrs Roberts took a group of students to the Tatty Devine exhibition at a Cheltenham museum to take part in a design workshop.

23/10/19; The Inter-house cross-country took place on the school field with pupils representing their houses in an exciting day of races. These races also help us select a team for the forthcoming District Cross Country events.

Winners were;

Year 5 Girls; 1) Regan Bennett, 2) Maisie Walton, 3) Lilly-Mae Tierney, **Year 5 Boys;** 1) Charlie Taylor, 2) Cody Baker, 3) Trey Fox.

Year 6 Girls; Priscila Bustamante-Gonzales, 2) Jessica King, 3) Hailey Best, **Year 6 Boys;** 1) Alex Celec, 2) Oliver Celec, 3) Kian Mc Dermott.

Year 7 Girls; Kelis Palmer, 2) Erin Welch, 3) Lola Darby,
Year 7 Boys; 1) Jaiden Lee, 2) Riley Butler, 3) Kian Kelleher.

Year 8 Girls; 1) Emily Laing, 2) Katrina Zake, 3) Sophie Wiggett, **Year 8 Boys;** 1) Dalton Smith, 2) Kenzie McKeon, 3) Harry Edwards.

When all of the scores were added together, the winning house was **BEOLEY**.



24/10/19; The first school disco of the year took place with 200 tickets sold for the event and a good time was had by all!

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**.

And coming up....

6/11/19; Mrs Roberts and the ECO team are visiting the Envirosort recycling plant in Worcester to see what happens to our rubbish.

7/11/19; Year 6 Parent lunches take place, please book early!

7/11/19; Mr Wilkes has invited the Police into school to hold a knife crime workshop to educate our Year 8 pupils.

8/11/19; Mrs Roberts is taking a group of pupils to the 'Girls that Geek' programme, where they will explore the role of women in Art and Technology.

12/11/19; Mr Mills will be holding an E-Safety evening, showing parents how to be vigilant about the dangers of the web.



14/11/19; I will be taking my wife to the Houses of Parliament for a gala dinner in the Terrace Gardens to celebrate Birchensale being part of the Parliamentary Review.

14/11/19; Year 5 have a cinema reward visit to see 'Secret Life of Pets 2' for the morning.

15/11/19; The Book Fair arrives in school with books on sale for the following week.



21/11/19; Year 8 are off to the NEC to see the World Skills Show as part of their careers programme.

28/11/19; Year 7&8 Parent lunches take place. Please book your places early.

28/11/19; Mr Cooke and Miss Horsley are out for the afternoon at Escape Challenge Redditch with the winners of the House logo competition.



Attendance

The school attendance rate is currently 96.3%. The best attending classes are 5AE (98.4%), 5OCO (98.4%) and 6SHE (98.0%). Unauthorised absences, due mainly to holidays remain low at 1.2%.



For pupils attending medical appointments during the school day, please show the office staff a copy of the medical appointment card and please try to bring your child into school before or after the appointment if they are well enough to attend.



Head Teacher Awards

The latest awards went to Ayaan Hussain and Alice Hird (Year 5) for their model planet projects, Ellie Witton (Year 6) for her fantastic campaign to become a school counsellor, Lewis Mallin (Year 6) for an outstanding piece of artwork, Oliver Celec (Year 6) for his fantastic personal artwork, Evie Hexley, William Burgess, Mariam Yasin, Freyja Amphlett and Saffy Williams (Year 7) for their science projects on cells, Michal Zawada (Year 7) for his DT/ECO homework, and Subhan Shahab and Ethan Ball (Year 8), for some excellent written work in Spanish!

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



School Council

Following some excellent speeches performed by the candidates, each form elected a School Councillor and a Deputy Councillor following a democratic vote.

The successful candidates who will be working with Mrs Homewood were; 5EHO - Hannah Legg and Meredith Croft, 5OCO - Aizah Basharat and Brody Honeyghan, 5ECA - Georgia-Rose Heighway and Hasnain Shoaib, 5VED - Oscar Monckton and Khloe Gaines, 5AE - Lily-May Brommage and Joelon Parkes, 5ROU - Charlie Hudson and Riley Turner, 6SHE - Amal Shah and Mylee Tabberner, 6SRO - Kadey Harte and Alex Celec, 6SHO - Millie Sutton and Ashley Stanley, 6ABE - Hasan Mahmood & Lewis Tasker-De Vere, 6RE - Lacey Ridge and George Andrews, 7NM - Charlie Heighway and Hashim Babar, 7LTA - Hassan Mohammed and Paige Walters, 7JSP - Kelis Palmer

and Kesiah Ebanks, 7MV - Riley Butler and Lani-Mae Franks, 7AS - Michal Zawada and Tanya Hewitt, 8LCA - Jacob Heighway and Kyle Thomas-Agar, 8BW - Bobby Hill and Mia O'Brien, 8ASA - Luke Duffin and Idris Yasin, 8AG - Brooke Stanton and Rose Barnett, 8LGA - Olivia Croft and Cerys Dearman.

Parliamentary Review

Birchensale featured in the latest edition of The Parliamentary Review. It is a platform for innovative and progressive UK businesses and schools to be heard addressing the challenges they face and sharing their insight.

It highlights significant successes, developments and concerns for school leaders up and down the country.

Writing in The Review, Lord Blunkett says, "the education service continues to deliver for individuals, communities and of course for our nation, as shown by Birchensale Middle School"

The 'best practice' article for Birchensale Middle School can be viewed here:

<https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/birchensale-middle-school>



Music Award

Birchensale Middle School has also been recognised for the value that we place on music, and we were invited to join the growing number of Music Mark School Members. This is down to the hard work of our teachers to ensure that pupils at our school are able to access and engage with a high-quality music education. Our dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated.



Sporting Success

Miss Gatfield has been coaching a very talented group of girls to play netball and we had high expectations of them as they entered the District Netball competition. These talented girls were District Champions in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7, so they were aiming for a clean sweep by winning once again this year. They were undefeated during the qualifying tournament and continued their good form at the finals. They drew 5-5 with St Bede's before comfortably defeating Churchill and

Walkwood. This gave them the trophy once again. The winning squad were; Katrina Zake, Brooke Stanton, Kaja Linda, Iraj Iman, Maja Szymko, Emily Laing, Maja Banas, Cerys Dearman, Rachel Whiley and Rosa Barton.



Fund Raising

Following the cake sales held on British Values Day, the school raised £380.68 for Mac Millan Cancer Support. We also donated £45 in foreign coins to the Air Ambulance Appeal. 7LTa then raised a further £218 for cancer research as part of their Young Enterprise scheme, selling cakes and bath products. We raised a further £233.55 for Young Minds and £234 for NSPCC. So far, this year, pupils and staff have raised £1,111.23 for good causes.



High School Applications

Now that 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**. Please remember to press the 'submit' button and keep a copy of the receipt email that is returned to you.

DT news

Year 5s have completed the first round of Basic Cookery Skills this term. They have cooked up cheese straws, fish goujons, 'easy cheesy frittatas, mini pizza wraps and potato and leek soup.

Engineering Club for years 5&6 has started well and we have a range of fantastic Meccano models for the children to design and build. If anybody has some free time on Tuesday lunchtime and engineering experience, please contact the school office.

Year 8 went to The Wilson Gallery in Cheltenham to take part in a Tatty Devine workshop and exhibition that is touring the country. Some fabulous creations were made by our boys and girls, inspired by Tatty Devine's work, and they all learned

some basic jewellery skills and techniques.



Craft Club are busy making for our Christmas Fayre this year that will be held at our annual Christmas Concert.

Next term we are hoping to hold a robotics workshop with Gizmobots....watch this space.

If anyone has any unwanted fabrics, especially firm, sturdy types, please would you donate them to us for our upcoming textiles project.

Reminders

Next ½ term Year 5 will be celebrating 'difference and diversity'. As part of this topic, Year 5 will be learning about different families, what makes a person unique, challenging stereotypes and discussing how words and phrases affect others. We

want to celebrate all families and ensure everyone's family is included. As part of the school ethos, we want to make sure that every child feels included and knows that they can be themselves.

Welcome Back

We welcome back Mr Homer from his sabbatical. For the last 3 months, he has travelled across America, then on to Peru, Chile and Argentina and has many interesting tales to share with the children about his adventures (once he has cleared his massive in-tray!)



Farewell

We say goodbye to Mrs Alexander who is moving on to new job closer to home. We thank her for her work and commitment to Birchensale and wish her all the best in her new venture. We are currently interviewing for her replacement.

Activities

There are many clubs and activities taking place after school (details on the website and in each form room). Please ensure that you and your child are clear about the

arrangements for getting home, especially as the nights are getting darker. May I remind you that the Library Club is open from 3.15 – 5.00 pm each evening.

With the long nights and cooling temperatures of winter now with us, please remind your children to wear coats to keep warm and 'be visible' when crossing the roads.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the latest 'Headlines' and I hope that the letter informing you of my intention to retire at the end of the year (July 2020) did not come as too much of a shock. After 28 years at Birchensale, it is time to travel the world. I will continue to keep you informed of everything that is happening and who my successor is going to be. I will also be sharing some of my memories in future Headlines.

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

Tim Jones, Head teacher

