

Birchensale Headlines



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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the third newsletter of the year at Birchensale.

With the dark mornings and nights, we are now in the middle of winter and pupils should be reminded to wear coats to school. Pupils should also make sure parents know about pick up arrangements if they are attending clubs or fixtures after school.



Diary events

6/11/18: The school had a Health and Safety audit from the Local Authority to make sure all policies and procedures are up to date. The report was excellent, highlighting the good work performed by our premises team.



6/11/18: Mr Mills hosted the annual E-Safety parents evening. As always the feedback was all about '*we didn't know what we didn't know!*' Hopefully they do now!



8/11/18: Miss Dalby, Miss Horsley, the choir, musicians and myself attended a Pyramid Remembrance concert at St Stephens Church. The choir sang beautifully.



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8/11/18: Year 6 parent/pupil took place.

9/11/18: We held an own clothes day for Children in Need. (See later for details)

13/11/18: Year 5 had their flu vaccinations in school.



14/11/18: Mrs Pugh attended a Children's Mental Health course at The Kia Oval in London.

16/11/18: Mr Cooke, Miss Horsley and a group of Year 5 pupils visited Bowood Care Home to meet the residents and play games with them. They really appreciated the energy and enthusiasm of the pupils and thanked them for giving up their time. The pupils were Paige Bland, Ameerah Metcalfe, Warren Matthews, Kirsten Langfield, Kenzie Richards-Henderson, Leah Pugh, Michael Large, Alfie Blackford, Summer McQuaid, Jasmine Ryan,

Chase Holden-Hodgkinson, Amal Shah, Evin Arslan, Hadley Kilkenny, Sidney Hancox, Robert Emmott, Cameron Davies, Laicee Nash and Isobel Cooper.

19/11/18: We hosted a Book Fair in the library all week. Many books were sold at very reasonable prices and this also helped raise funds (£800) to buy more books for our pupils to read.



19/11/18: The whole school took part in the PASS Survey (Pupils Attitudes to Self and School). The results of the survey give us important information about which pupils would benefit from interventions with Mrs Pugh in our 'removing barriers to learning' programme.

21/11/18: Miss Gatfield took our District trampoline winners to Tudor Grange for the County finals.

28/11/18: Mrs Bennett and myself took a group of students to the Casa Med Tapas bar in Bromsgrove as part of their Spanish studies. They tasted various dishes and discussed them in

spanish! The pupils on the reward trip were Kaja Linda, Saif Hussain, Subhan Shahab, Maja Banas, Maria Constantinescu, Anna Filip, Ameena Isa, Arisha Israr, Klaudia Kroplewska, Alex Hilton, Heather Rigby, Paige Wiggins and Enija Zeidlere.



29/11/18: Year 7&8 parent/pupil lunch took place.

30/11/18: Miss Evans attended an Energy and Sustainability conference as part of her ECO work.

And coming up....

4/12/18: This is the school inter-house rowing day.



4/12/18: Mr Newton is taking his BBS (Birchensale Bright Sparks) group to Webb's Ice Rink as a reward for the work they have completed this term.



5/12/18: Our first reward trip of the year takes place with the top 10% of each year group visiting The Snow Dome, the top 20% having a party as a reward, and the top 30% receiving selection boxes.

Remember, everyone goes back to zero, so all pupils have a chance to earn a trip to Blackwell Outdoor Activity Centre before Easter.



10/12/18: Miss Dalby and the school choir have been invited by the Chairman of the County Council to sing at his Christmas Concert. The pupils will travel by coach to Worcester County Hall to entertain the guests.



13/12/18: A group of our Year 8 students are visiting the German Market and Sea-Life centre.



19/12/18: Mrs Roberts is taking her 'craft club' pupils to Evesham Valley to take part in some workshops.



20/12/18: Christmas lunch is being served in school and we are having a Christmas jumper/own clothes day for charity.



20/12/18: Instead of bringing £1, we are asking pupils to bring in food to donate to the Redditch Food Bank. Pastor Andrew from the Redditch Baptist Church is holding an assembly before taking the food to distribute to families in need.



21/12/18: We break up for Christmas on Friday 21st December with a staff-training day on Monday 7th January and pupils returning on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Attendance

The school attendance rate is currently 95.9%. The best attending classes are 5OCO (98.4%), 5EHO (97.5%) and 7BW (97.0%). Government targets are 95%.



Giant Poppy

The pupils have been busy commemorating the centenary of the end of WW1. Each pupil drew around their own hand on red paper then cut it out. They enjoyed researching facts about the war and the soldiers involved and wrote down this information on their cut out hands. Each year group then collected each hand and placed them all together to create one large poppy in each year area. The results are fantastic.



Head Teacher Awards

The latest awards went to Kishani Santhirakumar in Year 7 for gaining 100% in her maths assessment, Muhammad Syed in Year 7 for his superb art project and Amelie Young in Year 7, for not only winning the Lion's Peace Poster competition, but also for making a fantastic animal's head in her free time.

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



Sports

Our sports teams have continued where they left off last year with a series of outstanding performances this month.

Our Year 8 Boy's Indoor Athletics team defended the trophy they won last year with a resounding victory at Arrowvale. The winning team

were Dave Bulley, Pijus Tvardauskas, Reo Veness, Josh Martin, Szymon Pitula, Jakub Rydzik, Mateusz Okninski and Naqeeb Mahmood.

Our Year 7 Girl's Indoor Football team went to Trinity for the finals of the District competition and showed tremendous skill in winning the trophy and gold medals. The winning team were Grace Court, Emily Laing, Maja Szymko, Nikki Danks, Kaja Linda and Katrina Zake.

Not to be out done, the Year 7 Boy's Indoor Football team then went to Trinity and they also won their District trophy and gold medals. The winning team were Bobby Hill, Kyle Thomas-Agar, Laik Nash, Kenzie McKeon, Harry Edwards, Saif Hussain and Leo Thomas.

At the District Cross-Country finals, Pijus Tvardauskas ran an outstanding race to beat the whole field and was crowned Year 8 district champion.



Haider Babar Trophy

Each year our Year 5's compete in an indoor football tournament, named after an ex-pupil of the school. After a very tight final, and extra-time, the score remained 3-3. Penalties were taken and 'United Tigers' beat 'The Devils'. The winning team were George Gray, Alex Celec, Dawid Zernicki, Patryk Krauze, Leo Hendy and Mason Cudworth.

Fund Raising

Our recent Children in Need Own Clothes Day raised £471, a MacMillan cake sale organised by Miss Vaughan raised £67.67 and the library raised £800.

This makes a total of £1,338.67 raised for good causes so far this year.



Thank you

A big thank you to New Town Printers, based in Studley, who have donated many off-cuts of card to the school. The staff and pupils will make good use of it during their lessons and extra-curricular

activities. We are very grateful.

Christmas Card Competition

Pupils are invited to enter a competition to design a Christmas card for Birchensale. The winning pupil will receive a Head Teachers Award, a selection box and ten copies of the card to send to family and friends. The final day for entries is Friday 7th December.



For your information;

Governors

We are pleased to welcome Ms Dominika Plenzler on to the governing body, as a new co-opted governor, from October. Her expertise in finance and HR will be a useful addition to the board.

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

Tim Jones, Head teacher

