

# Birchensale Headlines



Volume 5; Edition 4; Dec 18

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the year at Birchensale as we say goodbye to 2018.

## Diary events

**3/12/18:** This week we hosted two students from The University of Worcester. They are second year teaching students and will return in the summer term for a longer placement.

**4/12/18:** The school inter-house rowing day took place with every pupil in the school representing their house.

The winning house was Beoley and the individual winners were: Year 5: Harry Bacon and Hailey Best, Year 6: Filip Berezna and Jayda Cotterill, Year 7: Kacper Cioch and Emily Laing, Year 8: Dave Bulley and Sophie Fitzpatrick. We look forward to them rowing at the District Finals in the New Year.



**4/12/18:** Mrs Okonska and Mrs Rydzik hosted the Chatty Families Christmas Party with parents bringing dishes from around the world. Parents and children had a really good time.

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



**5/12/18:** Our first reward trip of the year took 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.



**6/12/18:** We were visited by two fellow Worcestershire head teachers, Mr Charlton from Bredon Hill and Mrs Evans from Westacre. They spent the day meeting staff and pupils as well as observing lessons. This was part of the annual Peer2Peer Review that takes place. They really liked the feel of the school and commented....

*'Children are proud of their school and recognise the wealth of opportunities that Birchensale provides for them.'*

*'Throughout the school and in lessons, the children behave well and are polite and welcoming to visitors.'*

*'There is a strong sense of identity and loyalty amongst school staff and a commitment to share their professionalism and good practice.'*

*'The school demonstrates strong entry to exit data with*

*pupils making excellent progress from Year 5 to Year 8'.*

**9/12/18:** Mr Homer, Miss Gatfield, Mr Newton, Mr Cartland, Miss Robins and Miss Willow took over 70 Year 8 pupils to Malvern Outdoor Education Centre. They spent the week working on team-building activities, abseiling, climbing, bushcraft, problem solving and the energy-sapping ridge walk.

**10/12/18:** Miss Dalby and the school choir have been busy, singing at the Chairman of the County Council's Christmas Concert in the afternoon and at Beoley First School's Christmas Concert in the evening.



**10&12/12/18:** The Year 6 pupils visited the Smallwood Mosque as part of their studies. They were fascinated by the fantastic building and learned a great deal.



**12/12/18:** Mr Brazier hosted two specialist advisory

teachers from Sandwell to talk to them about our Behaviour and Reward scheme. They were very impressed with the positive outcomes at Birchensale and will include our good practice in a report they are writing for the DfE.

**13/12/18:** A group of our Year 8 students visited the German Market in Birmingham to experience the hustle and bustle of Christmas in a different setting followed by the Sea-Life centre. They had an exciting day out.



**18/12/18:** The school production of 'Tin Hats and Telegrams' took place along with songs from the choir as part of our Christmas celebrations.

**19/12/18:** Mrs Roberts took her 'craft club' pupils to Evesham Valley to take part in a number of design workshops.



**20/12/18:** Christmas lunch was served in school and we had a Christmas jumper/own clothes day for charity, with pupils donating food for the Redditch Food Bank. We also had a very entertaining assembly led by Pastor Andrew from the Baptist Church in Redditch.



**20/12/18:** Our Christmas Disco took place with pupils having great fun dancing to a number of Christmas classics.

**21/12/18:** Year 5&6 are watching a performance of 'The Nutcracker'.

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

#### **And coming up....**

**10/1/19:** Year 5 are spending the day working with 'The History Man', learning about the Anglo Saxons.

**11/1/19:** Year 6 are spending the day working with 'The History Man', learning about Ancient Greece.

**11/1/19:** We are having an Own Clothes Day to raise money for 'The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity.

**14&16/1/19:** Parents are invited to attend the Year 5 Parents' Evenings. There is a choice of Monday evening from 3.30-5.00 pm or Wednesday evening from 4.00-7.00 pm. Appointments to be booked in advance with all subject teachers.

**15&17/1/19:** Our Assemblies of Excellence take place (Y5&6 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan and Y7&8 on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan) with our top performing pupils (based on Interim Reports) being celebrated in assembly, followed by refreshments in the library.

**17/1/19:** Year 8 are meeting members of The West Bromwich Building Society. The 'Money Go Round' project is part of their careers programme and teaches pupils how to be responsible with money.

**18/1/19:** Miss Dalby is visiting Holyoakes Field First School to teach the Year 4 pupils African Drumming.

**24&25/1/19:** Our next Year 5 Parent Lunches take place, book early for a place!

**28&30/1/19:** Parents are invited to attend the Year 6 Parents' Evenings. There is a choice of Monday evening from 3.30-5.00 pm or Wednesday evening from 4.00-7.00 pm. Appointments to be booked in advance with all subject teachers.

### **Attendance**

The school attendance rate is currently 95.9%. The best attending classes are 5OCO (98.5%), 5EHO (98.0%) and 5ECA (97.0%). Government targets are 95%.



Congratulations to the 190 pupils with 100% attendance for the term.

### **Head Teacher Awards**

The latest awards went to Priscila Bustamante-Gonzales in Year 5 and Tula Williams in Year 7 for winning their school competitions.

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



### **Pupils of the Term**

These pupils were chosen as Pupils of the Term for their year groups;

Hasan Mahmood (Y5), Evie Hexley (Y6), Harriett Alsop (Y7), and Szymon Pitula (Y8).

This term the following pupils have been selected as Pupil of the Term for their forms; 5ECA: Sidney Hancox, 5OCO: Olivia Sheppard, 5AE: George Gray, 5EHO: Michael Large, 5SD: Jessica King, 6SHE: Daniel Rousseau, 6SRO: Chloe Evans, 6RE: Cameron Nazir, 6ABE: Lily Jones, 6SHO: Codijoan Wood, 7AS: Grace Court, 7MV: Maddy Ball, 7NM: Mia O'Brien, 7AG: Connor Miles, 7BW: Kaja Linda, 8PHO: Atlantis Shuck, 8LCA: Kristina Pecenkova, 8CNE: Ella Ashton and 8EW: Anjum Ullah.

### **Sports**

Our sports teams have produced more outstanding performances this month.

At the District Cross-Country finals, not only did Pijus Tvardauskas run an outstanding race to be crowned the individual Year 8 district champion, he also accompanied Rio Veness, Nageeb Mahmood and Tyler

McAndrew to win the Year 8 team competition.



### **Fund Raising**

Jodie Huxley and Ameer Metcalfe have been selling books donated by Jodie's father. So far, they have raised £80 and donated it to the library to buy more books for the school.

Owen Guest held a cake sale and raised £20, which he donated to the Redditch Defibrillator Appeal.

Our Food Bank Appeal brought in over £800 worth of food.

This makes a total of £2,238.67 raised for good causes so far this year.



### **Birchensale Christmas Card Competition**

Pupils were invited to enter a competition to design a Christmas card for Birchensale. There were 82 entries, who all received 5 achievement points. Year

winners, Perry Childs, Ashleigh Bridgewater and Jake Mancell, each received 20 achievement points and a selection box. The winning pupil, Tula Williams received a Head Teachers Award, 50 achievement points, a selection box and ten copies of the card to send to family and friends.



### **T-Shirt Design Competition**

Pupils were invited to enter a national competition to design a t-shirt logo about languages. There were 36 entries, who all received 5 achievement points. Runners-up were Maria Constantinescu, Klaudia Kroplewska and Betsaida Bustamante-Gonzales, each received 20 achievement points and the winner, Priscila Bustamante-Gonzales received a Head Teachers Award, 50 achievement points, a selection box, and her design was entered into the national competition in London.

### **Goodbye**

We say goodbye to Mr Newton at Christmas after

two and a half years at Birchensale. Mr Newton has secured a job at The University of Birmingham, lecturing on sports, and especially swimming. We wish him well. Mr Spafford will take his lessons for the next two terms.

At the end of another year, it gives us the opportunity to look back at our successes and celebrate our achievements, whilst also looking forward to the new year as a fresh start. As a school, Birchensale has plenty to be proud of! I hope the new year brings you everything that you wish for.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents and pupils for your kind wishes, Christmas cards and presents received by the staff at Birchensale, they are appreciated.

On behalf of the staff and governors of Birchensale, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Tim Jones, Head teacher

