

Birchensale Headlines

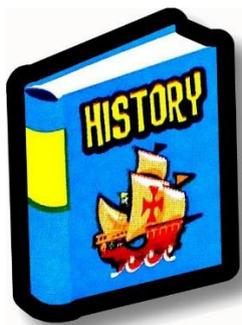


Volume 5; Edition 5; Jan 19

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the year at Birchensale as we say hello to 2019.

10/1/19: Year 5 spent the day working with 'The History Woman', learning about the Anglo Saxons. Pupils were fascinated by the stories and enjoyed seeing the clothes, weapons and tools used during this time.



11/1/19: Year 6 spent the day working with 'The History Woman', learning about Ancient Greece. Again, they dressed up and learnt about everyday life.

11/1/19: We held an Own Clothes Day to raise money

for 'The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity', organised by Mrs Okonska. Monika Sedlak and Robert Jankowski from the charity spoke to the children about what they do.



The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity has been running for 27 years and they raise funds to buy modern medical equipment, particularly for paediatric and neonatal hospitals. The charity has gone from strength to strength and now support causes around the world. Pupils raised £761.12 in school and at two weekend events.



14&16/1/19: Our Year 5 Parents' Evenings took place.

15&17/1/19: Our Assemblies of Excellence took place (Y5&6 on 15th Jan and Y7&8 on 17th Jan) with our top performing pupils (based on Interim Reports) honoured in assembly. The pupils each received a certificate and a copy of the speech written by their form teacher as a memento. This was then followed by refreshments in the library and photographs with parents.



17/1/19: Year 8 met 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 visited Holyoakes Field and Batchley First Schools to teach their Year 4 pupils African Drumming. She had an excellent time and commented on the superb effort and behaviour of the pupils.



24&25/1/19: I had the pleasure of visiting 'the north', where many years ago I went to University. I was invited to present a speech at the Northumberland Middle School's Head Teacher's Conference. They were particularly interested in the new Ofsted framework and the work I have been doing with the DfE in London. I also presented a speech on the Worcestershire Head teacher's Peer2Peer Review Programme. They were interested in how school-to-school support can improve the outcomes for all pupils by sharing good practice.



24&25/1/19: Our Year 5 Parent Lunches took place.

28&30/1/19: Our Year 6 Parents' Evenings took place.



29/1/19: Miss Vaughan and her class held a small ceremony and planted a new tree in our orchard to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.



30/1/19: As news of Dotty, our PAT dog is shared around the county, we had a visitor from Blackminster Middle school who are interested in starting up a similar programme.

And coming up....

1/2/19: The finals of the Spoken English Competition take place with Chair of Governors, Mrs Amor, Trinity teacher, Mr Joy and myself given the unenviable task of selecting a winner in each year group.

The finalists are;

Year 5; Robert Emmott, Liberty Bowkett, Ushani Santhirakumar, and Amal Shah.

Year 6: Lily Jones, Kamran Hussain, Raheeb Imtiaz and Cameron Pugh.

Year 7: Cerys Dearman, Iraj Iman, Ali Shoab, Oliver Leck and Vincent Padanyi.

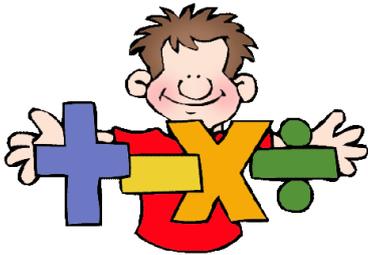
Year 8: Szymon Pitula, Arisha Israr, Abdul Wahhab Khan, Maria Constantinescu and Courtney Matthews.



5/2/19: Mr Homer is hosting a Year 4 Cross Country event with a number of First Schools sending their teams to compete.

6/2/19: Many pupils in the school have been competing

in the Primary Maths challenge. One of our pupils, Ruijie Wang was in the top 5% of all entries, and today he is going to compete against other More Able mathematicians from around the country. Good luck Ruijie!



7/2/19: The pupils who are going on the ski trip to Italy in March are going to the Snow Dome for an additional skiing lesson to prepare them for a trip of a lifetime.



14/2/19: The next school disco takes place 7.00-9.00 pm. Tickets are on sale at break and lunchtimes.

15/2/19: School breaks up for half term. Pupils return on Monday 25th February.

Attendance

The school attendance rate is currently 95.7%. The best

attending classes are 5EHO (98.2%), 5OCO (98.1%) and 7AS (96.6%). Government targets are 95%.



Head Teacher Awards

The latest awards went to Aqsa Mohammed in Year 8 for producing a fantastic Science revision booklet, Taylor Seabourne in Year 7 for spending lunchtimes in the Art room to produce a fantastic collage of an African mask and Lewis Mallin for his excellent textiles project.

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



Sports

Our sports teams have produced more outstanding performances this month.

After our Year 7 Boys came runners-up in their District event, the Year 8 Boys went one step further by defeating Woodfield 2-0, Walkwood 2-0 and St Bede's 5-0 to be

crowned District Champions once again. The winning squad was: Abdul Wahhab Khan, Dave Bulley, Josh Martin, Archie Cleary, James Clarke, Reo Veness, Jakub Rydzik, Szymon Pitula and Ethan Kishilla.



Not to be out done, our Year 5&6 Girls Indoor Athletics team once again won the District event to retain the trophy. The winning squad was: Priscilla Bustamante-Gonzales, Isobel Cooper, Hailey Best, Desiree-Lea Broadbelt, Grace Cox, Julia Kasprzak, Faith Brown, Maisy Thombs, Deimante Salnaite, Jayda Cotterill, Lola Darby, Olivia Sheppard and Skye Shuck.



Fund Raising

Pupils raised £761.12 for 'The Great Orchestra of Christmas

Charity' with an Own Clothes Day and cake sales.

This makes a total of £2,999.79 raised for good causes so far this year.



Letter from Parliament

Following the release of the Key Stage 2 SATS scores by the DfE, we received this letter from our MP, Rachel McLean:

“Dear Tim, following the publication of Key Stage 2 results in December; I wanted to write to you to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on an excellent set of results. I know the reformed tests are much more demanding and so for Birchensale to see an increase from last year in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics is very impressive. In fact, from looking at the data, I believe Birchensale is the most improved school with 71 per cent of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and

mathematics in 2018, compared to 57 per cent in 2017. Once again huge congratulations on your Key Stage 2 results”.

Rachel McLean MP

Rosetta Stone

On other exciting news, I can now confirm that Birchensale is the official winner of the Rosetta Stone European day of languages competition. The programme is used each morning to improve the English language skills for pupils who have English as a second language.

The school completed the highest usage per student over the designated period and had the student with the highest usage overall. This student (who is unaware at this moment in time!) will receive the prize of an I-pad from the company in a forthcoming assembly.

Redditch Food Bank

Following our Christmas Food Bank Appeal, it was great to receive a letter of thank you. The school collected 377.7kg of food, the highest amount from any school. This will have gone a long way to helping out a number of ‘families in need’ over the Christmas period and once

again shows the generosity of our pupils.



Thank You

The Arrow Valley Brass Club, who use our music room for their practice sessions, have donated £300 to our ‘more able’ brass club to help with tuition for our pupils.

Mr Gary Jarvis from First Light Software, Elk House, Redditch, has sponsored a set of books to support the Safety Guide project. The books entitled ‘Bullying Stops with You’ will be used in our Life Skills lessons.

We really appreciate the generosity of others especially with the pull on school budgets.

I hope you have enjoyed reading the latest ‘Headlines’.

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

Tim Jones, Head teacher

