

# Birchensale Headlines



## Volume 5; Edition 6; Feb 19

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the sixth newsletter of the year at Birchensale.

We are now halfway through the academic year and the school continues to offer fantastic opportunities to our pupils. Please encourage your children to attend one of the many after school clubs on offer. Attendance at extra-curricular clubs earns achievement points!

### Diary News

**1/2/19:** The finals of the Spoken English Competition took place. All competitors performed with passion and confidence and after much deliberation, the winners chosen by the judges were;

**Year 5;** Ushani Santhirakumar

**Year 6:** Kamran Hussain,

**Year 7:** Ali Shoaib

**Year 8:** Abdul Wahhab Khan



**4/2/19:** Our Year 6 pupils took their mock SAT's tests to help prepare them for the 'real thing' in May. They did extremely well and should be proud of themselves.



**4/2/19:** Mr Homer and Miss Gatfield took our Year 7 Indoor Football teams to the Midlands finals held in Birmingham. Our Boys and Girls teams were both Redditch District Champions, and were representing Worcestershire, in this prestigious event. Both teams played well, winning and drawing some matches against some outstanding

opposition. The winning teams were filled with West Bromwich Albion Academy players so our performances were very good.

**5/2/19:** Mr Homer hosted a Year 4 Cross Country event with a number of First Schools sending their teams to compete. Our Year 8 Sports Leaders, who coached and encouraged the children to complete the course, marshalled the event.

*Champions run hard,  
when it's hard to run*

**6/2/19:** As part of their teacher development programme, Mr Cooke and Miss Horsley organised and hosted a 'Teach Meet' evening where teachers shared good practice. Each session was a 'bite-size' five minutes and covered a number of topics such as differentiation, marking, self-esteem, seating plans,

barriers to learning and 'wonder and awe lessons'.

The sessions were fun and inspiring and I would like to thank the speakers; Mrs Cartwright, Mr Sullivan, Miss Vaughan and Mr Wilkes from Birchensale, Miss Devey and Mrs Carey-Jenkins from St John's Middle School, Mrs Horton, Mr Lawrence, Miss Haynes and Miss Bray from Trinity High School, Mrs Milligan from James Brindley Academy, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Cerrone from Holyoakes Field First School, Mr Brennan from Arrowdale High School, Mrs Spiller, Mrs Lannie and Mrs Hoskyns-Staples from The University of Worcester and Miss Anslow from The West Midlands Safari Park Education group.



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

**14/2/19:** Another school disco took place, helping us raise money for equipment for the school.



**15/2/19:** School broke up for half term. Pupils returned on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

#### And coming up....

**28/2/19:** Parents Evening for pupils going on the ski-trip to Italy.



**1/3/19:** During assembly, Ines Vandenberghe will join us from the 'Rosetta Stone' language programme. Ines will be handing over certificates to the pupils who worked so hard on their English language skills, enabling Birchensale to win the European Day of Languages prize. The overall winner was Priscila Bustamante-Gonzales and she received an I-pad as her prize.

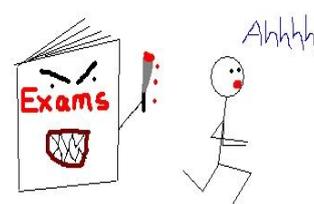


**6/3/19:** Miss Gatfield and Ms Hewitt are taking a group of girls to the Ricoh Arena to watch a netball match between Wasps and Manchester Thunder.

**7/3/19:** We are celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as a favourite character from a book. Prizes will be handed out in each year group.



**7/3/19:** We are holding a Year 6 SATS Parents Evening. This evening shows ways of helping your children learn how to revise and cope with the pressures of the tests.



**8/3/19:** Miss Gatfield is taking a group of girls to Trinity take part in the 'Girls Can' programme. They will take part in Combat Fitness and Zumba sessions.

**9/3/19-16/3/19:** Mrs Batchelor, Mr Cooke, Miss

Evans and myself and taking a group of our pupils to Claviere in Italy for a week's skiing. If you would like to stay up to date with news from the trip, the Twitter handle is @BMSSKI19

**11&13/3/19:** Year 8 Parents Evenings are taking place. Please book a slot for each of the teachers you would like to see.

**12/3/19:** Miss Tate is taking a group of mathematicians to Warwick for a Maths Team Challenge.



**13/3/19:** The Year 7 pupils are going to the Chateau Impney in Droitwich to attend The Worcestershire Skills Show as part of their careers programme.

**14/3/19:** As part of his work with the Ogden Trust, Mr Wilkes has been invited to spend a day at Eton College, sharing his fantastic science ideas.



**15/3/19:** Mr Homer is taking a group of our Gifted & Talented sports stars to London for the National Junior Rowing championships.

**22/3/19:** The school council have organised a movie night 6.00-8.30 pm, to raise money towards the upkeep of the activity trail. Further details can be obtained from the office.



**25&27/3/19:** Year 7 Parents Evenings are taking place. Please book a slot for each of the teachers you would like to see.

**28/3/19:** Our second reward trip of the year takes place to Blackwell Outdoor Education centre. The top 10% of pupils with achievement points are invited on this free trip. The second 10% have an own clothes day and a buffet and the third 10% receive a prize.



### Attendance

The school attendance rate is currently 95.7%. The best attending classes are 5EHO (98.3%), 5OCO (97.9%) and 7AS/7BW, (both 96.6%). Government targets are 95%.



### Head Teacher Awards

The latest awards went to Rhianna McKinley, Tom Simons, Ellie-May Minton, Tom Bridger and Lacey-Lou Hyde for their tremendous models of Motte and Bailey castles and Lewis Smith in Year 8 for his emotive poetry.

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



### Sports

Our sports teams have produced more outstanding performances this month.

Mr Cartland took our 'A' and 'B' Year 8 Table Tennis teams to the District event held at Churchill. After the round-robin games, our teams could

not be separated and they were crowned joint champions!

The winning teams were: Naqeeb Mahmood, Sohail Imtiaz, Lewis Maxwell, Dave Bulley, Reo Veness, Owais Ahmed, Teodor Herbei and Thayub Abid.



Our Year 8 Girls went to Trinity High School and played superbly to win their District Basketball competition. Mr Homer's extra practices clearly paid dividends for the winning squad; Heather Rigby, Lucy Dell, Anna Filip, Amelia Chew, Atlantis Shuck, Evie Willis, Klaudia Kroplewska and Betsaida Bustamante-Gonzales.

Our Year 5/6 Boys In door Athletes won their District Competition at Arrowvale and will now go on to represent Redditch at the County Finals. The winning squad was: Harry Bacon, Daniel Rousseau, Lewis Mallin, Riley Butler, Zabeeh Faheem, Ellis Simons, Kieon Hicks, Jaidon Lee, Bailey Gibbs, Hashim Babar, Amir Ahmed and Blake Dawkes.

### Holocaust Memorial Day

Miss Vaughan and her class held a small ceremony and planted a new tree in our grounds to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

This year an apple tree was chosen due to its symbolism in the Jewish faith: the spread of its branches and its fruits depicting Jewish lives.

Iraj Iman a Year 7 pupil said: ***"It is good that we get to participate in this event at school and it really brought it home how bad it was when we were told that if we gave a minute's silence for every victim of the Holocaust, we would have to be silent for 11-and-a-half years – that's the same amount of time that I have been alive!"***

Miss Vaughan also used the lessons created by Holocaust Educational Trust with all the tutor groups in the school, so everyone has an awareness of the impact of the Holocaust. This year it involved pupils writing and sending individual postcards to Renee Bornstein who is a Polish-Jewish Holocaust survivor who lives in Manchester.



### Fund Raising

We have currently raised £2,999.79 for good causes so far this year.



### Complaints

At Birchensale we strive to achieve the best for all of our children, however we recognise that on some occasions you may feel that we could have done better.

We would be grateful if parents do not use social media to raise complaints, but instead we encourage you to come into school and speak to us. Complaints on social media can be damaging for the school, its staff and most importantly the pupils. Misguided comments may also break the law and could be seen as libel.

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

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

Tim Jones, Head teacher

