



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL Newsletter

April, May and June 2024

Parent Questionnaire – School Development Plan

I would like to thank everyone who completed the on-line questionnaire.

This information will be used to inform our School Development Plan for 2024–2027.

School Website – www.birchesps.com

Our school website has a range of information which is set out under different headings eg:

Parents - Child Protection Information, Newsletters, Letters, Dinner Menu, PTA information and School Policies.

There are also tabs for **School Calendar**, **E-Safety** and lots of other things you might find useful.

I have added some information from PHA under **Medical Info** regarding medical concerns.

Medical Information

Illnesses

There is information from the PHA regarding different illnesses on our school website.

This will give you details of how long it is recommended for your child to stay at home before returning to school.

Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day, please complete a medical form. This can be found on the website under Medical Info, or you can request for one to be sent home with your child from their class teacher or the school secretary.

The medication and note are to be given to their class teacher as soon as they come into school.

Children are not to bring medication into school unless it is accompanied by a note from their parent/carer.

Contacting School

If you are concerned or unsure of anything relating to your child please do not worry at home, pick up the phone and speak to either Mrs Watson or your child's teacher.

We will be only too willing to talk to you after school at a mutually convenient time.

PTA - Friends of Birches

We would like to thank you for supporting our school disco in February. The children really enjoyed themselves!

Together, we raised £930. This money, along with the £750 raised via our Peter Pan's fundraiser in November, has purchased £1600 worth of reading books for use across the school.

Thank-you for all your support so far this year. We are looking forward to our Craigavon Omniplex Takeover on the morning of 28th March.

In June, we intend to hold a pre-loved uniform swap and sale, more details to follow.

We would love to welcome new parents onto our PTA to help with supporting our fundraising initiatives or to help with identifying suitable grants that the PTA can apply for on behalf of school.

If you would be willing to join, please let Mrs Watson know.

Sew Ready

We are delighted that 'Sew Ready' are coming to our school after our Easter break to take a 3-week sewing programme with our P5 class.

The children will have the opportunity to make a pencil topper, a leapfrog plushie and an Emoji plushie.

P2 Trip around their local area – Friday 12 April

Children from Primary Two will have the opportunity to travel by bus around their local area.

Cash For Clobber – Monday 22 April and Tuesday 23 April

We are having another Cash for Clobber collection.

Clothes can be left in the entrance foyer on **Monday 22 April and Tuesday 23 April**

Please do not send in items after these dates. Thank you

Dandelion Photography - P7 School Leavers Pack Thursday 25 April Family and Individual photographs and P1 class photo Tuesday 30 April

- P7 Leavers Pack - Thursday 25th April 2024.

All parents who would like their child/rens P7 Leavers photographs taken MUST pre-register by using the link below by 22nd April by 23:59

To pre-register for your child's photos:

please go to: dandelion.gotphoto.co.uk

enter access code: BIRP72504

- Family and Individual Photos – Tuesday 30 April

All parents who would like their child/rens photographs taken MUST pre-register by using this link by 27th April by 23:59

To pre-register for your child's photos:

please go to: dandelion.gotphoto.co.uk

enter access code: BIR3004

No registrations/permissions will be accepted after these dates so it is very important to register if you wish for photos to be taken.

Love for Life Programme – Monday 29 April / Wednesday 1 May

Children from P4 and P5 will be taking part in the Love for Life Programme on Monday 29 April and P6 and P7 on Wednesday 1 May. Further information regarding these programmes will be sent home closer to the time.

P6 Trip to Belfast Zoo – Friday 3 May

Children from P6 will be given the opportunity to visit Belfast Zoo and take part in a workshop based on the topic of the Rainforest.

The children will leave school around 9am and return in time for the school bus in the afternoon.

School Closures

Monday 6 May - Bank holiday

Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 May - Bank holiday and School Closure

Wednesday 8 May – P7 Hillsborough Castle and Gardens Visit

Our P7 class will visit Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, they will have an opportunity to walk around the beautiful gardens and take part in a workshop on Servants in Victorian Times.

P3 Trip to Armagh Palace Stables – Monday 13 May

As part of their World Around Us topic, children in P3 will be going to Armagh Palace Stables. They will have the opportunity to take part in the Tree Tales and Teddy Bear Trails workshop. The children will look at conservation and preservation of trees and wildlife in greater depth and use their senses in tree identification and woodland games. All pupils will have the opportunity to dramatize a woodland story.

Tri-County Football Tournament – Tuesday 23 April

We will be taking part in the Mini-Soccer Sevens Indoor League 2024

Parents Internet Safety Information Session – Thursday 16 May

We have arranged for the PSNI to come out to talk to parents about on-line safety and ways you can help your child at home.



We have an Internet Safety information page on our website www.birchesps.com which I hope you find informative.

As we are now living in a digital world, it is hard not to be worried or concerned when letting your child use devices which connect to the internet. This is why we have included some information regarding E-Safety for yourselves as parents and for the children.

Above is a chart showing age restrictions for social media sites: Age 13 includes Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat; Age 16 for WhatsApp and Age 18 for YouTube.

If you have any worries or concerns regarding internet safety, you can find more information at:

- www.psni.police.uk/advice_information/internet-safety/
- www.getsafeonline.org

Neill Buckley Football Tournament – Friday 17 May

Our football team will be taking part in the Neill Buckley Tournament at Loughgall.

Richmount Football Tournaments – Wednesday 22 May and Wednesday 29 May

Our football teams will take part in the boys' and girls' tournaments at Richmount.

P1 Trip to C&J's Animal Park – Wednesday 22 May

Children from P1 will visit C&J's Animal Park where they will see an exciting range of animals!

P7 Trip to the Share Centre - Friday 31 May

On Friday 31 May, children from P7 will be offered the opportunity to take part in a day of activities at the Share Centre, Lisnaskea.

Sports Day - Tuesday 4 June – P1 to P3 and Wednesday 5 June – P4 to P7

(provisional dates – weather permitting)

We would like to invite parents to watch the children take part in Sports Day. It has been provisionally arranged for

Tuesday 4 June for children from P1 to P3 and on

Wednesday 5 June for children from P4 to P7 starting at 10am.

Everyone is welcome

P7 Prize Day - Friday 21 June

All parents/carers of children in Primary Seven are welcome to come to school for 10am.

Break The Rules Day! Wednesday 27 June

Pay 50p for every rule you would like to break.

OR

You can break all the rules for £2.00

Rules to be broken include

1. Must wear school uniform
2. No crazy hair
3. Must bring in a healthy break
4. No nail varnish or temporary tattoos
5. Must sit in a set seat

Final Assembly – Thursday 27 June

The final assembly for all children will take place on **Thursday 27 June**.

Early Closing

Thursday 27 June - School will close early.

12.45pm Children with no siblings at school

12.55pm All other children from P1 to P7

1.00pm Children who normally get the school bus

(Please make sure your child knows if they are to get the bus home)

Early Closing

Friday 28 June - School will close early.

10.45am Children with no siblings at school

10.55am All other children from P1 to P7

11.00am Children who normally get the school bus

(Please make sure your child knows if they are to get the bus home)

There will be no dinner today.

General Information

Contact Details

Please ensure that school has an up-to-date phone number on which to contact you.

If you have moved house recently make sure that you have notified school of your child's new address.

If you have not been receiving text messages from school, please contact Mrs Watson –

pwatson676@c2kni.net

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all coats, sweatshirts and on clothes that are removed to change for P.E and swimming. If possible, use name tabs as names written in ink can wear off during the year.

Medical Information

Please keep the school informed of any recently diagnosed allergies or other medical conditions.

I hope everyone has a lovely Easter break.

Mrs Watson



Dates For Your Diary April, May and June 2024

School Holidays / Closures

- Monday 6 May - Bank holiday
- Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 May - Bank holiday and School Closure

Other Dates

- Monday 22/Tuesday 23 April - Clothes for 'Cash for clobber' to be left into school
 - Thursday 25 April - P7 Leavers photos
 - Tuesday 30 April - Family and Individual Photos and P1 class photo
 - Friday 3 May - P6 trip to Belfast Zoo
 - Wednesday 8 May - P7 trip to Hillsborough Castle and Gardens
 - Monday 13 May - P3 trip to Armagh Palace Stables
 - Thursday 16 May - Parents Evening Information session with the PSNI on Internet Safety

 - Friday 17 May - Neill Buckley 7-a-side Football Tournament Loughgall
 - Wednesday 22 May - P1 trip to C&Js Animal Park
 - Richmount Football Tournament – Boys
 - Wednesday 29 May - Richmount Football Tournament – Girls
 - Friday 31 May - P7 trip to the Share Centre
 - Tuesday 4 June - P1 to P3 Sports Day
 - Wednesday 5 June - P4 to P7 Sports Day
 - Friday 21 June - P7 Prize Day 10.00am
 - Wednesday 26 June - Break the Rules Day!
 - Thursday 27 June - **Final Assembly – Early Closure**
 - Children with no siblings at school at 12.45pm
 - All other children from P1-P7 12.55pm
 - The school bus will be available to take children home at 1.00pm
 - Friday 28 June - **Last day of term – Early Closure**
 - Children with no siblings at school at 10.45am
 - All other children from P1-P7 10.55am
 - The school bus will be available to take children home at 11.00am
- There will be no lunch served today.**

NEW TERM 2024

School Starts back on Thursday 29 August 2024

- * Thursday 29 August - School will close at 12.00pm
- * Friday 30 August - School will close at 12.00pm
- Monday 2 September - Normal School Hours – 8.40am start

* There will be no lunch served on these days.

The bus will be available to bring children to and from school who normally travel on the bus



Birches Primary School

Holiday List

2024 / 2025 School Year

When booking family holidays make sure they are booked when the school is closed.

Hallowe'en Break:	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November start back Monday 4 November
Christmas:	Monday 23 December to Friday 3 January start back Monday 6 January
Half Term:	Wednesday 12 February to Friday 14 February start back Monday 17 February
St. Patrick's:	Friday 14 and Monday 17 March start back Tuesday 18 March
Easter:	Monday 14 April to Friday 25 April start back Monday 28 April
May Day:	Monday 5 May
May break:	Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 May start back Wednesday 28 May