



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS LETTER

January / February / March 2023

Admission to Primary 1 for September 2023

Application forms for Primary 1 should be completed online through the link on the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk.

The portal will be open from **noon on Tuesday 10th January 2023** and will close **at noon on Friday 27th January 2023**.

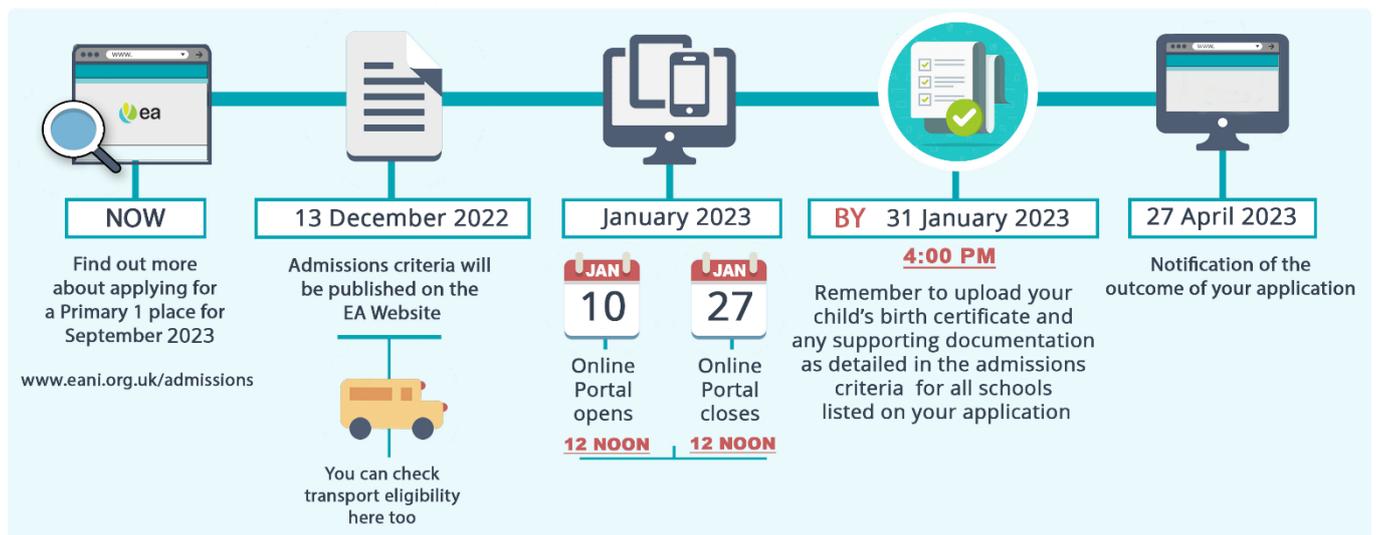
Your child's birth certificate and any other necessary documentation should be uploaded to the document hub. The application form will tell you how to do this.



KEY DATES FOR PARENTS – APPLYING FOR PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION – SEPTEMBER 2023

Children born on or between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 are compulsory school age in September 2023

Children born on or between 2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 can apply for a place in a reception class



PDMU – Drug Awareness – first session Friday 6 January

Jeannie Graham, from 'Portadown Temperance Council' will be working with children from P6 and P7 on areas linked to Drug Awareness over a five-week period.

World War II Event - Tuesday 10 January

Children from P4 have been learning about World War II in World Around Us during the first term. They will be given the opportunity to visit the Palace Stables, Armagh on Tuesday 10 January and they will explore 'Life during the War' focusing on the Blitz, Evacuees and Rationing.

Swimming Programme

The swimming programme for P5 children will begin on **Wednesday 11 January until Wednesday 15 February**.

The swimming programme for P4 children will commence on **Wednesday 1 March until Wednesday 5 April**. Children are to bring their swimming kit along with a contribution of £2.00 each week. Children are not to bring any valuables with them to the pool.

Dairy Council – Thursday 26 January

The dairy council will be coming out to carry out a workshop with children from P5.

P5 and P7 Museum on the Move sessions – 7, 8, 14 and 15 February

Children from P5 and P7 will take part in on-line workshops through the 'Museum on the Move' programme looking at the areas of Ancient Egypt and The Victorian Schoolhouse.

Clounagh Junior High School musical 'Oklahoma' – Friday 10 February

Children from P7 have the opportunity to travel to Clounagh Junior High school to watch their performance of 'Oklahoma'.

Love Your Heart Day – Tuesday 14 February – NON-UNIFORM DAY - £1.00 towards the British Heart Foundation

On Tuesday 14 February Mrs Neill, our school cook, will be organising a special menu to focus on healthy foods which are important to maintain a healthy heart. This will be a non-uniform day - the children can wear something red.

There will be a voluntary donation of £1.00 to go to The British Heart Foundation.

P5 Biodiversity workshop – Tuesday 14 February

The Biodiversity team from LNDC (Lough Neagh Discovery Centre) will deliver an outreach session with our P5 children which will take place in the school grounds, both inside and outside of the classroom with all activities based around exploring the school grounds and connecting with nature.

School Closed – St. Patrick's Day – Friday 17 March

School Photographer – Friday 31 March

The photographer will come to school on Friday 31 March to take individual and family group photographs. Further details will be sent home with the children.

School Closed – Easter Break – Thursday 6 April – Wednesday 19 April

School reopens on Thursday 20 April

Early Closing

Wednesday 5 April - School will close early. There will be no dinner on this day

12.00pm P4 - P7 Children with no siblings at school

12.00pm P1 - P7 Children who normally get the school bus (please make sure your child knows if they are to get the bus home)

12.10pm All other children from P1 to P7

Please arrive promptly to collect your child to aid congestion in the car park. Thank you

PTA - Friends of Birches

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Raffle which raised a total of £1336. Congratulations to the lucky winners of the amazing prizes. This money will be used to go towards a shed for our outdoor learning area. We hope to organise more events in spring.

General Information

Dinner money

School meals cost £2.60 per day - £13.00 per week. Please consult the monthly menu and send the correct money on a **Monday** morning for the whole week.

We are unable to lodge cheques and can only accept cash. Thank you.

Nut Allergy - Reminder

As we have a child in school with a nut allergy, it is extremely important that **NO NUTS or foods containing nuts** are to be brought to school by the children. Thank you.

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.

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.

The only piece of jewellery to be worn in school is a watch.

For health and safety reasons **earrings, rings and necklaces are not to be worn.**

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.

Money Wallets

Money wallets are still available to buy from school. These come in packs of 40 at a cost of £3.00.

These can be purchased from your child's class teacher.

Severe Weather Emergency Closure

We are coming back to that time of year again when heavy frost or snow could affect the running of our school.

A letter regarding our school procedures in severe weather is on our school website under letters.

If you have not been receiving a text message from the school this term, please contact the office to have your number added to the system 028 38851443.

Medical Information

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



Dates for your Diary 2022/2023

Tuesday 10th January - Friday 27th January 2023	Admission to Primary 1 for September 2023
Tuesday 10 January	P4 trip to Armagh Palace Stables
Wednesday 11 January until Wednesday 15 February	Swimming programme for P5 children
Friday 10 February	P7 trip to Clounagh JH performance of Oklahoma
Tuesday 14 February	Non-uniform - Love Your Heart Day (Wear something red)
Wednesday 1 March until Wednesday 5 April	Swimming programme for P4 children
Friday 31 March	School Photographer
Wednesday 5 April	School closes early

School Holidays 2022/2023

Half Term

Thursday 16 February	-	School closed to
Wednesday 22 February		
<i>School starts again on Thursday 23 February</i>		

St. Patrick's Day

Friday 17 March	-	School closed
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Easter Holidays

Thursday 6 April	-	School closed to
Wednesday 19 April		
<i>School starts again on Thursday 20 April</i>		

Monday 1 May	Bank Holiday	-	School closed
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Monday 8 May	King Charles Coronation	-	School closed
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Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 May		-	School closed
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School starts again on Wednesday 31 May

2023/2024 School Year

School Starts back on Wednesday 30 August, 2023

*Wednesday 30 August	School will close at 12.00pm
*Thursday 31 August	School will close at 12.00pm
Friday 1 September	Normal School Hours

*There will be no lunch served on these days.

The bus will be available to bring children home who normally travel on the bus.

