



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter
November / December 2016

Medical Information

Please keep the school informed of any recently diagnosed allergies or other medical conditions. It is essential that parents keep a regular check on the expiry dates on inhalers or other medication stored in school and ensure they remain in date as teachers are not permitted to administer any medication that is out of date.

Contact Details

Could you please ensure that school has an up to date phone number on which to contact you on. If you have moved house recently can you please make sure that you have notified school of your child's new address.

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all coats, hoodies, sweatshirts and on clothes that are removed to change for P.E and swimming. If possible please 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.

After School Activities

After school activities will take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2.35 until 3.30pm. They start on the week beginning **Monday 7 November to Thursday 15 December.**

Monday:	Music and Drama (P3 – P7)	2.35pm– 3.30pm
Tuesday:	Football (P4 - P7) £1.50 per session	2.40pm – 3.40pm
Wednesday:	Tennis (P6 – P7)	2.35pm – 3.30pm
Thursday:	Healthy Kids (P1 - P2) £9.00	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	(P5 - P7) £9.00	2.35pm – 3.30pm

There will be no after school activities on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 November.

Parent Interviews – Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 November

School will close early on both of these days. In order to ease traffic congestion we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 1.10pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 1.20pm.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it at 1.30pm – for children who normally travel on the bus.

Parent interviews will commence at 1.40pm.

School Disco – Friday 18 November

The PTA have organised a disco for all children who attend the Birches Primary School.

Tickets are on sale at £2.50 per child. The disco will start at 6pm and end at 7.30pm.

Ranfurly House – P3 trip 'Toys From the Past' Friday 25 November

Children from P3 have the opportunity to visit Ranfurly house in Dungannon and take part in a morning of activities exploring toys from the past.





P3 to P7 Christmas Carol Service – Monday 5 December

The Christmas Carol Service for children from P3 to P7 will take place in Milltown Church at 7pm.

Pantomime for P1 and P2 children Bardic Theatre - Tuesday 6 December

Children from P1 and P2 will be given the opportunity to see 'Cinderella' at The Bardic Theatre, Donaghmore. This will take place on Tuesday 6 December.

The children will leave school at 9.30am and will **NOT be back in time for School Dinner**. They can bring a packed lunch which they can eat on their return to school. The children will go home at their usual time.

The cost of admission to the pantomime is £8.00 per child and can be brought to their class teacher by Friday 2 December.

Christmas Dinner for P3 – P7 - Tuesday 6 December

Christmas Dinner is on Tuesday 6 December for children from P3 to P7. If your child wishes to take dinner on this day it is very important that they let their teacher know on Monday 5 December for catering purposes.

Pantomime for P3 – P7 children – The Market Place, Armagh – Wednesday 7 December

Children from P3 to P7 will be given the opportunity to see 'Cinderella' at The Market Place, Armagh. This will take place on Wednesday 7 December.

The children will leave school at 9.15am and will **NOT be back in time for School Dinner**.

They will need to bring a packed lunch with them which they can eat on their return at approximately 12.40pm. All children will go home at their usual time. The cost of admission to the pantomime is £8.00 per child and can be brought to their class teacher by Friday 2 December.

Christmas Dinner for P1 and P2 Wednesday 7 December

Christmas Dinner is on Wednesday 7 December for children from P1 and P2. If your child wishes to take dinner on this day it is very important that they let their teacher know on Monday 5 December for catering purposes.

P1 and P2 Nativity - Wednesday 14 December

The P1 and P2 Christmas performance will begin at 10.00am and should end at approximately 11.00am.

Christmas Through the Ages - Palace Stables – P7 trip– Thursday 15 December

Children from P7 have the opportunity to visit the Palace Stables, Armagh to take part in the programme 'Christmas Through the Ages'. The cost is £4.00 per child.

Save the Children – Friday 16 December – Christmas Jumper Day

Children can wear a special 'Christmas Jumper', a Santa hat or come to school in their own clothes to help raise money for Save the Children. If children wish to take part they can bring £1.00.

Party Days and Non-Uniform Days – No Charge for these days - Monday 19 December and Tuesday 20 December

These will be non-uniform days with an optional Christmas theme, for example – a Santa hat, tinsel hairband...

Christmas parties for P1 – P4 will take place on Monday 19 December

Christmas parties for P5 – P7 will take place on Tuesday 20 December

If you are sending in snacks with your child please check that they don't contain nuts. Thank you.

Monday 19 December – Early Closing

In order to ease traffic congestion we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 12.40pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 12.50pm.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it at 1.00pm

Tuesday 20 December – Early Closing

In order to ease traffic congestion we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 11.40am.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 11.50am.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it at 12.00pm





Dates for your Diary

Parent Interviews

Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 November
School closes early

School Disco

Friday 18 November – 6.00pm – 7.30pm

P3 Trip to Ranfurly House

Friday 25 November

P3 – P7 Christmas Carol Service – Milltown Church at 7.00pm

Monday 5 December

P1 – P2 Trip to Pantomime

Tuesday 6 December – ‘Cinderella’ £8.00

P3 – P7 School Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 6 December

P3 – P7 Trip To Pantomime

Wednesday 7 December – ‘Cinderella’ - £8.00

P1 and P2 School Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 7 December

P1-P2 Nativity Performance at 10.00am

Wednesday 14 December

P7 Trip to Palace Stables, Armagh

Thursday 15 December

Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 16 December

Christmas Party P1 – P4

Monday 19 December

School will close early (see sheet for details)

Christmas Party P5 – P7

Tuesday 20 December

School will close early (see sheet for details)

NO DINNER SERVED TODAY

School Reopens

Thursday 5 January

***I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year***



Birches Primary School

CAR PARK



Morning Drop Off

To ease traffic congestion at peak times please ensure that the person dropping off or collecting your child is aware of these procedures:

- **Do not cross over the white line at the top of the car park** – it is very important that this area is kept free of moving traffic so that children are able to be dropped off and walk into school safely. This is for staff cars only.
- Parents can drop children off from 8.30am.
- If you wish to talk to your child's class teacher please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.
- If you are bringing your child into school please park in a designated parking space.
- Registration starts at 8.40am. This is when the class teaching time officially starts. Being punctual will ensure your child will be organised and ready to start their school day.

Home collection time

To ease traffic congestion the school has staggered home collection times for P1 – P3.

- P1 children are to be collected at 1.25pm
- P2 children are to be collected at 1.35pm
- P3 children are to be collected at 1.45pm (Tuesday and Wednesday)
- P3 children are to be collected at 2.35pm (Monday, Thursday and Friday)
- P4 – P7 children:
 - to be collected at 2.35pm
 - school bus will take eligible children home
 - after school activities end at 3.35pm

Early Christmas Closing

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