



## BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

September / October 2018

### Health and Safety

#### **Allergies**

We have several children in school who have severe allergies. Therefore, it is extremely important that **NO NUTS or KIWI or foods containing nuts** are to be brought to school by the children. Thank you.

#### **Medication**

For all children who use inhalers please ensure that staff have two inhalers.

It is not necessary for brown inhalers to be kept in school.

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stored in school and ensure they remain in date as teachers are not permitted to administer any medication that is out of date.

#### **Medical Information**

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

#### **Emergency Contact Numbers / Personal Details**

Please ensure the school has at least three up to date contact numbers for your child should you need to be contacted during school hours and while your child is travelling home on the school bus.

### School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all 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. If your child has recently had their ears pierced and needs to keep their earrings in, please contact Mrs Watson.**

### Healthy Breaks

We have a healthy break programme running in school which has been extremely successful in the past due to the commitment of parents helping to support this initiative.

We are encouraging children to bring healthy food with them to eat at break times. They are able to bring a wide selection of food to school including a pancake, sandwich, fruit, yoghurt, cheese and vegetables.

A range of healthy food is for sale at break time at a cost of 20p per item for children from P3 to P7. This includes: fruit, crackers, pancakes and toast.

### Absent Notes

If your child is absent, please send in a note to your child's teacher on the day they return to school stating the reason for their absence. Teachers must code all absences in roll books eg: ill, medical/dental appointment, late etc. as Education Welfare Officers make regular visits to school to examine school attendance records.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Holidays

A list of school holidays will be sent out for the school year. If you are arranging a holiday for your child, please arrange it within these times. Thank you.

### Parent Interviews

Parent Interviews for P1-P7 pupils will take place on Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 November.

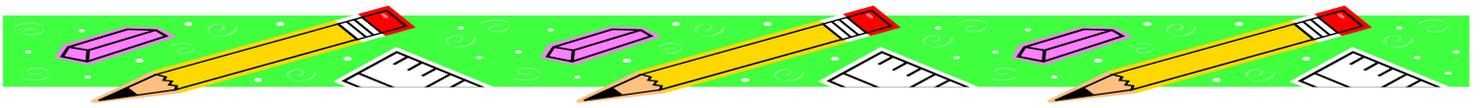
School will close at 1.30pm for ALL CHILDREN. Interviews will be held from 1.40pm to 5.30pm.

There will be an opportunity for you to have another interview with your child's class teacher in the second term.

### Music Tuition in School

We are delighted to be able to offer children from P4 to P7 the opportunity to take part in music lessons organised by the EA music service. This year we are offering tuition for violin/viola (P4 – P7), woodwind instruments and percussion (P5 – P7).

A letter will be sent home giving further details regarding music tuition in school.



### 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 2.35pm until 3.30pm.

All after school activities will start on the week beginning 11 September.

<b>Monday</b>	ICT club	P6 - P7		2.35pm – 3.30pm
	Bible Club	P4 – P5		
<b>Tuesday</b>	Soccer Stars	P2 – P3	£15.00 (for half term)	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	Soccer Stars	P4 – P7	£15.00 (for half term)	2.35pm – 3.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dance	P2 – P3	£15.00 (for half term)	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	Dance	P4 – P7	£15.00 (for half term)	2.35pm – 3.30pm
	Eco Team (members only)			2.35pm – 3.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Teddy Tennis	P2	£20.00	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	Tennis	P4 - P5	£25.00	2.35pm – 3.30pm
	Film Club	P6-P7		2.35pm – 3.30pm

### Friends of Birches Primary School Association

I would like to thank all of the committee members and parents who organised and ran fund raising events over the last school year. Your support is very much appreciated and I hope that the association is well supported in this coming school year. All parents are very welcome to join the committee and to help out throughout the year.

**All parents are invited to our first PTA meeting of this school year on Tuesday 18 September at 7.00pm.**

### Swimming Programme

The swimming programme for P7 children began on Tuesday 11 September. Children are to bring their swimming kit along with a contribution of £1.75 each week for the swimming lesson and the school will cover the cost of the bus.

Children are not to bring any valuables with them to the pool.

P6 will begin their swimming lessons after the Hallowe'en break and P4 and P5 children will begin their swimming lessons after Christmas.

### 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.

### Money Wallets

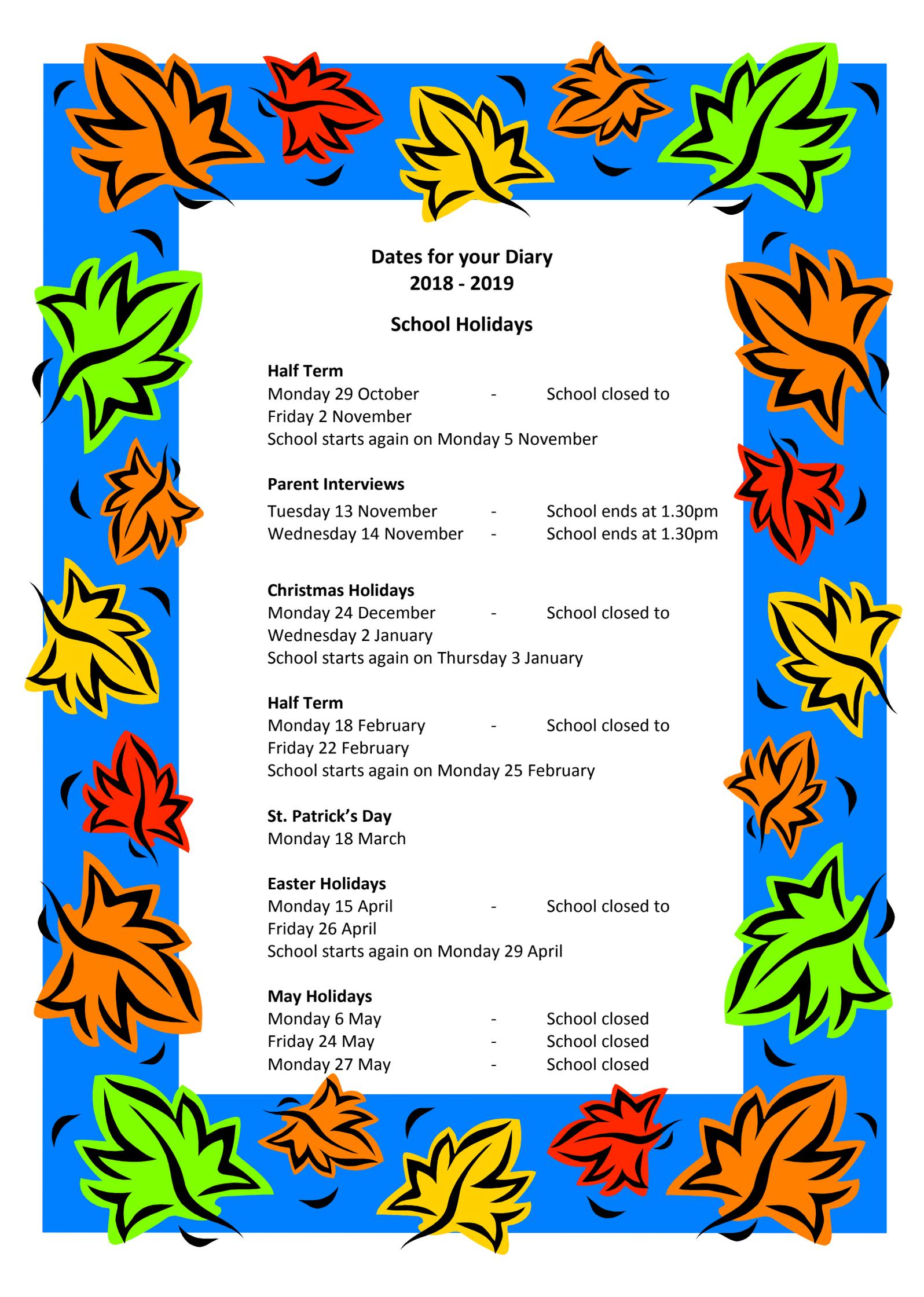
Money wallets are available to buy from school. These come in packs of 40 and cost £3.00 per pack. These can be purchased from your child's class teacher.

### Water Bottles

We have a water cooler installed in school which means that fresh chilled drinking water is available for children throughout the day. Children from P1 to P7 can bring in their own water bottle with a sports top which can be refilled during school to drink in class.

### Titanic Trip – P7

Children from P7 have the opportunity to visit the Titanic Centre in Belfast. Further information will follow.



**Dates for your Diary  
2018 - 2019**

**School Holidays**

**Half Term**

Monday 29 October - School closed to  
Friday 2 November  
School starts again on Monday 5 November

**Parent Interviews**

Tuesday 13 November - School ends at 1.30pm  
Wednesday 14 November - School ends at 1.30pm

**Christmas Holidays**

Monday 24 December - School closed to  
Wednesday 2 January  
School starts again on Thursday 3 January

**Half Term**

Monday 18 February - School closed to  
Friday 22 February  
School starts again on Monday 25 February

**St. Patrick's Day**

Monday 18 March

**Easter Holidays**

Monday 15 April - School closed to  
Friday 26 April  
School starts again on Monday 29 April

**May Holidays**

Monday 6 May - School closed  
Friday 24 May - School closed  
Monday 27 May - School closed

