



Dear Parents

May I extend a very warm welcome to you all at the start of an exciting new academic year and I hope that the summer holidays have provided the ideal opportunity for some precious family time together. I would also like to pass on a special welcome to our new pupils and their families, most particularly to our new Reception class who have impressed Mrs Grant-King already with their confident start at the very outset of their learning journey. I have thoroughly enjoyed greeting the pupils on the gate each morning and am already very impressed by their polite greetings and wide smiles as they walk enthusiastically into school.

I am thrilled to have taken up my role as Headmistress of Birchfield School in what marks a return to the school after four years. The beauty of the school site has not decreased in the time and I have been pleased to see the addition in recent years of yet more opportunities put before our young learners by way of the enhanced facilities and the breadth of curriculum. Long may that continue so that the pupils at Birchfield can continue to benefit greatly from extended opportunities in such areas as sport, music, art and drama.

Over the coming weeks, I will not just be getting to know the pupils better, learning about their interests and strengths, but also reviewing our provision of core subjects at the school. A traditionalist, I am passionate about the importance of the acquisition of basic skills in such areas as reading, handwriting, spelling and times tables and evidence supports the value of such a strong foundation as the springboard for later academic success.

As part of that review, I will also be looking at the use of technology in school and pupils will be encouraged to employ their iPads predominantly for research-based tasks, ensuring that the focus remains firmly fixed upon the quality of independent written work. During this period of review where we consider the future use of personal tablets for Year 1 pupils and above in school, please could I kindly request that you do not purchase new devices, or I invite you to speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions and I will be in touch further on this subject in due course.

I am also pleased to share with you the news that the school will be launching a brand-new website in the coming weeks and more information will follow shortly. In addition, a letter is being issued today to announce the dates for the individual year group welcome meetings and I am already looking forward to meeting you. I do hope that you can join us.

Finally, may I thank you all for your warm welcome and your good wishes. Birchfield School is a very special place and I am very excited to be leading the school on to further successes in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Morris
Headmistress





BirchfieldSchool

The Griffin

ASSEMBLY FOCUS: Planning Ahead...

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” - **Benjamin Franklin**

Our assembly focus this week centred upon the need to plan and prepare for the year ahead. It was wonderful to hear how so many of our pupils had already packed their school bags a week before the return to school, such was their enthusiasm to return! We heard about their new school shoes, smart haircuts and new items of sports kit and uniform as ways of preparing for the start of term, but discussed how true success in the longer term lies in planning well ahead and setting ourselves goals for the year to come. I look forward to learning some of the aims and ambitions the pupils have set for themselves in the coming weeks.

STAFFING NEWS

May I also inform you that Peter Neale, the school Bursar, will be leaving the school at the end of September. We have very much enjoyed working with Peter in the last six months and thank him for his enthusiasm and hard work. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Bursar and will share the news with you as soon as an appointment is made.

REVISED PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you for your support in our revised parking arrangements which will be trialled for three weeks.

BOARDING

Further to the letter at the end of last term which sought to gauge interest in boarding for this term, despite a pleasing level of interest, we currently do not have sufficient numbers to proceed with the boarding events planned for the term ahead. In light of this, it has been decided to review the situation again ahead of next term. The school remains committed to offering a boarding provision for the considerable value it offers and especially for our pupils who are considering boarding at senior school.

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Further to Speech Day, badges were presented to Fynn Gautier who was appointed Head Boy and Esther Hurford Head Girl. Congratulations to them both and we look forward to their participation in school life.

PREFECTS

We are pleased to announce that following pupils have been awarded Prefect status with responsibility for the following areas:

Ethan Bishop – Sport
Pamela Cox Bradshaw – Library
Major Evans – Science
Jason Hodnett – Playground
Natasha Loumidis – Pre-Prep
Grace Seedhouse – Sport
Luke Sheldon – Art
Harry Spear – Music

Telephone: 01902 372534
Email: office@birchfieldschool.co.uk
Website: www.birchfieldschool.co.uk

Birchfield Preparatory School,
Harriot's Hayes Lane, Albrighton,
Near Wolverhampton, WV7 3AF





WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of Reception, Benjamin Calcott (Year 1) and Sebastian Calcott (Year 3) who joined Birchfield School this week. We hope that you thoroughly enjoy your Birchfield journey.

RECEPTION



Such an exciting time, as we welcome our new Reception Class to Birchfield. We have been so proud of how they have all settled in. It hasn't taken long at all and already they have enjoyed exploring their new classroom and taking part in Music, French and PE lessons. The children have been an absolute delight and Miss Hammond and I are very much looking forward to sharing a wonderful year with them.

Mrs Grant-King

CAPTAINS OF SPORT

Many congratulations to this season's Captains of Sport:

Major Evans - Captain of Football
Grace Seedhouse - Captain of Hockey

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

- Please refresh the calendar App for the latest version of events for this term.
- Please note that Photography Club will not start until Friday, 5 October.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS

The individual school photographs will be taken on Tuesday, 18 September in the morning. Boys and girls must wear their blazers and should look smart. All pupils with siblings will have individual and group photographs taken with their brothers/sisters.

THE WEEK AHEAD		
Date	Time	Event
10/09/2018		Clubs and Activities Programme begins
	08:40-09:00	Whole School Assembly
		Reception Introduction Meetings all week
	All day	Year 8 Rivers project at Carding Mill Valley
12/09/2018	14:30	U13 5-a-side Hockey v Yarlet (a)
	14:30	U12 & U10A Football v Shrewsbury High Prep (h)
	15:00	U11A & B Hockey v Moreton Hall (a)
	19:30	Friends of Birchfield Meeting (Library)
13/09/2018	14:20	U9 A & B Football v Shrewsbury High Prep School (a)
	14:45	Reception Welcome Meeting - Sitting Room
14/09/2018	13:00-16:00	Wrekin Maths Challenge

LETTERS SENT OUT/CLARIONED THIS WEEK:

Pupil Planner – Years 3 to 8
Pre-Prep Collection letter – Pre-Prep
Welcome meeting letters – all pupils
Geography trip letter to Carding Mill – Year 8

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