



Dear Parents



Despite some blustery and wet weather this week, the pupils' Birchfield spirit is not dampened and they have enjoyed another exciting week of activities. The 'Marvellous Me' themed day in Pre-Prep has been a particular highlight with group activities on keeping healthy, exercise and learning about the different organs. Our thanks, particularly to Mrs Baker, who has enthralled the pupils with her sessions on looking after our mutual health and emotions.

Sarah L. Manning
Headmistress

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT CHILLINGTON HALL



I am pleased to share with you that the Birchfield Choir has been invited to perform a series of carols at the Christmas Celebration events taking place at Chillington Hall. The events will take place on Wednesday, 12th and Thursday, 13th December at the end of the school day and we are delighted that the pupils will be able to showcase their singing talents at such a special and seasonal series of events in this beautiful setting. Letters will follow in due course to parents of pupils in the choir with full details, but please be aware that the Christmas Feast will now move from Thursday, 13th December to Tuesday, 11th December at the same time in order that all our pupils in Years 3 and above can attend this popular meal. Senior House Hockey will run as usual on Wednesday, 12th December, but will take place on site rather than the advertised venue of Aldersley Stadium. The school app has been updated to reflect this change.

ASSEMBLY FOCUS

Our assembly focus this week centred around learning about the quality of empathy. In a week which has seen hurricanes and tropical storms devastate parts of America and the Philippines, learning how to 'put yourselves in someone else's shoes' in order to better understand their situation is highly relevant. As we studied a photograph for clues about how a person's feelings, it was clear to see how caring the pupils are already in relation to their concern for others and there were some especially moving answers from our Pre-Prep pupils. We ended our assembly with powerful words from Barack Obama on the subject, "Learning to stand in somebody else's shoes, to see through their eyes, that's how peace begins. And it's up to you to make that happen. Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world".

STAFFING NEWS

After nearly 20 years of excellent and dedicated service to the school, Mrs Bridge will be retiring at the end of this term. We wish her every success and much happiness as she takes on a busy role as a grandmother after Christmas and know that many scores of pupils will have benefited from her care, energy and expertise over the years. Plans are already underway to recruit her successor and news will be shared with you in the coming weeks. I know that you will join me in wishing Mrs Bridge a very happy retirement and thank you for her considerable ongoing contribution to Birchfield school life.



FRIENDS OF BIRCHFIELD—MICROSCOPES



Birchfield Science Department and the pupils of Birchfield are extremely grateful to The Friends of Birchfield School for providing funds to purchase six state of the art LED Electric Microscopes. They can operate off mains or battery power and provide 10x, 40x and 400x magnification and have coarse and fine focus features. The quality of the image is fantastic. This is an important step for the Science Department as the schools which the pupils attend after Birchfield, all use this type of microscopes which will help the pupils with the transition process. Thank you!

Mr N Amery

FRIENDS OF BIRCHFIELD FLASHFORGE 3-D PRINTER



We are pleased to say that our new FlashForge 3-D printer is up and running and has wowed the children with its amazing feat of creating marvellous objects from nothing; layer upon layer of plastic is deposited and wonderful shapes are developed before our very eyes. Thank you to Luke Sheldon for helping to assemble the machine and creating a fascinating object. We are very grateful to the Friends for this very useful and wonderful printer.

Mr K Swift

TOP HOUSE POINT EARNERS

Many congratulations to:

Seniors: Tristan Garratt

Juniors: George Rudd

SPORTS NEWS

Gold for Birchfield, again!

This week we were delighted to learn we have been awarded a Gold Sportsmark Certification from Your School Games for the second year running. We are delighted to achieve the highest possible national award which highlights the excellent PE provision in place at Birchfield, as well as commenting on the wealth of sporting opportunities that are offered here. This would not be possible without the fantastic work of pupils and teachers at Birchfield, and a special thank you to parents for your outstanding support over the last year.



Well done to all our winners and also all to those that attending cricket clubs over the summer and enjoying their sport.

Shropshire Cricket Winter Trials

Over the next few weeks young cricketers at Birchfield will be put forward for Shropshire Cricket trials over the winter. If they were already in the pathway from last year, then they will automatically be selected for trials again. If they have been selected for trials this year, then Shropshire Cricket will contact you directly via email in order to find a suitable trial for you to attend. Good luck to everyone taking part in the trials. Please speak to me if there are any questions regarding this.

Mr I Anderson

YEARS 3 & 4 STONE AGE RESIDENTIAL

Due to the stormy weather we have experienced this week we were compelled to postpone Years 3 and 4 Stone Age Residential visit to Weston-under-Lizard on Thursday night. News will follow shortly of a further date for this event.

TRIPS AND RESIDENTIAL VISITS

We are in the process of reviewing our annual provision of educational visits and residential trips on offer to our pupils, in order that we can be sure to provide a structured build up of opportunities based around the regularity of visits, the type of visits such as a theatre, museum or activity centre and the variety of subject links to the curriculum. This way we can be sure to offer a balance of skill sets, adventures and enhanced learning which acts as a spiral to complement the pupils' overall learning. We are also keen to develop a programme of residential trips which steadily builds up throughout a pupil's journey at the school, affording them skills in teamwork and personal challenge as well as growing independence and confidence.

Aware that the calendar for the year ahead already carries exciting opportunities with a Ski Trip and a visit to France later in the year, we would first of all like to gauge interest with parents of pupils in Year 5 as to a residential visit for the year ahead. We will, therefore, be writing to those parents shortly and look forward to sharing with you the news of the upcoming visits as the term develops. A letter will also be issued soon to Year 6 parents regarding the details of their residential visit for this year. Mrs Johnston is also organising a theatre visit for the school later this term following its success last year and further details will follow shortly.

YEAR 6 MATHS CHALLENGE

Last Friday four of the Year 6 pupils went to Wrekin College to represent Birchfield in the annual Year 6 Maths Challenge. Angelina Gatcha and Jocelyn Thompson, and Barnaby Rhodes and Jacob Ahmed worked in pairs competing against 96 teams of two, representing 48 schools. Angelina and Jocelyn came a creditable 18th in the competition. Huge congratulations to all the participants. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Mr N Paget

SPORTS RESULTS

U13 Hockey v Prestfelde (h)

TRAINING GAME

U11 Hockey v Packwood at Aldersley

CANCELLED

U10 Hockey v Packwood at Aldersley

CANCELLED

U12 Football v Heathfield (h)

LOST 7-4

LETTERS SENT OUT/CLARIONED THIS WEEK:

Harvest Festival letter—all pupils
Invitation to 'Future Schools' evening—Years 3 to 8
Music Tuition letter—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Individual photographs—all pupils

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK		
Date	Time	Event
24/09/2018	All day	Under 10 ISA Football @ Dixie Grammar (a)
	14:45-15:15	Year 1 Welcome Meeting - Sitting Room
25/09/2018	All day	European Day of Languages incorporating Around the World Day - whole School
	08:40-09:00	Harvest Festival Assembly with the Rev'd Mary Thomas - Parents welcome to attend
	17:30-18:30	Years 3 and 4 Maths Parents' Evening (Year 3 Classroom)
	18:45-19:45	Year 5 Maths Parents' Evening (Year 3 Classroom)
26/09/2018	14:30	U11 A and B Hockey v Wolverhampton Grammar Junior School (h) (Aldersley)
	14:45	U13 Hockey v Moreton Hall (a)
	14:30	U10 A & B Football v The Old Hall (a)
	17:30-18:30	Reception 2019 and 2020 Open Evening
27/09/2018	08:40-09:00	Hand Washing Assembly - Matron
	18:30	Year 7 & Year 8 Parents' Evening (Hall)
28/09/2018	All day	Pre-Prep 'People who help us' Day
	10:00-12:30	Working Open Morning

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

