



# NEWSLETTER

12th January 2018

Issue no. 04

## **Welcome Back**

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. Staff spent INSET day last week on further training on the Talk 4 Writing programme. This is a whole school approach of teaching English that we have been working on since September. We also reviewed and updated our Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy (which is available on the school website).

## **Year 5 STEM**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January Year 5 were visited by Sarah, a scientist from Sphere Science as part of our work with STEM. She worked with both classes to find out the vitamin C content of various citrus fruit. The children found out all about scurvy and how to conduct fair tests. They enjoyed using scientific equipment such as pipettes, test tubes and goggles. If you want to avoid scurvy – oranges have the highest vitamin C content of all citrus fruit.

## **Year 2 and Y6 SATs information Evening**

We are holding an information evening regarding the assessment activities that the children will be undertaking during May in Year 2 & 6 and parents of those children are invited. Refreshments will be available. The session is not suitable for children.

## **Athletics**

Good luck to the athletics team who are competing in the Year 5 & 6 Indoor Athletics Heats today at the Sports Centre.

## **Milk**

Since the beginning of the spring term the government has changed the arrangements for funding free milk for under 5 year olds. Your child will receive free milk until the half term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you would like your child to continue to receive milk after this point, please register with Cool Milk via this link - <http://www.coolmilk.com/parents/>

## **Heating**

As you know the heating in Reception and KS1 has not been working as the boilers have broken. We have been working closely with the Local Authority and the main contractors to find a solution as quickly as possible, and work has started today to replace the boilers. We have been told that it will take five working days to complete. We are also monitoring the temperatures and have provided heaters, but please ensure that your child wears an extra layer of clothing. If temperatures take a significant drop, there is a risk that we may have to close the Key Stage 1 and Reception.

## **KOOSA Kids**

The **after school** club will be moving to the studio from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January. The parent pick up point will be at the door by the Year 5 classrooms. Breakfast Club will still be in the hall.

## **Safeguarding**

Can I please remind parents that children should not be on site before 8:30. The children are not supervised before 8:30. For insurance and health and safety reasons we cannot take responsibility for them. If parents need childcare before 8:30 we run a breakfast club. Please see the Koosa Kids website for the latest information and costs. [www.koosakids.co.uk](http://www.koosakids.co.uk)  
If children continue to come on to site early, we may have to keep the site locked until 8:30.

## **Friends Of Birch Hill Primary**

Many thanks to Friends for all their hard work last term. They ran a wide range of events including; Raffle, Disco, Present Room and Christmas Cards and have raised a lot of money and ensured the children had lots of fun! Many thanks to the parents who came to the Friends meeting on Tuesday night. Please have a look on their Facebook page, or see information below for some ideas for up and coming events; including Quiz Night, Family Bingo and an Easter Egg Hunt. Friends of Birch Hill Primary School has been chosen for the Waitrose Community Matters scheme for January. If you go to the Bracknell store, put your green token in to vote and we get a share of £1000 split with two other local organisations. As ever, we heavily rely on parents to help organise and run these events. If you are able to offer any support please contact the school office or send a message via the Friends Facebook group.



## **Uniform**

Can I just remind parents of the need for a full school uniform, including black shoes and for the girls, Alice Bands need to be small and plain.

## **Reception Admissions September 2018**

Please remember that the closing date for admissions is midday on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/starting-primary-school/how-do-i-apply>



**EDUCATION  
THROUGH  
SPORT**

## **Clubs**

SCL are running three after-school clubs this term; Soccer Skills on a Monday, Street Dance on a Wednesday and Gym on a Thursday. You can book online at <http://wearescl.co.uk>

## **Dates for the Term**

SATs Info Evening for KS1 and KS2	Thursday 18th January (KS1-6.30pm. KS2-7.00pm)
Family Learning Workshop—1RD	Tuesday 23rd January—9.00am
Family Learning Workshop—1M	Wednesday 24th January—9.00am
Year 5 Chertsey Museum Trip	Monday 5th February
Year 5 Chertsey Museum Trip	Tuesday 6th February
Half Term	Monday 12th February-Friday 16th February
Year 3 Trip to Fishbourne	Thursday 22nd February
Parents' Evening—(online booking will be from Monday 15th January)	Tuesday 20th February—3.30-6.30pm & Thursday 1st March-4.00pm-7.00pm
Friends of Birch Hill Primary Quiz Night	Friday 2nd March (time tbc)
Year 3/4 Performance	Tuesday 20th March-9.30am & 6.30pm. Wednesday 21st March-2.00pm
Family Learning Workshop—2OS	Tuesday 27th March-9.00am
Family Learning Workshop—2HW	Wednesday 28th March-9.00am
End of Term	Thursday 29th March
INSET day	Monday 16th April
Summer Term starts	Tuesday 17th April