



# NEWSLETTER

24th JANUARY 2020

Issue No. 5

## Welcome Note

Welcome back and I hope everyone has settled back into the New Year and the start of 2020! It has been lovely to see the children all back and starting their new topics over the last few weeks.

The children have been involved in a range of exciting events and trips this term including the Athletics Festival last week, Edible Playground spent the day with us last week teaching the children how to plant their first crop and Year 5 have started their swimming lessons!

Please have a look at the dates below for events that are happening this term; Friends will be holding a Cinema Afternoon on 14<sup>th</sup> February and already started planning for the Summer Fair.

We have been developing our new website over the last few months and will launch it over the next few days. We hope you find it useful and accessible. Please do not hesitate to email the office with any feedback.

## Staffing update

Welcome to Mrs Stevenson who is joining us in Year 1 and unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Rowe who is leaving us on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Rowe has worked at Birch Hill Primary for the last 10 years and we would all like to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment to our children and families.

2HW already know that there was a serious fire at Mr Hughes-White's home last week – which started in a neighbour's workshop. He will be in and out of school over the next few weeks while he arranges insurance companies etc. We thank you for your patience. His class will be covered by Mrs Lewis and Mrs Shiva.

## Year 6 Indoor Athletics

A group of 12 pupils from Birch Hill competed in the borough's athletics competition on Friday 17th January. The Year 6 students worked incredibly hard against some tough competition and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout. They made their school very proud and we look forward to the outdoor athletics competition later in the year.



## Edible Playground

Louise ran a whole school assembly last week and shared the Edible Playground project with the children. She then spent time with most classes (Y1-Y6) and worked with the children to show them how to plant their crops. The children will begin to plant these over the next few weeks.



### Safeguarding

It has come to our attention recently that a number of children are using the Tik Tok app inappropriately. The minimum suggested age for this app is 13. Unfortunately, some users are posting content that is unkind to others, contains bad language and is generally unsuitable for primary school aged children. Please could I urge all parents to be vigilant about their children's online activity. Please find attached some details about the app. We will continue to teach children about online safety in school and any support that you can give us from home would be much appreciated.

### The Sun Book Tokens

Thank you to everyone who collected book tokens for us. Unfortunately, we did not get to the required amount to receive the books. Thank you for your support.

### Friends

The Summer Fete is on Saturday 4th July! Save the date! See the attached meeting minutes for other news from Friends.



### Bracknell Lottery

Bracknell Forest Lottery tickets cost £1 with 60 pence going towards local good causes. Through the Bracknell Forest Lottery website, players can select a specific good cause to support with 50 pence of their £1 going directly to that good cause. A further 10 pence of their pound will go into a general Bracknell Forest Lottery good causes fund. We would like to say a huge thank to all of you who are buying Bracknell Lottery tickets and have listed Friends of Birch Hill Primary as your 'good cause'. The extra funding is going to make a massive difference to us enable us to really enrich the children's education. Please help us to win £25,000!

### Volunteering in School

If you would like to volunteer in school, please collect and fill in a request form from the school office stating what volunteering you would like to do or have agreed to do and then contact Jane Light about a DBS check and induction.

## Dates for the Term

Year 5 Chertsey Museum Trip	5OB—Tuesday 28th Jan, 5M—Friday 31st Jan
Year 6 WW2 Theatre visit	Wednesday 29th January (changed from 22nd)
Reception Family Learning Workshop	RA-Tuesday 28th Jan, RC-Wednesday 29th Jan
Year 2 Natural History Museum Trip	Tuesday 4th February
Year 6 SATs Information Evening	Wednesday 5th February - 6.30pm
Friends Meeting	Thursday 6th February - 6.30pm
Year 4 Oxford Castle Trip	Wednesday 12th February
Year 2 SATs Information Evening	Wednesday 12th February - 6.30pm
Reception Height & Weight Check	Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th February
Friends Cinema Afternoon	Friday 14th February - after school (times tbc)
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 17TH—FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY</b>
Year 3 Family Learning Workshop	Wednesday 26th February
Year 4 Family Learning Workshop	Thursday 27th February
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 2nd - Friday 6th March
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th March - 4-7pm
3H Parents' Evening	Monday 2nd & Thursday 5th March- 4-7pm
World Book Day	Friday 6th March
Year 6 Residential Trip	Sunday 8th - Saturday 14th March
Year 1 Family Learning	Thursday 12th & Friday 13th March (details to follow)
Year 3 & 4 Performance	Tues 24th & Thurs 26th March (details to follow)