



# NEWSLETTER

14th February 2020

Issue No. 6

## Welcome

It's been a really busy half term with the children having lots of exciting trips and visits; Year 4 visited Oxford Castle as part of their topic on Crime and Punishment; Year 6 attended the Build Challenge at Owlsmoor; Year 5 have started the STEM project with 3M and attended Chertsey Museum as part of their topic on the Greeks.; Year 2 visited the Natural History Museum as part of their topic on Dinosaurs and parents from Reception and Year 1 joined us for Family Learning sessions.

We were also excited to launch our new website last week. We hope you find it useful and accessible. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any feedback.

Finally, we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you are interested in getting more involved in supporting the school please see the message from our Chair of Governors below.

I hope everyone has a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## Staffing update

Mr Mellor will be leaving us today and we wish him all the best for the future. Mrs Victoria Lindsay will be joining us as HLTA from 9<sup>th</sup> March. Some parents will remember Mrs Lindsay as she has run the local Mini Professors clubs.

## Year 6 Building Challenge

Recently, 6 Year 6 children visited Owlsmoor Primary School to participate in a regional 'Build Challenge'. This event focuses on inspiring children into the engineering, architectural, construction and mathematical fields and required our team to manage "finances", collaborate, communicate ideas effectively and overcome problems strategically. The children represented the school fantastically and had a very enjoyable experience.



## Year 4 Oxford Castle Trip

On Wednesday the 12th of February, Year 4 took a long coach ride all the way to Oxford to visit the castle and prison. We visited old prison cells and heard stories of the criminals who were imprisoned there. We crept down into the crypt and climbed up the tower, allowing us to see all of Oxford from above! Excitingly, we used historic artifacts and clothes to experience life as a criminal in Oxford prison.



## Y5 STEM Project

The school has a very exciting opportunity to work with 3M (a science-based technology company with headquarters in Bracknell), encouraging innovative and original thinkers. Year 5 have been selected to design a slow-mo marble run to present to a staff judging panel for a chance to enter 3M's Young Innovators Challenge, alongside other Bracknell and Wokingham schools. Miss Garnham launched this project with Y5 last week and we are all looking forward to seeing their creative ideas, collaboration skills and reasoning.



**Year 5 Chertsey Museum Trip**

Year 5 visited Chertsey Museum this term, the children were given the opportunity to make authentic Greek tablets as well as clay Trojan horses throughout the morning session. They then went onto learn about what life was like for both men and women across boarding city states and the expectation set out for children at the time. In the afternoon, children enjoyed performing

Greek myths and exploring the artefacts around the museum. A highlight of the day was going on an ancient Greek hunt where children were challenged to find and identify the twelve Greek Gods and Goddesses!

**Family Learning**

Reception joined their parents for family learning sessions on maths this half term. The children loved meeting with their parents in the studio to work together. They made dice, played simple maths games and had lots of fun! Parents said that they found the sessions really useful. Thank you to all who were able to make it. Please have a look on the website to find the information slides from the sessions.



**New Lunch Menu**

We have a new lunch menu from after half term! Year 4 voted for Children's Choice and chose Hunter's Chicken and Vegetarian Quiche. Please have a look at the attached menu.

**Second-hand Uniform**

We are hoping to hold another second-hand uniform sale in the next half term. Please send in any donations to the school office. Details of the date and time of the sale to follow.

**Governors News**

Birch Hill Primary is looking for new governors who are parents of children at the school. The governors are a group of volunteers that work with the school to help it improve the education for the children, ensure that the budget is spent well and that the children and staff are safe. We come from all walks of life and have different experiences, which is what makes it work.

You don't need to have any particular skills or experience to be a governor, your enthusiasm and interest in how a school is run is all we need. We meet monthly during term time for 1.5 hours on a Monday evening. Please look out for further details after half term.

**Community info**

Parents, Grandparents and carers can find out more about basic first aid skills for the management of a sick or injured child on courses at the Bracknell Open Learning Centre. This is a six-hour course held over two mornings, 6 & 13 March and a short intensive 2-hour course on the evening of 12 March which offers a brief guide. More information and bookings at <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/community-learning> or call 01344 354220.



Please see the attached WAB football flyer—they are looking for players to play for a local friendly football team.

<b>Dates for the Term</b>	
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 17TH—FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY</b>
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
Friends Pre-loved Sale	Saturday 14th March 11am— 2pm
Year 1 Family Learning Workshop	Thursday 12th & Friday 13th March (details to follow)
Year 3 Family Learning Workshop	Monday 23rd March
Year 4 Family Learning Workshop	Wednesday 25th March
Year 3 & 4 Performance	Tues 24th & Thurs 26th March (details to follow)
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>FRIDAY 3RD APRIL</b>