

Welcome back, I hope you all had a wonderful summer. I would like to say a special welcome to all of our new families and especially our new nursery and reception children and families. It's been lovely to see the children back and they are settling back into school really well.

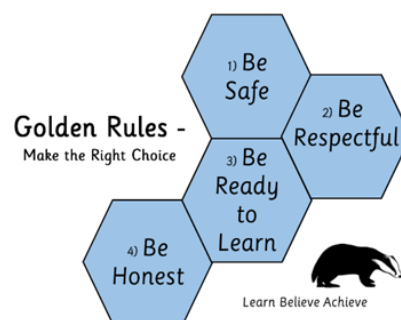
We are all very much looking forward to our new school year and have many exciting things planned. Please check the diary below. We have already started 'Meet the Teacher' meetings this week and have Parents Consultation Evenings just before half term.

Can I take the opportunity to remind parents of our **Golden Rules** and also the **school uniform** :

- Birch Hill logo - Royal blue jumper or cardigan,
- White shirt/logoed polo shirt or blouse,
- Grey trousers or skirt,
- Blue and white dress
- Shoes should be black and sturdy (no trainers, boots, or ankle boots).
- Hairbands should be royal blue or black

Games and PE kit is also required, consisting of:

- Royal blue shorts,
- Royal blue or white T-shirt (Birch Hill logo available if needed),
- White socks,
- Plain black tracksuit (when outside). Or black jumper & tracksuit bottoms (**unbranded**)
- Plimsolls or black trainers



£10 Donation

As you know, last year we **banned pencil cases** across the whole school and we provided children with better quality pencils and pens and all other stationary. We are asking parents for a **voluntary contribution of £10** again this year (**£20 for Year 6 as this includes the leavers' yearbook, leavers' disco contribution and SATs breakfast**). This also includes a contribution of £3 forwards the cost of art & D&T resources. We will put the £10 voluntary donation onto your online account until half term.

Volunteers

We are always looking for parents or the community to help and volunteer in school. There are many way to help and support us; such as; reading with children, helping in the library, coming on school trips. However, we are also looking for people who might be able to help in the new Edible Playground or even offer a trade (electricians, fencing, or painter, tiler). Finally, do you know a corporate company that might 'match fund' or make donations?

Birch Hill Experience

We are in the process of reviewing our school curriculum and over the next half term we are asking for feedback on what experiences do you want your child(ren) to have while at Birch Hill? These can be really big things—such as walk a mountain or perform on stage, or small things such as play a musical instrument or visit a farm! Please fill the attached sheet and send it into the office.

Smart Watches

We have noticed that some children are wearing Smart Watches or Smart gadgets in school. These devices allow children to take photos and play games and as a result, they have already become a distraction. Can we please ask you to not let your child bring them come into school. If they need to, we will collect these in (similar to mobile phones), store them in the office and return them at the end of the day.

E-Safety/ Safeguarding Alerts

The Local Authority are working with the police on Operation Sceptre - a **knife aware campaign**. Please see the **flyer attached**.

Secondary School Applications

The application process for secondary schools opened on **12 September 2018** . You will be able to apply online by visiting the website below. The closing date for applications is **31 October 2018** . Before you make your application, ensure that you have read **The Guide to Secondary Education**.

Please also see the flyer attached. www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/applyforsecondary

Friends Events

The Outdoor cinema event is on Friday 27th September. For tickets and more information please see

www.pta-events.co.uk/friendofbirchhillschool/index.cfm

The Friends AGM is on Wednesday 19th September at 7pm. Letters for these events were sent out last week.



Edible Playground

We are very excited to announce that our Edible Playground build has been completed and next week we are meeting to design the planting program. Kelly will be involved and decide what fruit and vegetables she will be able to use in the kitchen .

If anyone has a skill or interest in gardening and is willing to get involved in the project please let us know.



Dates for the Term

MEET THE TEACHER—YEAR 3 & 4	Wednesday 25th September @ 6.30pm
YEAR 5 MINI SCHOOLS TRIATHLON	Friday 27th September
FRIENDS CINEMA NIGHT	Friday 27th September—gates open 6pm. Film starts 7.15pm
FRIENDS AGM MEETING	Wednesday 9th October @ 6.30pm
MEET THE TEACHER—RECEPTION	Thursday 10th October @ 6.30pm
RECEPTION FAMILY LEARNING	Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th October @ 9.00am
YEAR 6 SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE	Wednesday 16th October @ 7.00pm
YEAR 2 HARVEST PERFORMANCE	Thursday 17th October @ 9.30pm & 2.00pm
FLU VACCINATIONS (REC-YEAR 6)	Friday 18th October
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS	Tuesday 22nd October (AM)
YEAR 6 TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL	Tuesday 22nd October
YEAR 2 FAMILY LEARNING	Wednesday 23rd October @ 9.00am
PARENTS EVENING	Tuesday 22nd & Thursday 24th October 3.45pm-7.00pm
HALF TERM	Monday 28th October-Friday 1st November
INSET DAY	Monday 4th November
END OF TERM	Thursday 19th December

If you have any suggestions or comments please write them below and return to the school office.
