

Congratulations to the Y5 and Y6 children who recently competed at the Bracknell Forest School Athletics Tournament. The children had a great time and represented Birch Hill really well. Please see Lily and Rebeka's report below.

It was lovely to see School Photos being taken again this week. Your child will be bringing home their order forms today. Please order online.

Over the past few weeks we have had a high number of positive COVID-19 cases, both amongst children and staff. All children in Y3-Y6 have been asked to do daily tests this week. Please continue to report any positive cases to the covidtest@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk email address. Please also inform us if you child is returning on day 6 following two negative tests on day 5 and 6. Please bear with us as we manage any staff absence. We cannot get supply teachers so we are covering absences internally.

Athletics Tournament 2022



The competition was very tight. Birch Hill came 8th out of 16 with a total of 322 points. There were many track events: 4 x 1 lap hurdles, 1 lap individual, 4 x 2 lap relay and 4 x 1 lap relay. The ^{throw} events were: javelin, speed bounce and Chest push. The jumps were: vertical jump, triple jump and long jump.

Each participant has to do at least one track event, one jump and one throw. We would like to congratulate everyone who was involved in the event.

By Lily and Rebeka

Additional COVID restrictions

As you know, national restrictions are easing this week. However, we have taken advice from the Local Authority and Health Protection Agency and in line with all local schools, we plan to continue with all of our current measures in place. This will include; keeping children in year group 'bubbles', asking visitors coming on to the school site, or office, to wear a mask, continuing not to hold large gatherings, including assemblies and serving lunch in classrooms. Our spring parents evenings will continue to be online.

We need to keep doors and windows open to increase ventilation, but are also aware of the need to keep children warm. We continue to monitor this.

Reminder—Smart watches/Fitbits

Children should not be wearing smart watches or Fitbits in school as there is a risk they will get lost or broken and are a distraction to the children. Thank you

Year 5 Events—Year 5 have had a lovely start to 2022 with swimming alongside our exciting mountains topic. Children have loved exploring mountains around the world and are currently writing a newspaper report regarding Ben Fogle's Everest Summit Climb. For our new Design and Technology project, the children have been asked to design a tray bake for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The winning team from Birch Hill will have the incredible opportunity to attend the grand finale at Ascot Racecourse. Part of the requirement is the use of locally sourced ingredients - if you have access to local ingredients (eggs, honey etc.) please let us know!

Reception



This week we have been learning all about the number 7 in maths. The children have shown us how they can count

not only up to 7, but backwards from 7 too. Our story this week has been "lost and found" and the children have been able to explore everything about penguins as part of the story.

Reminder: If you are parking by the front of the school in the morning, please switch off your car engines as children are walking through car fumes.

Nursery



The children in Nursery have been enjoying the outside area despite the cold weather. They have been busy building and using their tools to chop up tree trunks.

As part of our phonics we have been looking at a book called At the Farm. We have had fun making all the noises of the animals, playing



with the animals in straw and sawdust and we really enjoyed dancing to Old MacDonald Had a Farm!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 6 Parents Evening	Tuesday 8th & Thursday 10th February
Half Term	Monday 14th—Friday 18th February
Parents Evening (apart from Year 6)	Tuesday 8th & Thursday 10th March
Year 6 Residential Trip	Sunday 13th March -Saturday 19th March
End of Term	Friday 1st April

Letters/Attachments coming home this week: