

Welcome

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks, with the children and staff involved in a range of activities and events. I joined the Year 6 children on their residential week away in Rhos Y Gwaliau in Wales; we climbed mountains, gorge walked, and canoed across Bala Lake - to name a few things. Many thanks to all the staff that came away, and also to the staff at school who supported the children who stayed behind.

While we were away the rest of the school participated in National Science Week and a big thank you to Miss Garnham for organising the activities and Mrs Enfissi for coming to visit classes.

Our Year 6 football team played a match against Warfield Primary this week; Nursery have had an outbreak of the Evil Pea and a group of Year 1 children took part in the Cricket Skills festival at Great Holland Recreation Ground.

Finally, thank you if you have already donated warm or thermal socks to our Ukraine Sock Appeal. Please continue to donate as this is an ongoing appeal. We will deliver the donations we have so far to the charity during the Easter holidays.



Year 6 Residential

What a fantastic week we all had in Rhos y Gwaliau. From delving deep into the slate mines, to climbing to the summit of Moel-Y-Hydd, the children were able to challenge themselves, work as teams, support one another and above all, throw themselves into every activity that was presented to them. On behalf of all the staff, we want to say how proud we are of the children. They were a pleasure to spend time with and brought about many laughs and smiles for everyone. Well done year 6!!



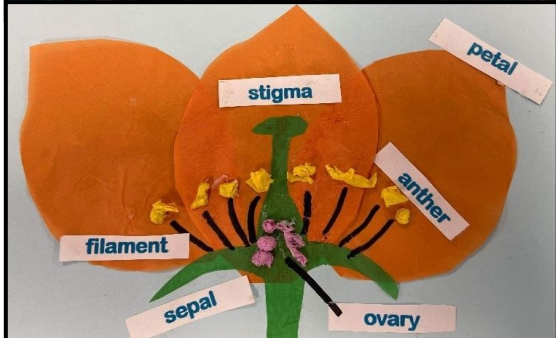
Attached to the newsletter are some flyers promoting workshops for parents with children who have been diagnosed or are awaiting a diagnosis of ASD or ADHD. There is also a social group for the children to attend, both primary and secondary.

GEMS and Parenting Special Children offer a range of support for parents, so please take a look at their websites for more information.

Year 3 Science Week

Year 3 had an exciting launch to our Science week when they explored the edible garden in Badgers Retreat. The children planted cucumber seeds and broad beans. They prepared the vegetable beds ready to plant their seeds and will continue to look after our vegetables over the coming weeks. They were also very excited to set up a wormery! They did this using the wormery kit and filled it with soil and worm food. They have since been monitoring the worms and replenishing their food supply, whilst keeping them moist with sprays of water. In addition to this they had a cress head competition.

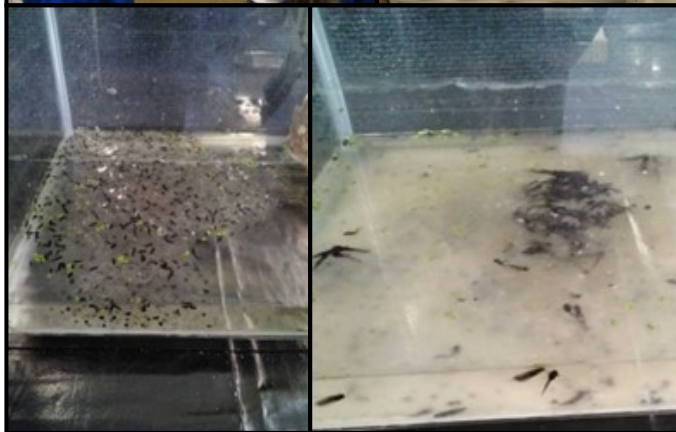
The children enjoyed looking at the structure of a flower. During one of the lessons, they focused on the parts of a flower and made some beautiful, visual diagrams using tissue paper. Year 3 were also extremely lucky to have a real scientist visit them. Genny Enfissi, kindly came in and spoke to the children about sustainability. The children asked lots of interesting questions and were very enthusiastic to hear about Genny's real scientific experiences.



Nursery

We have had some visitors in Nursery recently. Unfortunately for us 6 Evil Peas escaped from the Supertato stories and have been hiding in a different place in the classroom each day. The children have had lots of fun finding them in the classroom. Luckily for us Supertato came in one day and found all the Evil Peas and put them back in the freezer!

Our other visitors started life as frogspawn and then we watched them hatch into tadpoles and then we released



Reception

In science week, we were able to learn all about planting and were able to have a go for ourselves. We got to plant different types of beans and now we will wait for them to grow.



Year 1 Cricket Skills

A group of Year 1 children were thrilled to participate in a cricket event on Tuesday with other local primary schools. They had a fantastic time playing cricket based games and learning new skills! They particularly enjoyed the batting and fielding games.



Year 6 Football

Birch Hill's Year 6 football team played Warfield Primary School on Monday 21st March. Both teams played fantastically despite the hot weather and post Rhos-Y-Gwalia exhaustion. Birch Hill sealed a 1-0 victory as Max scored a great goal with an assist from Callum.

The player of the match went to Jake for some excellent defending and determination.

Friends Update

We hope that everyone is looking forward to next week's Crazy Hair Day on Friday 1st April. The crazier the hair the better! Please bring £1 with you on the day to participate and wear your usual school uniform.

Also next week, we are holding an Easter picture competition. Please enter all your drawings on A4 paper with your name and year group, along with 50p, by Monday 28th of March. Year group winners will be picked on Friday 1st April. These can be taken to the office or to your teacher.

All of the money will be going to the new play equipment, which I'm pleased to say we have been able to give half the money to, with another instalment waiting in the bank once we have completed anything we need for the Summer fair. Mr Dillon has now been able to order it, what a massive achievement! Over the next few events the money will go directly to fill the pot to complete the order. Please see the picture below of what the equipment will look like.

The Summer fair organising is going great guns! We are looking forward to a proper Summer celebration this year, so we are making a special effort. This will be a community event, so please bring all your family and friends along on Saturday 2nd July. As always we would love help on the day and or the day before. Please get in touch with us via our email (friendsbirchhill@gmail.com) and let us know if you can help. Even if it is folding raffle tickets, putting tickets on bottles or wrapping lucky dip presents, we will be very grateful. Have a great last week of the term this week and enjoy having crazy hair next Friday.

The Friends Team








School Lunch Menu

The new school lunch menu for the summer term is attached to this newsletter. You can order your child's lunch for the whole term on the Eduspot app. Please ensure you order before midnight as we can

Dates for the Diary

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| Year 5 'Easter Experience' St Michael's Church Visit | Monday 28th March |
| Year 4 Performance 'Pirates versus Mermaids' | Tuesday 29th March—9.30am & 6.00pm Wednesday 30th March—2.15pm |
| Friends Crazy Hair Day | Friday 1st April |
| End of Term | Friday 1st April |
| INSET DAY | Tuesday 19th April |
| Start of Summer Term | Wednesday 20th April |
| Year 3 Reading Museum Trip | Wednesday 27th April |
| Year 1 Windsor Castle Trip | Friday 29th April |
| Magic Pebbles Workshop - Reception | RW—Tuesday 17th May, RR—Wednesday 18th May - 9.00am |
| Y6 Supporting a Smooth Transition to Secondary Parent Workshop | Friday 20th May - 9.00am |
| Young Voices Concert | Tuesday 24th May |
| Anxiety Parent Workshop | Wednesday 25th May - 9.00am |
| Friends Summer Fair | Saturday 2nd July— 1.00-4.00pm |

Letters/Attachments coming home this week:

-  Birch Hill Menu 2022 summer term
-  11-15 YEAR OLDS SOCIAL GROUP flyer
-  NEW Gems Friday Night Club flyer
-  NEW GEMS workshops April 2022
-  NEW GEMS workshops March 2022