

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy the heatwave in a more comfortable manner!

I would like to say a special welcome to all of our new families who have joined us and especially to our new Nursery and Reception children. It has been lovely to see the children back and they are settling back into school really well.

A number of staff left us over the summer including; Mrs Wendy Baker, Mrs Cara Cleary, Mrs Summerfield, Mrs Julia Atkinson, Mrs Gabriella Simonne Orsos, Miss Sandra Saurez, Miss Lauren King and after 28 years Mrs Kate Studer. We were able to say goodbye to them at the end of the year and thank them for all their hard work and wished them well for the future. I am pleased to welcome Miss Tia Orlando and Miss Hannah McGill who will be working in Reception, Mrs Teri-Lee Artman into Year 2, and Mrs Dee Biggins into Year 4. Mrs Michelle Brown and Mrs Emma Lovell are also joining us in Sapphire Class (SRP).

Mr Michael Dillon—Headteacher

Her Majesty

Queen Elizabeth

After the sad news yesterday on the death of Her Majesty the Queen, the children have spent time today reflecting sensitively on her sad passing and what this has meant for them.

They watched BBC CBBC Newsround and the



children reflected on the wonderful life she led. We also spent time in Key Stage assemblies reflecting on the history of this and the ascension of His Majesty the King to the throne. We ensured that we reflected on her time in a positive light, as the longest-serving Monarch, and how she served our country. We included that Birch Hill children were lucky to have met her at the opening of the Lexicon in 2018.

Lexicon Choir Performance

During the Summer holidays, the Forest Giants made their return to the Lexicon in Bracknell. Our choir joined forces with Wildriding's school choir to work on a recording of a song that had been written for one of the new giants Elderma. The song could be heard in and around the Princess Square shopping Centre. This event coincided with the Lexicon's 5th Birthday where the choirs were invited to perform at the event. This was a great success and it was lovely to see our former Year 6s return for a final time. The children both represented the school and sang beautifully.

Well done to all who were involved.



Parent Survey

Many thanks to everyone who completed the Parent Survey in July. We will analyse this with governors and your feedback will form part of the School Development Plan (SDP) this year. I will share this with parents as possible.

Sports Clubs

Please see the flyer sent out this week regarding a new football club starting with

School Grounds

Over the summer, we were due to have some of the paths and playground resurface, but unfortunately, this had to be rescheduled for the October half term. The new infant climbing frame is being installed next week.

Parent Volunteers in School

We are now able to invite parent volunteers into school. If this is something you would be interested in doing, please collect a form from the school office. You will also need to have a DBS check. Please note, you would not always be asked to help in your child's own year group.

Dates and Diary

Please see dates below.

We have a Community Dig next Saturday for the Edible Garden, the 'Information Evening' for every year group over the coming weeks (face to face), and Parents Consultation Evenings (virtual) with the class teachers (and children) immediately before half term.

Over the year, we will run some meetings both virtually and face to face.



Edible
Playgrounds

Community Dig

Saturday 17 September 2022

10.00am - 2.30pm

In preparation for our first planting season, we need to clear Badgers Retreat and are asking for your help.

Bring along your gardening gloves, trowels and be ready to dig in!

A Message from the School Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

The governors would like to welcome everyone, especially the new nursery and reception children to Birch Hill for an exciting school term. We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break and are looking forward to the amazing learning opportunities within school.

During the summer there have been some changes to the governing board, with the appointment of a new Chair and Vice Chair of Governors. I would like to thank Dave Droar for all of his hard work and commitment to the school in his role as Chair of Governors.

The whole board is committed and excited to carry out their various duties and is looking forward to working with the school leadership team. For those that may not be aware the governors are responsible for three main duties.

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it is money well spent.

We currently have some vacancies on the governing board and we need to appoint a new parent governor. Details on this process will follow shortly so watch this space. If you feel you may have the necessary skills or are interested in becoming a governor then please contact the school.

Stephen Weeks – Chair of Governors

Secondary School Applications

The application process for **Year 6 pupils to transfer to secondary school** will open on Monday, 12 September 2022.

The application process is open from 12 September 2022 – 31 October 2022. Parents can apply online www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/applyforsecondary

The online site will close at midday on 31 October 2022.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 3 & 4 Welcome & Information Meeting (face to face)	Wednesday 21st September - 6.30pm
Year 5 & 6 Welcome & Information Meeting (face to face)	Thursday 22nd September - 6.30pm
Anxiety Parent Workshop	Thursday 22nd September - 1.30pm
Year 1 & 2 Welcome & Information Meeting (face to face)	Tuesday 27th September - 6.30pm
Year 1 Family Learning Workshop	Tuesday 4th & Thursday 6th October - 9am
Reception Welcome & Information Meeting (face to face)	Tuesday 12th October - 6.30pm
Parent Consultation Evening (virtual)	Tuesday 18th & Thursday 20th October - 4-7pm
School Photographs	Friday 21st October
HALF TERM	MONDAY 24TH—FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER
INSET DAY	MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER
End of Term	Friday 16th December