



Weekly Newsletter

24 February 2023

Welcome

I hope everyone had a lovely half term and managed to have some quality family time. Many thanks to everyone who came to visit our Art Exhibition before half term - I hope you enjoyed it. As I mentioned in the Newsletter before the holiday, some teachers want to support colleagues and go out on strike on **Thursday 2nd March**. Therefore, following a Risk Assessment currently the following classes will be **closed** as there is not enough staff to cover the children safely. It is essential that parents/carers keep a close eye on the school's website and email/text messages as this still may change and will be communicated up until 8am in the morning.

- RW
- 1M & 1B
- 2OB & 2M
- 3HD
- 5D
- 6H

We will also rearrange Parents Evening for everyone. This will now take place on **Thursday 9th March**

Staffing Update

After 14 years at Birch Hill Primary, Mrs Aulsberry has decided to change direction in teaching and will be leaving us at Easter to join Eton Dorney Therapeutic School in Windsor. Mrs McGill will be leaving us at Easter to join a Odyssey Special School in Wokingham. I would like to thank Mrs Aulsberry and Mrs McGill for all of their hard work and commitment to our children and families and wish them all the best for the future.

I would also like to congratulate Mrs Shakespeare and her husband who are expecting their first child and she will therefore be going on maternity leave in mid June.

We are working hard to finalise cover plans for these classes and will let parents know once these plans have been confirmed.

As parents already know, Mrs Russell is off recovering from an operation and her class is being covered by Ms Sehgal. She is doing well and thanks everyone for the messages of support and best wishes. Mrs Kerslake will be off from Monday 27th February for 4-6 weeks and her class is being covered by Ms Giles. Mrs Shiva will also be off from March for 4-6 week for an operation.

Michael Dillon - Headteacher

World Book Day

Don't forget it's World Book Day next **Friday 3rd March** and we have our inter house competition.

We are looking forward to seeing which characters you have decided to dress your potatoes up as so remember to bring them in by Thursday 2nd March.

Also don't forget to dress up as your favourite character or wear a hint of a character.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY



Year 3 & 4 Athletics

Yesterday, a group of children from Years 3 and 4 were selected to participate in an Athletics Tournament at Bracknell Leisure Centre. Leading up to this event, the children have worked hard to train in their PE lessons at school. They participated in a range of events including hurdles, relay races, triple jump, long jump, high jump, speed bounce, chest push and Javelin. They pulled together as a team and supported each other throughout. They behaved superbly and put 100% effort into each event. As a result of their efforts Birch Hill came in 11th place! Most importantly, we all had a great time! Well done Birch Hill team!

Reception Family Workshop

Reception children and their adult attended the "Magic Pebbles" family learning workshop this week.

Parents and carers commented that they "Loved spending quality time with their child in the school setting and learning new mathematical concepts" and that it "Gave great ideas for number games to play at home".

It was clear that the children enjoyed spending time with their adult.



Help Improve Physical Activities for Children and Young People

The Bracknell Forest Council public health team are working hard to improve physical activities on offer to children and young people across the borough.

In order to do so, they have launched a survey to help capture the current activities levels in Bracknell Forest among 5 – 15 year olds and 16 - 18 year olds, and understand what activities they would like to take part in.

If you have children between these ages, please complete the survey and share it with your family and friends.

The survey is easy to complete online.

[Young people's physical activity survey \(5-15 years\)](#)

[Young people's physical activity survey \(16-18 years\).](#)

For further information, or if you would like support to complete the survey, contact: public.health@bracknell-forest.gov.uk



Online Safety

There has been a recent surge in the creation of Huggy Wuggy-related content, alongside reported playground-style challenges based on the character.

Please see the parent information and advice at:

<https://ineqe.com/2022/04/04/huggy-wuggy-online-safety-review/>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

World Book Day (Dress up Day)	Friday 3rd March
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 28th February - 3.45pm-7.00pm (face-face) Thursday 9th March - 3.45pm-7.00pm (virtual)
Possible NEU Strike Days	Thursday 2nd March & Wednesday 15th March
Friends Mother's Day Present Room	Friday 17th March
Year 6 Residential Trip	Sunday 12th March—Saturday 18th March
Year 4 Performance	Tuesday 21st March - 10am & 7pm Thursday 23rd March - 7pm
Year 3 Poetry Recital & Fashion Show	Wednesday 29th March - details to follow
Friends Disco	Thursday 30th March - times TBC
Friends Non-Uniform Day - details to follow	Friday 31st March
END OF TERM	FRIDAY 31ST MARCH
INSET DAY	MONDAY 17TH APRIL
START OF SUMMER TERM	TUESDAY 18TH APRIL