



Weekly Newsletter

10 March 2023

Welcome

All of the children looked amazing last week in their World Book Day costumes. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the children with their costumes, and to celebrate the importance of reading.

Can I remind parents about arrangements for **dropping off children and collecting** children. If children are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, they must be dropped and collected at the **class door** by parents or an adult or siblings older than 16 years old.

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents Evening over the last few weeks, I appreciate with some staff being off sick and the teachers' strikes this has been a bit more complicated than normal – but I hope you found them useful.

As you know by now, the next NEU strike is set for **Wednesday 15th, and Thursday 16th of March.**

Again, some teachers may want to support colleagues and go out on strike.

As soon as I have confirmed the number of teachers who intend to go out on strike I will let you know. However, with so many staff away on residential – any teachers striking will likely result in classes being closed.

Staffing Update

After more than 20 years working at Birch Hill Mrs Nutley will be retiring at Easter. I would like to thank Mrs Nutley for all of her years of working and supporting our children and community – I think she now deserves to spend more time with her family and grandchildren and we all wish her the best for the future.

Mrs Chave will be leaving us this week to work at her children's school in Wokingham. Although she hasn't been with us for long, she settled into the Year 4 and 5 teams really well and will be missed. Again, we thank her and wish her all the best for the future.

Miss Kaye will cover Mrs Aulsberry's class for the summer term and Mrs McGill's class will be covered by Mrs Sharma for two days and Mrs Shiva for 3 days. The children know Miss Kaye and Mrs Shiva and Mrs Sharma does regular cover for us – she will also be in before the end of term to meet the children and team. Both classes will be supported by the Phase Leaders and Ms Cameron. We are currently recruiting permanent class teachers to start in September.

Finally, I am away next week with the Year 6 on residential to Wales – Rhos-Y-Gwaliau Outdoor Education Centre. Miss Hodge, Miss Davis, Miss Kaye, and Mr O'Brien are also away with us.

Michael Dillon - Headteacher

Academy Update

In line with the national agenda, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team have been researching academy partners for the last 6 months. We started the process by identifying seven potential Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) that are working in the local and surrounding area. This was reduced to four in early January and on Monday night, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team interviewed the final two. We are pleased to let you know that we have now selected Maiden Erlegh Trust as our preferred partner. Over the coming months we will work with the DfE, LA, Maiden Erlegh Trust, school staff and parents through a formal consultation process to ensure that they are the best fit for everyone at Birch Hill. This is just for your information at this stage, but we will keep you updated on any progress and will let you know dates and times for any upcoming meetings with the Trust should you wish to attend. If, at the end of the consultation process, all parties agree and subject to DfE approval, we will formally join Maiden Erlegh Trust between September and December 2023.

Stephen Weeks - Chair of Governors

Year 5 & 6 Badminton

Last week a group of Year 5 & 6 children attended a badminton tournament at Bracknell leisure centre. The children did fantastically, with all children winning the vast majority of their games and representing the school brilliantly.

Well done to Oliver, Sam, Aadhvika, Daniel, Sienna, Amel, Sienna and Luca.



Nursery

Nursery really enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day. We liked talking about all our favourite stories.

We were also very excited by the arrival of some frogspawn which we are watching hatch into tadpoles!



Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this half term, beginning to revise all our previous learning in preparation for our SATs in May.

We have also started our new topic in Science & PSHE: keeping ourselves physically and mentally healthy. We were fascinated to explore the function of the heart in the circulatory system. Throughout this term, we will complete exciting investigations about blood vessels, how the body transports nutrients and the impact of exercise on the heart rate.

As part of World Book Day, we created wonderful miniature books based on The Dream Giver animation, which we have been studying as part of our English lessons.

Year 6 are getting very excited about their residential trip to Rhos y Gwaliau on next Sunday where they will participate in activities such as mountain climbing and gorge walking. The countdown is nearly over!

Reception

This week in Reception we have begun reading our new text 'Sharing a Shell' by Julia Donaldson. The children have been learning about sea creatures and writing simple sentences to describe a crab, anemone or bristle worm.

In Maths the children have been learning about weight and capacity. In class we used the pan scales to compare two toys to see which toy was heavier and which toy was lighter. We then moved onto capacity where we explored full, half full and empty using measuring jugs and cups.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2023



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Possible Strike Days	Wednesday 15th March & Thursday 16th March
Year 6 Residential Trip	Sunday 12th March—Saturday 18th March
Mother's Day Present Room- CANCELLED	Friday 17th March
Year 4 Performance	Tuesday 21st March - 9.30am & 6pm Thursday 23rd March - 6pm
Year 3 Poetry Recital & Fashion Show - details to follow	Wednesday 29th March
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

 **01276 21884**
www.koosakids.co.uk









Holiday Activities

for children aged 4-13

FUN, ACTIVE CHILDCARE!