



# Weekly Newsletter

15 September 2023

## Welcome

It's been lovely to see all the children getting back into a routine – especially everyone in Reception, Rainbow and Sapphire classes – please have a look at their photos and write ups below. Please check the diary dates below as we are starting to hold our Welcome Meetings from next week. These are a good way of meeting your child's class teacher face to face and find out about the year ahead. We also have school photos next Thursday (21<sup>st</sup>), so if your child has PE on this day, please send them in their uniform, including sweatshirts or cardigans just on the top half.

## Below are a few reminders for the start of the year;

**Secondary Transfer** - Information has been sent out (and sent out again today). Applications need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please contact us if you have questions. If your child is going on a school tour, this will be authorised, but please complete the online absence form.

<https://forms.office.com/r/NGkmWqjZWV>

**Stationery Donation** - As always, at this time of year we ask for a stationery donation. This year we are asking for £15. This is due to the reduction in school budgets over the years. This amount has been added to your child's Eduspot account. This enables us to maintain our stationery resources for your child. In return, pencil cases, pens and resources are provided.

**Drop off and Collection** - Gates open at 8.30am, please do not arrive earlier than this and leave your child at the gate unaccompanied.

Unless cleared by the school first, we will only hand over pupils to named adults or older siblings provided the adults or siblings are 16 years old and above for children in Foundation Stage and for children in KS1 and KS2.

(Please see the attached letter **Permission for Pick Up**).

No pupil in Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 should walk to or from school on their own or be left on their own on the school premises either before or after school. Older siblings should not drop off pupils in Foundation stage or Key stage 1.

Older siblings can drop off/collect younger siblings in Year 5 or 6, but pupils in Year 3 & 4 can only be dropped off by older sibling if we have received written permission.

**Punctuality and Attendance** - School starts and registers are taken at 8:50am. Please ensure your child arrives on time for registers to be taken. A child who arrives after the register is taken is marked late and the number of minutes is recorded.

A child arriving late after registration is disruptive to the class and it causes embarrassment for the child. Persistent lateness will be followed up by the school and Education Welfare Service.

Parents/guardians should complete the online absence form on the school website or use the pupil absence line if their child is not attending school. The attendance Officer will telephone parents if notification is not received.

**Sickness and/or diarrhoea** requires a 48 hour absence from school.

### School uniform is:

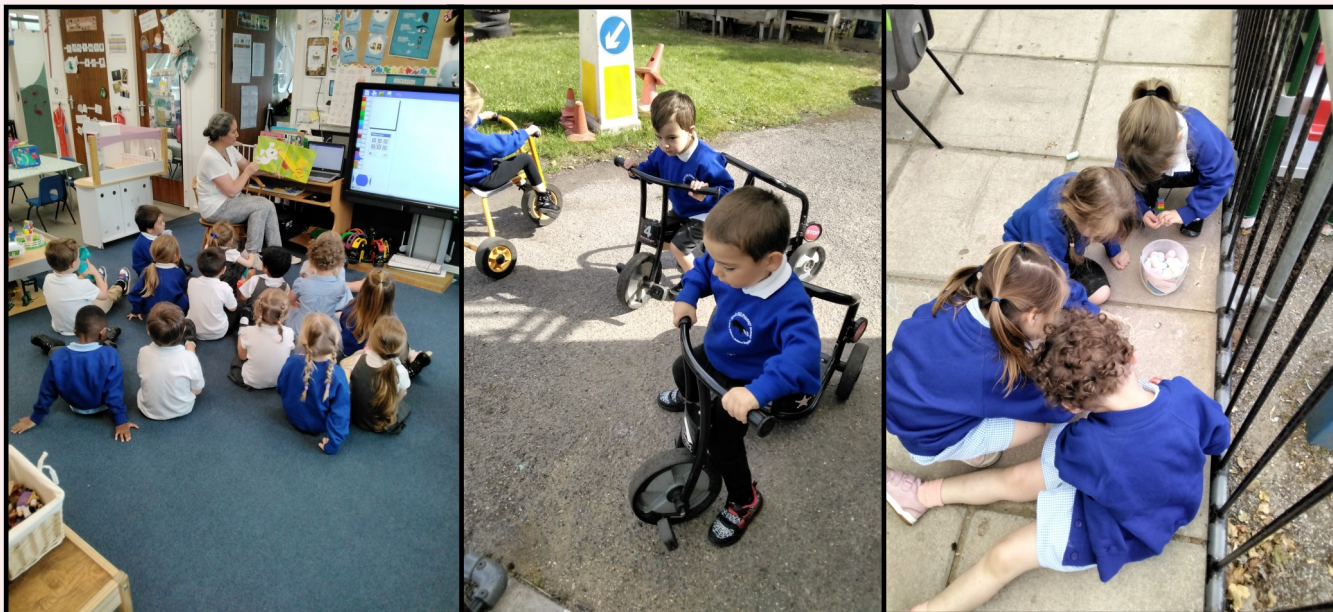
Birch Hill Logo - Royal blue jumper or cardigan  
White shirt/polo shirt or blouse  
Grey trousers or skirt  
Blue and white dress (summer term only)  
Black shoes - these must be sturdy  
(no trainers, boots, or ankle boots)

### Games and PE kit is:

Royal blue shorts  
Birch Hill Logo - Blue or White T-shirt  
White socks  
Black tracksuit (when outside) or black jumper & tracksuit bottoms (plain and unbranded)  
Plimsolls or black trainers

## Nursery

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Nursery. We have welcomed back children from last year and welcomed new children this year. We are all learning each other's names and exploring the classroom and outside area. We are really enjoying story time.



## **Reception**

The children in Reception have settled into school well and are enjoying the opportunity to explore the new environment. This half term the Literacy focus will be based upon the story 'Owl Babies'. The children are already retelling the story using actions and the story map cues. This week the creative area has been very popular with the children decorating their own owls. In the outdoor area the children have particularly enjoyed creating a train using crates and writing tickets for their friends.





## Sapphire

What a brilliant start to the term! It has been wonderful to welcome back our amazing children, and to see them enjoying each other's company again. There has already been some fantastic work through letter formation sensory experiences, and we have worked hard on extending our use of exciting vocabulary to describe the main character of our new stories.

PE was a great success this week where we worked on balance, sequencing and keeping our bodies safe whilst moving around a range of equipment.

Well Done Sapphire Class!



## Rainbow

The Children in the Rainbow Room have settled in well this week. We have been hearing all about each other's summer holidays and the different activities we all enjoyed.

The children have been creative in using different materials for their work and had lots of fun sharing and turn taking.





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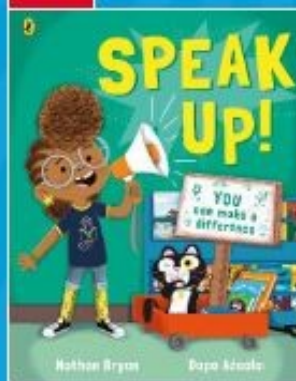
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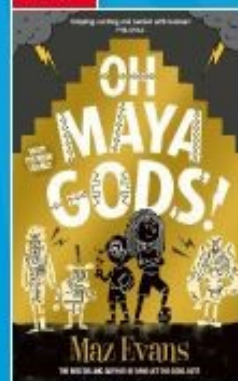
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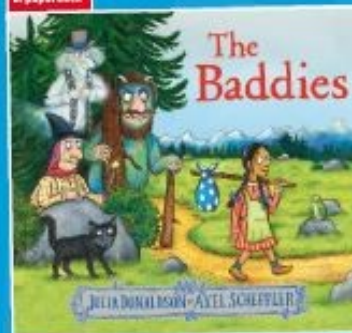
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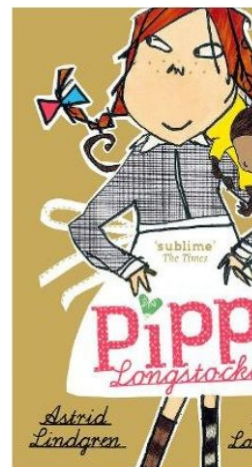
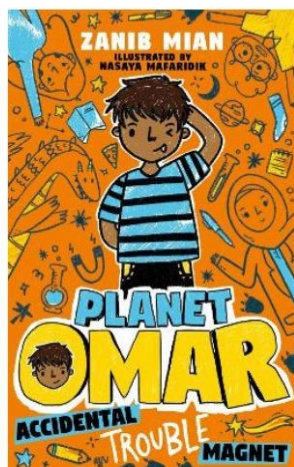
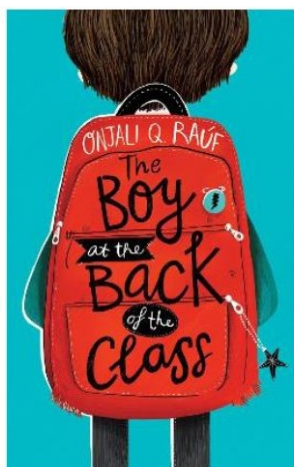




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When you purchase a book, at checkout you can choose our school name for the donation to be allocated to, and our school can then purchase books with the funds.

## Buy books, change lives

## DATES FOR THE DIARY — AUTUMN TERM

Welcome to Year 5&6 Meeting	Monday 18th September @ 6.30pm
Welcome to Year 3&4 Meeting	Wednesday 20th September @ 6.30pm
School Photographs	Thursday 21st September
Welcome to Year 1&2 Meeting	Tuesday 26th September @ 6.30pm
Magic Pebbles Workshop for Reception	Tuesday 3rd October & Thursday 5th October @ 9am - details to follow
Year 6 Height & Weight Check	Wednesday 11th October
Welcome to Reception Meeting	Wednesday 11th October @ 6.30pm
Parents Evening (virtual)	Tuesday 17th October - 4-7pm
Story Writing Sessions Workshop for Year 1	Thursday 19th & Friday 20th October @ 9am - details to follow
Parents Evening (virtual)	Thursday 19th October - 4-7pm
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 23RD —FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER</b>
<b>INSET DAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER</b>
Flu Immunisations	Friday 3rd November
Year 6 Shakespeare Performance	Thursday 9th November -
Year 5 Ufton Court Trip	Friday 24th November
Children's Christmas Fair	Friday 1st December
Nursery Nativity Play	Tuesday 5th December - 9.30-10.30am
KS1 Nativity Play	Wednesday 6th @ 9.30am & Thursday 7th December - 9.30am & 5.30pm
Reception Nativity Play	Friday 8th December @ 9.30am
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 13th December
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER</b>