



Weekly Newsletter

06 October 2023

Welcome

Friends met this week and are planning a few events for the term as a final fundraising push for the school library upgrades. The current committee will be stepping down at the end of this term, and we are therefore looking for new members and volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved in supporting the school - this is a fun, more informal way to help the school by running different events and fundraise for much needed resources and improvements. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th November. Please remember to send in your Christmas Card designs by **9am Friday 13th October**. **All payments need to be done online (no cash please)**. This will ensure they are sent off to the printers on time.

Please see that we have added a 'Year Group Reminders' section to the newsletter. We are hoping that this will help with communications to parents.

We continue to have a number of staff absences at the moment and this IS impacting the school at the moment. I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Louise Cooksey, who will join as Mrs Davis' permanent job share after half term. She will be in school next week to start her induction and to meet the children.

I will write to 4R parents with an update on Mrs. Russell.

The external fencing contractors have been on site this week and will start the work next week. You will notice Harris fencing going up and occasionally gates will be out of use. We will keep any disruption to a minimum.

Michael Dillon - Headteacher

Year 6

Year 6 have been incredibly busy over the last few weeks preparing for their big Shakespeare performance at The Exchange Theatre in Twickenham. Parts have been cast, lines are being learned and the 2 performances are shaping up nicely.

The children were even lucky enough to be joined by Marcus (a professional theatre director who works with the Shakespeare School's Foundation) last week to take part in a cast workshop. They showed him a sneak preview from one of the scenes which he seemed rather impressed with!

Not long to go now until the big night - we do hope you will be able to come along and support us.



Reception children enjoyed working with their adults in school this week.

They had fun trying different counting activities with their magic pebbles.

Parents and carers commented that they "enjoyed working alongside their child in school" and "found it helpful learning the different counting strategies".



SCHOLASTIC **TRAVELLING BOOKS**

FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU BUY AT THE BOOK FAIR!

COME TO the BOOK FAIR!

A POP-UP BOOK-STORE WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER £5.3M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

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NEW

£7.99

NEW

£7.99

NEW

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£6.99

NEW

£7.99

NEW

£6.99

October 11th - October 16th 2023

Scan the QR code to pay online!

Cookery Club

Five children from Year 5 who have consistently followed the golden rules were invited to go into the school kitchen, with Kelly and Anna to create food for the following day.





FRIENDS OF BIRCH HILL NEED YOU!

What is Friends of Birch Hill?

This is the parent/staff association for the school. The group raises money to enhance provision for the children by organising events like the summer fair, school discos, dress up days, events for parents. Last year the group raised enough money to pay for a new climbing frame for the playground and now fundraising is ongoing to upgrade the school library.

What can you do to help?

There are only a few parents on the group at the moment so Friends really need some new volunteers. If you choose to join the main jobs/tasks are:

- Coming up with fun ideas for future fundraising events which the kids will enjoy
- Attending meetings which are usually held every 2 months
- Reaching out to businesses to get people to attend the school fair & donate raffle prizes
- Attending events to help set up, run a stall, lend a hand, clear up
- Working with the school office to get communication sent out to parents
- Designing flyers and communication to raise awareness of events

The more volunteers we have, the less work for each person and the more fun for the kids!

**Friends Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 8th November,
6.30pm in the staff room.**

**Please come along to find out more about volunteering or email
friendsbirchhill@gmail.com**

This week's Triple Thank You and Triple Star Awards

Olivia - Y1	Triple Star
Sofia - Y2	Triple Star
Alonzo - Y2	Triple Star
Lyla-Rose - Y3	Thank You
Noelle - Y3	Thank You
Tom - Y4	Thank You
Lillie - Y5	Thank You
Ayden - Y6	Thank You

YEAR GROUP REMINDERS

NURSERY	-
RECEPTION	-
YEAR 1	Book your place on the Year 1 Family Learning Workshop (see flyer)
YEAR 2	-
YEAR 3	-
YEAR 4	4R will not have a Parents' Evening this term due to Mrs Russell being absent. We will keep you updated as to when this will take place .
YEAR 5	-
YEAR 6	-
SAPPHIRE	-
OTHER	School photos to be ordered online or proof envelopes to be returned to school by 10th October.

DATES FOR THE DIARY — AUTUMN TERM

Year 6 Height & Weight Check	Wednesday 11th October
Scholastic Book Fair	Wednesday 11th-Monday 16th October from 3.20pm
Welcome to Reception Meeting	Wednesday 11th October @ 6.30pm
Welcome to Year 1 Meeting	Wednesday 11th October @ 6.30pm
Year 1 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 17th October - 2.40-3.00pm
Parents Evening (virtual)	Tuesday 17th October - 4-7pm
Story Writing Sessions Workshop for Year 1	Thursday 19th & Friday 20th October @ 9am - details to follow
Year 3 Home Learning Exhibition	Thursday 19th October - 2.45-3.05pm
Parents Evening (virtual)	Thursday 19th October - 4-7pm
HALF TERM	MONDAY 23RD —FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER
INSET DAY	MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER
Friends Annual General Meeting	Wednesday 8th November @ 6.30pm
Flu Immunisations	Friday 3rd November
Year 6 Shakespeare Performance @ The Exchange Theatre, Twickenham	Thursday 9th November @ 7.00pm
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
Year 5 Home Learning Exhibition	Thursday 7th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Reception Nativity Play	Friday 8th December @ 9.30am
Year 6 Home Learning Exhibition	Monday 11th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Year 2 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 12th December - 2.40-3.00pm
Year 4 Home Learning Exhibition	Tuesday 12th December - 2.45-3.05pm
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 13th December
END OF TERM	FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER