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**Headteacher:** Mr J Micklewhite

*“Together we plant the seeds for success”*

**Autumn Term 2025**

**Parent Bulletin No. 1**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good summer. We are pleased with the way the children have settled into their new classes.

### **Welcome**

A big welcome to all new parents/carers whose children have joined the school for the first time this week, we hope that you will all soon feel part of the friendly school family. There is a very good, hard working, enthusiastic Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA) committee who organise the many activities of the PTFA and I hope that you will feel able to support their activities. If you are interested in helping on the committee, you are welcome to put yourself forward to be elected at the PTFA AGM to be held later this term. It is always good to have representatives from parents/carers who have children in different year groups throughout the school, and when you receive the nomination form, I hope that one or two of our new parents/carers will be interested in being nominated.

### **Daily Timetable**

The daily timetable for the academic year 2025/26 will be as follows:

- Gates open at 8.40am
- Register taken at 8.50am
- Lessons begin at 8.55am
- Break at 10.25am
- Lunch for the infants at 11.45am – 1.00pm
- Lunch for the juniors at 12.00 – 1.00pm
- Assembly at 1.00 – 1.20pm (except when it will be at 8.55am for Reward assemblies)
- End of the school day – 3.20pm

Can we please ask that you ensure your child is in class ready for registration for 8.50am.

### **Programmes of study for this term**

Your child's teacher will be writing to you informing you about the programme of work for your child this term, including other items of information about your child's class routines. I hope this information will help you to support your child at home, as the opportunities arise.

### **Club Activities**

Details of the club activities being offered by the staff for the children this term are enclosed. (Details of clubs offered by outside agencies were sent out at the end of last term). Teacher led club activities will start during the week beginning **15<sup>th</sup> September** and finish in the week beginning **24<sup>th</sup> November**.



If your child would like to be included in any club activity, please return the completed form next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September so that the requests can be sorted out in good time during next week. Please note, spaces at some clubs need to be limited and you will be notified if your child is **unsuccessful** in securing a place. I am really grateful to the teachers for giving up their time to lead these clubs.

### **Community Wellbeing Club – additional information**

Community Wellbeing Club aims to make a positive difference for ourselves and our local community. We will be carrying out a range of activities for our own and others' wellbeing. As part of the club, we would like to occasionally go out in the local area to do things like litter picking, putting up posters and hiding kindness rocks. If your child would like to participate in the club, you will need to give permission for them to attend these local visits. By signing them up for the club, using the attached club consent form, we will assume your permission is given. Please speak to Mrs Burnard if you have any questions regarding this. All visits will be subject to the schools' risk assessments and procedures for off-site activities.

### **Medical Records Update**

We need to be aware of medical conditions or allergies of children while they are in our care at school, so if you are not sure if we have the relevant details about this, please contact the office staff for confirmation.

### **Pupil Records/Database**

Our pupil database is fully updated at the beginning of every term. If any parents/carers' details of addresses/telephone numbers at home or work, or emergency names/contact numbers, have changed over the summer holidays, please inform Mrs Beer or Mrs Harris, our Administrative Officers in the school office.

### **Great work display**

This year we are continuing with a great work display in the school entrance opposite my office. Children who produce very good work may be selected by their class teacher to have their work on display for their class. If children do have their work selected, they will be given a sticker that will celebrate their success and enable you to know to visit the display.

### **Home/School Agreement**

Your child will be bringing home the Home/School Agreement for this year. (Reception children will receive their forms next week). This is a requirement from the Government for all schools to send to parents/carers. The teachers have read and signed their section of the agreement. Parents/carers are asked to read their section and sign at the appropriate place, and return to school as soon as possible. The children are also asked to read the bottom section and sign it before returning the form to their teacher. By signing the agreement, parents/carers will be giving an indication to their child's teacher of the strength of support that is felt to be important between home and school in order to maximise their child's progress in school.

### **Permission for Photographs**

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding parents/carers that photographs published by the school on our website, Class Dojo and Facebook page should not be copied and shared elsewhere. Also, if taking photographs of your children on the school site (first day, productions, assemblies etc.) please take care not to share on social media any photograph showing other children. Please only share photographs of your own child.

### **Junior and Infant Playground Apparatus**

May I remind parents/carers that children are not permitted to use the apparatus situated in the Upper Junior and Infant playgrounds before or after school. We would also appreciate your support in ensuring any pre-school children do not play on the apparatus.

Please could we also remind parents/carers that children should not be using any play equipment in the Reception playground before or after school. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Think before you park / considerate driving**

The safety of pedestrians is of utmost importance. Some of our older children would like to walk to school and it is important they can do so safely, without their view being obstructed especially at junctions. We also have parents/carers walking to school with their children, sometimes with pushchairs as well. The safety of pedestrians must take priority over the convenience of drivers.

At the beginning of a new term, may I remind all parents/carers of the importance of parking their cars in a safe place at the beginning and end of the school day. Please do not pull in or park on the yellow zig zag lines, or on the corners of road junctions, or block our neighbours' drives along both Ashbury Drive or Wittenham Avenue and surrounding roads. Please do not park on double yellow lines.

I know that most parents/carers would appreciate car drivers keeping to the designated parking areas and following the voluntary one-way system (anti-clockwise from Eastbury Drive and along Wittenham Avenue to Warborough Avenue) at the beginning and end of the school day. Your co-operation in this would be appreciated in the interests of the safety of all our children and parents/carers, particularly those who walk to school.

Please exercise extreme caution when driving, reversing and manoeuvring in the vicinity of the school, and be aware that pedestrians are all around you and that children move fast. Please be patient and considerate towards other road users and towards our neighbours – with a little give and take, everyone can keep moving safely. By allowing a little more time and parking a bit further away from school, traffic congestion can be significantly eased.

### **Healthy Snacks at Morning Breaktime**

As part of this school's contribution to encourage healthy eating, we would like the children in the Junior classes to eat a healthy snack for their morning break. The Infant children are already used to eating a piece of fruit or vegetable for their morning snack. A suggested list of what would/would not be acceptable, taken from the Government Guidelines to schools, is as follows:



Apple  
Banana  
Raisins  
Tomatoes  
Carrot Sticks  
Cucumber Sticks  
Strawberries  
Fruit Salad



Cereal Bars  
Chocolate Bars  
Crisps  
Nuts / seeds (due to allergies)  
Fruit Winders / sweets

### **Tissues/Plasters**

It would be very helpful if parents/carers could donate a box of tissues to the school each term. As you can imagine the amount of tissues we get through with over 400 children is vast. If you are able to support us by providing a box of tissues, please send them in with your child to their class or to the school office. In addition, if anyone is able to provide any hypoallergenic plasters, we would be most grateful.

### **Staff News**

We would like to congratulate Miss Ellis, our SENCo, who got married in the summer holidays. She will now be known as Mrs Burnard.

We all look forward to a happy, hard working and successful year for your children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Micklewhite

## BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### CLUB ACTIVITIES – AUTUMN TERM 2025

The following club activities are being offered for the children by the staff at the end of the school day this term. In addition, 8 other clubs, Drama, LAMDA, Street Dance, Precision Football, Table Tennis, Arts & Crafts, Young Engineers and Gymnastics Club are being offered as indicated below. These are run by independent companies and are available to join for a fee. Please see separate letters, which were sent home at the end of last term.

<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts – 4.30pm finish</b> The Crafty Kids Club	For children in Years 3 - 6 See separate email
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Gymnastics – 8.00 – 8.45am</b> DW Gymnastics	For children in Years 2 - 6 See separate email
	<b>Community Wellbeing – 4.20pm finish</b> Mrs Burnard	For children in all years
	<b>Young Engineers – 4.45pm finish</b> Reading Young Engineers	For children in Years 3 – 6 See separate email
	<b>Reception &amp; Y1 Football – 4.20pm finish</b> Precision Sports Academy	For children in Years R & 1 See separate email
	<del><b>Y3/4 Street Dance – 4.20pm finish</b></del> <b>FULL</b> Mrs Bendell	<del>For children in Years 3 &amp; 4</del> <del>See separate email</del>
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<del><b>Y1/2 Street Dance – 8.00 – 8.45am</b></del> <b>FULL</b> Mrs Bendell	<del>For children in Years 1 &amp; 2</del> <del>See separate email</del>
	<del><b>Y5/6 Street Dance – 4.20pm finish</b></del> <b>FULL</b> Mrs Bendell	<del>For children in Years 5 &amp; 6</del> <del>See separate email</del>
	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts – 4.30pm finish</b> The Crafty Kids Club	For children in Years 1 & 2 See separate email
	<b>Quiz Club – 4.30pm finish (5 weeks only)</b> Mrs Ayres	For children in Years 4 – 6 See ParentMail invite
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Table Tennis – 8.00 – 8.45am</b> uSports	For children in Years 3 – 6 See separate email
	<b>LAMDA – 12.25 – 12.55pm</b> Berzerk Productions	For children in Years 3 - 6 See separate email
	<b>Drama Factory – 4.20pm finish</b> Berzerk Productions	For children in Years 3 – 6 See separate email
	<b>Y2-4 Football – 4.20pm finish</b> Precision Sports Academy	For children in Years 2 - 4 See separate email
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	<b>Gymnastics – 8.00 – 8.45am</b> DW Gymnastics	For children in Years R & 1 See separate email
	<b>Football – 4.20pm finish</b> Mr Massey, Mr Cooling & Miss Hipgrave	For children in Years 5 & 6
	<del><b>Glee – 4.20pm finish</b></del> <b>FULL</b> Mrs Hoit	<del>For children in Years 3 – 6</del>

**School** run club activities will start in the week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September and end in the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Please see separate letters for dates of Drama, LAMDA, Street Dance, Precision Football, Table Tennis, Arts & Crafts, Young Engineers and Gymnastics. If a club has to be cancelled at short notice, you will receive a ParentMail text informing you of this.

**BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**CLUB ACTIVITIES: AUTUMN TERM 2025**

**CHILD'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CLASS:** \_\_\_\_\_

My child would like to participate in the club activities as indicated below, and has my permission to do so. I will undertake to make the necessary arrangements and accept responsibility for my child's collection from school at the end of the club activity.

				Please Tick
<b><u>Tuesdays:</u></b>	Community Wellbeing	All years	Mrs Burnard	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><u>Fridays:</u></b>	Football	Years 5 – 6	Mr Massey/Mr Cooling/Miss Hipgrave	<input type="checkbox"/>

Places at clubs are limited. Please therefore return forms on the date indicated.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**