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*"Together we plant the seeds for success"*

**Spring Term 2026**

**Parent Bulletin No. 1**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Happy New Year to you all. Your children have been telling us about their exciting Christmas activities this week.

**Reward Assembly: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 8.55am**

Our next reward assembly is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, during which the following children will be receiving their reward certificates (except, Reception children who will receive their certificates in class):

Class	Citizen	Learner
Frog	Jimmy Woodrow	Ezra Tappin
Newt	Nola Clinch	Leo Spence
1Hedgehog	Khadijah Zahra Niall Sullivan	Mya Matthews Edith Turner
1Mouse	Zayd Kayani Layla Jermon	Austin Old Daniel Pious
2Squirrel	Ruthi Vinoth Emily McGowan	Callum Archer Jude Black
2Otter	Molly Pearson George Jenkins	Zayaan Akhtar Aria Foote
3Badger	Sofia Barton Mya Peters	Eden Phillips Arlo Bertrand
3Mole	Khrishang Arun Prakash Imogen Pheby	Lydia Grove Finbar Brennan
4Fox	Nevaeh Rey Tavi Podea	Minsa Ur Rehman Julia Santos
4Hare	Jack Keres-Cox Seren Woodward	Louis Royden Isla Simonds-Gill
5Rabbit	Abhimanyu Davey Lily Bhattarai	Sienna Rubio Jack Webb
5Deer	Harry Hames Bethany Rosser	Alicia Dowell Hassan Shakir
6Dolphin	Maurhys Bartley Maya Dowling	Michael Leverington Maleek Bailey McGoldrick
6Seal	Henry Old George Willis	Harvey Anderson Jay Gilmartin

Congratulations to all the children. Parents, carers, relatives and friends of children in Years 1 – 6 are welcome to attend the assembly on Wednesday at 8.55am.

**Reception children will receive their certificates separately, in class.**



### **Club Activities**

Details of the club activities being offered for the children this term are enclosed. Teacher run club activities will start during the week beginning **19<sup>th</sup> January** and end in the week beginning **16<sup>th</sup> March**. Please refer to booking information emailed last term for clubs run by independent companies. If your child would like to be included in any club activity, please return the completed form enclosed next **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January**, so that the requests can be sorted out in good time.

Please be aware that for safety and security, the gates will be locked at 3.35pm, so children attending clubs will leave via the school office. Parents/carers are asked to wait outside main reception and the coaches/teachers will bring the children to the office to be collected from there. As is our usual procedure, please let the school know in advance if anyone other than parents/carers are collecting the children or if your child is permitted to walk home.

If your child is unable to attend a club on a particular day, it is important that you inform the **school office** that they will be absent, or you will be called by the office to check that your child is safe. Sometimes there are a lot of such calls to be made at the end of the day, which could delay identifying a child who is genuinely missing, so your help with this is much appreciated.

If clubs are cancelled in advance, you will be advised of this on the **weekly bulletin**. Should clubs need to be cancelled at short notice, you will receive a text via your **'My Child at School'** account informing you of this. (**Please ensure you are registered on the MCAS app in order to receive such messages**). Likewise, if any sporting fixtures are cancelled at short notice, we will advise you via text.

If bringing children to a morning club/activity, please do not drop at the gate and leave. The children need to be escorted to the main entrance and handed over to the club leader before leaving. Thank you.

### **Programmes of work for the term**

Your child's teacher will be writing to you informing you about the programmes of work planned for this term, also including other items of importance about particular class routines. I hope that the information you are given will enable you to support your child at home, and in school, as the opportunities arise.

### **Funding support needed: Order a school meal on census day!**

As you are aware, all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to a free school meal. These meals are paid for by the school using monies provided by the government. The amount given to schools depends on the number of meals booked on census days during the year. Therefore, we would be very grateful if you could order meals for your children in Years Reception, 1 and 2 on Thursday next week.

**Please note:** there has been a slight change to the menu next Thursday, so if you have already ordered a meal for this day, please can you go onto your child's account and confirm your choices.

### **Jewellery/Earrings Policy**

May I remind parents/carers that children should not wear earrings or studs in school during the school day. However, if necessary, children may wear small clear plastic retainers to school. On PE days, the children will need to wear tape over the plastic retainer, but will be able to participate in the PE lesson. Older children may bring tape in themselves to put on before PE lessons and take off afterwards. It would be unfair that this becomes the responsibility of school staff.

Children will still not be able to wear metal earrings to school, and if they do so, they will not be able to take part in PE lessons. If a child is to have their ears pierced it is suggested that the beginning of the summer break is the best time, to allow for healing and in order that earrings can be removed for school in September.

### **Uniform reminder**

May I remind you that the tracksuits children wear for PE should be a plain black, grey or green without **logos** or **stripes** of any kind. Branded items such as Adidas/Nike etc. do not meet our uniform policy. If children are wearing under armour/thermal clothing, this should be under their school uniform and not visible. Please remember that hair styles of an extreme nature are not allowed for school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Ill-Health Absence procedure**

Please remember that we telephone parents/carers of children not at school and for whom we have not been informed of their absence. It would be most appreciated, if your child is unable to attend school, that you inform the school office first thing in the morning. Our preferred method of recording an absence is via the 'Attendance - Report an Absence' tab on your '**My Child at School**' account. We appreciate the increased number of parents/carers who are using this method. Alternatively you may leave a message on the office telephone, option 2. Please let us know on a daily basis if your child's absence continues. It is also important that if children are late, they report to the school office before going to class, or it is possible that due to missing registration, their parents will be contacted unnecessarily by the office.

### **Pupil Data Records**

If any parents/carers have recently changed any details which we keep on our database in school, such as address, telephone number (work or home), or emergency contact names or telephone numbers; or if the personal circumstances of any parents have changed, I would be grateful if you could inform Mrs Beer or Mrs Harris, our Administrative Officers, in the school office.

### **Medical Records Update**

We always need to be aware of medical conditions or allergies of children while they are in our care in school. If you are not sure whether we have this up to date information, please talk to Mrs Beer or Mrs Harris who will be pleased to check the details we have in school about your child.

### **Medication**

Please remember that if your child requires medication during the day, you will need to complete a medication form from the school office. We are only able to administer medication prescribed by a doctor. Please be aware that children should not bring throat sweets to school.

### **Ice Packs**

We get through a huge number of reusable ice packs at our first aid stations in school due to them not being returned. These are expensive to replace. If your child has come home with one, please would you return it. Also, if anyone feels able to donate ice packs via the office it would be greatly appreciated. Preferably the bendable hand sized type that are easy to hold against a bumped head or knee – for example these:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0C1V1CXZ2?ref =pe\\_109253361\\_1103576791\\_t fed asin title&th=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0C1V1CXZ2?ref =pe_109253361_1103576791_t fed asin title&th=1)

Thank you.

### **Tissues**

We would also be very grateful if parents/carers could donate a box of tissues for their child's class to use. Please give donations to your child to take to their class. Thank you.

### **Reminder: Deadline for Primary School Applications**

A reminder that the closing date for Reception applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January** (children starting school in September). You should apply via your own Local Authority website.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Massey

## BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### CLUB ACTIVITIES – SPRING TERM 2026

The following club activities are being offered for the children by the staff at the end of the school day this term. In addition, 9 other clubs, Drama, LAMDA, Street Dance, Precision Football, Arts & Crafts, Young Engineers, Gymnastics and Tech 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>Tech Club – 4.30pm finish</b> UTeach Mi	For children in Years 1 – 6 See separate email
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<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> <b>FULL</b> <del>Procision Sports Academy</del>	<del>For children in Years R &amp; 1</del> <del>See separate email</del>
	<b>Y3/4 Street Dance – 4.20pm finish</b> <b>FULL</b> Mrs Bendell	<del>For children in Years 3 &amp; 4</del> <del>See separate email</del>
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>Y1/2 Street Dance – 8.00 – 8.45am</b> <b>FULL</b> Mrs Bendell	<del>For children in Years 1 &amp; 2</del> <del>See separate email</del>
	<b>Y5/6 Street Dance – 4.20pm finish</b> <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>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> Procision 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>Girls Football – 4.20pm finish</b> Miss Hipgrave	For children in Years 4 - 6
	<b>Glee – 4.20pm finish</b> Mrs Hoit	For children in Years 3 – 6

**School** run club activities will start in the week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January and end in the week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Please see separate letters for dates of Drama, LAMDA, Street Dance, Precision Football, Arts & Crafts, Young Engineers, Gymnastics and Tech Club. If a club has to be cancelled at short notice, you will receive a text via your ‘My Child at School’ account informing you of this.

**BIRCH COPSE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**CLUB ACTIVITIES: SPRING TERM 2026**

**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>Fridays:</u></b>	Girls Football	Years 4 - 6	Miss Hipgrave	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Glee	Years 3 - 6	Mrs Hoit	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**