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"Together we plant the seeds for success"

Summer Term 2026

Parent Bulletin No. 13

Friday 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly: Wednesday 22nd July 9.00am

The final assembly of the term will be the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly next Wednesday at 9.00am. At this assembly the Year 6 children will be presented with a Leavers' Book from the PTFA. The PTFA generously donate this gift every year for the Year 6 leavers.

The following awards will be announced at this assembly and presented to a Year 6 leaver:

The Vera Madden Award for Good Citizenship
The Helen Clark Memorial Award for Art
The Whittington Spirit of Birch Copse Award
The Howard Sports Award
The School Value Awards

The John Micklewhite Leadership Award is a new award for this year. The recipient is chosen by staff and given to the child in Year 6 that they believe best embodies the leadership qualities of Mr Micklewhite.

The selected recipients of these awards will be communicated to parents/carers in the final bulletin next week.

All parents, carers, relations and friends of the Year 6 pupils are invited to come to this assembly next Wednesday, which we expect to last for well over an hour.

School Lunch Menu Change

Please be aware that the menu for next **Wednesday 22nd July** has been changed. All previous pre-orders have been removed and you will need to go back in and re-order. The new options are: chicken nuggets, vegan sausage, jacket potatoes and baguettes.

Counting Day

Our half termly counting day will take place next Monday and the results sent out via MCAS. Non-uniform day for the winning house will be on **Tuesday 21st July**.

Infant Sports Day Results

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to watch infant sports day and make it a memorable day for the children. A big well done to the victorious Andrews House and all the children who participated.

Yellow House – 1242
Red House – 1239
Blue House – 1160
Green House – 1129



Waitrose Fundraising Programme

Birch Copse is delighted to have been selected by Waitrose (Oxford Road, Reading) to participate in its charitable causes fundraising programme. As such, if you visit that store and drop your tokens from the checkout into the Birch Copse Hopper you will be helping to raise much-needed additional funds for the school.

Lost Property

As always, we still have many unclaimed items of lost property. It will be displayed on tables in the school hall, at the end of school next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please come along to claim any items which you know your child may have mislaid. At the end of the summer term every year, we dispose of many items of lost property and I would much prefer to find the rightful owners to all the clothing rather than dispose of it in other ways.

Library books at home

If any children have library books still at home, we would be grateful if they could be returned to school early next week for the usual end of year check.

Inhalers/Medicines

Children who have inhalers or other prescribed medicines in school need to take them home at the end of next week, rather than leave them in school over the long summer holiday. The prescribed medicines should be renewed as necessary in September with another completed medicine form.

School football/sports tops at home

We have lots of school football/sports tops missing from our kit bags. Please could you check if you have any at home and please wash and return them before the end of term.

Plastic bags to take school work home

The children frequently have a lot of work, and other items, to take home with them at the end of the summer term every year. It may help them to carry it all if you can provide them with a large plastic bag. If they brought this on Monday next week, they could begin to take things home in small stages.

School shoes/hairstyles/earrings in September

Over the summer holiday some parents/carers may be buying new school shoes for their children. We would like to remind everyone that shoes should be of a traditional 'school shoe' type, and that high heels, boots and sports designer branded or other trainer-type shoes are not permitted. We are aware that many of these brands are marketing their products as 'school shoes' where in fact they do not meet our uniform policy. Additionally, hairstyles should not show extremes of fashion.

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.

Thank you to the PTFA

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the parents and carers who have contributed to the work of the PTFA this year. You have done an amazing job raising funds for the school, culminating in The Summer Party, which was an amazing success. Thank you to everyone who has helped in some way, and thank you to the parent community for all of your support for the events and initiatives run by the PTFA this year.

Request for white school shirts

As the end of term approaches, you may be having a sort out of school uniform (particularly Year 6 as they move on to their secondary schools). If you have any white polo shirts that your child has grown out of or that you need to replace, Year 5 would love to have them in preparation for an Art lesson next year.

Although they can be any size, with or without the school logo, please could they be washed and stain-free, as they will be used as canvases. Please send any that you are happy to donate to the Year 5 classrooms. Thank you.

School Calendar

Please use the following link to the school website events calendar, to check dates etc.

<https://www.birchcopse.co.uk/events-calendar>

Please note that this school calendar is a live working document, and events are added, removed or changed from time to time. If in any doubt please contact the school office to check, thank you.

End of Term: Wednesday 22nd July 2.00pm

The summer term ends next Wednesday 22nd July at **2.00pm**. Please note the earlier time of finish which is normal practice at the end of every term.

Due to the early finish, After School Club will also close early at **5.00pm**.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Massey