



Birches Primary School BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWS LETTER January / February / March 2018

Shared Education

This term P1, P3 and P4 will be taking part in our Shared Education programme with St Mary's Primary School, Maghery. The main focus this year is music and the children will be involved in a variety of musical activities and workshops. Details of these will be given to each class.

Scholastic

Thank you very much for your continued support of our book fairs and book clubs. The most recent Book Fair that was held in October raised £735.00. This money is being used to extend the reading resources in class libraries.

Swimming Programme

The swimming programme for P5 children will begin on Tuesday 9 January until Tuesday 13 February.

The swimming programme for P4 children will commence on Tuesday 20 February until Tuesday 20 March.

Children are to bring their swimming kit along with a contribution of £1.75 each week for the swimming lesson and the school will cover the cost of the bus. Children are not to bring any valuables with them to the pool.

Killicomaine P6 and P7 visit – Friday 12 January

On Friday 12 January members of staff and pupils from Killicomaine Junior High School will come and talk to children in P6 and P7 about their school and give them an opportunity to ask questions about life at Killicomaine JH.

After School Activities

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| Monday | Netball P4/P5/ P6 Football P6/P7 | 2.35pm– 3.30pm |
| Tuesday | Healthy Kidz P4 – P7 (£10. For half a term) P1 Rugby Tots 21 January – 13 February P2 Rugby Tots 20 February – 13 March P3 Rugby Tots 20 March (to continue after the Easter holidays) | 2.40pm – 3.40pm 1.30pm – 2.20pm |
| Wednesday | Dance P3 (£10. For half a term) Dance P4/P5 (£10. For half a term) Hockey P6/P7 | 1.40pm– 2.30pm 2.35pm– 3.30pm |
| Thursday | Film Club P4/P5 * Circuits P6/P7 | 2.35pm– 3.30pm |

* Please note – circuits will not begin until Thursday 18 January as there is still one more week of tennis to finish for P6/P7

Tri County Netball - Friday 12 January

On Friday 12 January children from the girls' netball team will be taking part in the tournament at Dungannon Leisure Centre. They will leave school around 9.30am and return in time for school dinners. They can bring a bottle of water and a snack for break time.

Little Red Riding Hood – P5, P6 and P7 Pantomime – Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 January

Children from P5, P6 and P7 will be performing in our pantomime 'Little Red Riding Hood' on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 January. Both performances begin at 7pm and entrance is by ticket only. Our PTA will be running a tuck shop during the interval and tickets for the prize draw can be purchased at school or on the night.

Big Action Cancer Bus – Wednesday 21 February

The Loughshore Group have arranged for the Big Action Cancer Bus to be located in the school grounds on Wednesday 21 February. If you wish to find out more information regarding this and to make a booking, you can visit their website: www.actioncancer.org.

Literacy Evening – Thursday 25 January 7pm

A parent workshop for children in P1 – P3 will take place on Thursday 25 January at 7pm. This will be taken by Mrs Morrow and will cover reading, phonics and writing. It will cover what takes place in school and how parents can support learning. Further information will be sent out.

Tri County Football - 26 January and 6 March

Children from the football team will be taking part in the indoor competition at Loughview Sports Centre on 26 January and 4 March. They will leave at 9.30am and will be back in time for school dinner.



Clounagh Junior High School – Friday 2 February

Children from P6 and P7 will have the opportunity to visit Clounagh Junior High School to watch their performance of Oliver. They will leave school around 9.00am and will return in time for school dinner.

There is a charge of £4.00 per pupil.

School Photographer – Friday 9 February

The photographer will come to school on Friday 9 February to take individual and family group photographs. Further details will be sent home with the children.

Charities – British Heart Foundation - Love Your Heart Day – Wednesday 14 February – NON UNIFORM DAY

This year the main charity we will be raising money for is The British Heart Foundation.

On Wednesday 14 February Mrs Neill will be organising a special menu to focus on healthy foods which are important to maintain a healthy heart.

This will be a non-uniform day and the children will be encouraged to wear something red. Children will be carrying out a range of fund raising activities for this charity and as such, there will NOT be a charge for this day.

Hope For Youth Ministries – Monday 5 March to Friday 9 March

Colin Tinsley from Hope for Youth Ministries will be coming out to carry out interactive assemblies with all of the children in school.

Dinner money

School meals cost £2.60 per day - £13.00 per week. Please consult the monthly menu and send the correct money on a **Monday** morning for the whole week. We are unable to lodge cheques and can only accept cash. Thank you.

Medical Information

Please keep the school informed of any recently diagnosed allergies or other medical conditions.

Allergies - Reminder

We have several children in school who have severe allergies. Therefore, it is extremely important that **NO NUTS or KIWI or foods containing nuts** are to be brought to school by the children. Thank you.

Contact Details

Please ensure that school has an up to date phone number on which to contact you. If you have moved house recently make sure that you have notified school of your child's new address.

If you have not been receiving text messages from school, please contact Mrs Watson.

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all coats, sweatshirts and on clothes that are removed to change for P.E and swimming. If possible, use name tabs as names written in ink can wear off during the year.

The only piece of jewellery to be worn in school is a watch.

For health and safety reasons **earrings, rings and necklaces are not to be worn.**

Contacting School

If you are concerned or unsure of anything relating to your child please do not worry at home, pick up the phone and speak to either Mrs Watson or your child's teacher. We will be only too willing to talk to you after school at a mutually convenient time.

Money Wallets

Money wallets are still available to buy from school. These come in packs of 40 at a cost of £2.50.

These can be purchased from your child's class teacher.

Friends Of Birches

We are delighted to announce that we made £670 at the school disco held in November. It was a great night and was enjoyed by all pupils, staff and parents.

I would like to thank everyone who donated a prize for our prize draw. The first draw took place before Christmas and tickets for the second prize draw are still available to buy in school. The draw will take place at the pantomime on Wednesday 17 January. All tickets previously purchased will automatically go into the second draw.

I would like to thank the committee and everyone who has helped out at our fundraising events and helped provide refreshments at the school performance for The Cosy Club and Peatlands Playgroup.

Your help and support was very much appreciated by all of the staff.



Term Two 2017/2018

P5 Swimming Programme

Tuesday 9 January to Tuesday 13 February

Tri County Netball - Netball Team

Friday 12 January

P5, P6 and P7 Pantomime – Little Red Riding Hood

Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 January at 7pm

Literacy Evening – P1 – P3 Parents information evening

Thursday 25 January 7pm

Tri County Football - Football Team

26 January and 6 March

Clounagh Junior High School Play 'Oliver' for P6 and P7 children

Friday 2 February

School Photographer

Friday 9 February

Love Your Heart Non-Uniform Day – Main Charity (no charge for this day)

Wednesday 14 February

P4 Swimming Programme

Tuesday 20 February to Tuesday 20 March

Big Action Cancer Bus

Wednesday 21 February - visit their website: www.actioncancer.org to book a place

School Holidays 2017/2018

Half Term

Thursday 15 February

Half Term – school closed

Friday 16 February

Half Term – school closed

St Patrick's Day

Monday 19 March

School closed

Easter Holidays

Friday 23 March

School will close from 12pm

Further information regarding school closing times will follow.

Monday 26 March to Friday 6 April

School will be closed for Easter Holidays

Monday 9 April

School will reopen

School Holidays Next Term

Monday 7 May

Bank Holiday – school closed

Friday 25 May

School closed

Monday 28 May

Bank Holiday – school closed

Wednesday 27 June

Prize Day – 10am

Thursday 28 June

Final Assembly School will close from 1.30pm

Friday 29 June

School will close from 10.45am

Further information regarding school closing times will follow.

2018/2019 School Year

School Starts back on Thursday 30 August, 2018

*Thursday 30 August

School will close at 12.00pm

*Friday 31 August

School will close at 12.00pm

Monday 3 September

Normal School Hours

*There will be no lunch served on these days. The bus will be available to bring children home who normally travel on the bus.