



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL Newsletter

April, May and June 2016

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all sweatshirts and clothes which are removed to change for P.E. Girls wearing summer dresses are to bring in a polo shirt to add to their PE kit.

Sainsbury's Tokens

We are collecting Sainsbury's Tokens in school. Please return to school by Friday 6 May. Thank you.

After School Activities These activities will take place after school from 2.35pm until 3.30pm.

Monday	P6 – P7	Badminton (from Monday 11 April for 6 weeks)
	P4 – P5	Art and Craft Club (from Monday 11 April for 6 weeks)
Tuesday	P4 – P7	Multi-skills (from Tuesday 5 April)
Wednesday	P7	Cycling Proficiency (from Wednesday 6 April)
	P4 – P6	Gardening (from Wednesday 20 April)
Thursday	P3 – P7	Choir (from Thursday 7 April for 6 weeks)
	P5 – P7	Tennis (from Thursday 19 May for 6 weeks)



P4 Swimming Lessons – starting on Tuesday 5 April

Swimming lessons for P4 children will start on Tuesday 5 April to Tuesday 10 May and resume again on Tuesday 24 May to Tuesday 7 June. There will be 8 swimming lessons lasting 30 minutes each.

All Set Dance Programme

Children from P4 will be taking part in the All Set Dance programme with St Mary's Primary School, Maghery.

These are the provisional dates:

Session 1	7 April	Birches Primary School
Session 2	14 April	Maghery Community Centre
Session 3	21 April	Birches Primary School
Session 4	28 April	Maghery Community Centre
Session 5	12 May	Birches Primary School
Session 6	19 May	Maghery Community Centre

Waterbus Thursday 14 April

Children from P5 to P7 will have the opportunity to learn more about a range of water issues such as the water cycle, water for health, water sources, water and wastewater treatment, water conservation and water in the developing world.

P6 / P7 Swimming Lessons – Friday 15 April

Children from P6 and P7 will have 4 additional swimming lessons to prepare them for the swimming gala. These will take place on Friday afternoons and will be 20 minutes sessions at £1.10 per session.

Girls Football Friday 15 April

Girls from the football team will take part in the IFA competition held at Dungannon.



Hope For Youth Ministries – Monday 18 April to Friday 22 April

This has been rescheduled from the first term. Colin Tinsley from Hope for Youth Ministries will be coming out to carry out interactive assemblies with all of the children in school over the course of the week.



Girl's Netball Blitz Wednesday 20 April

On Wednesday 20 April children from the girls' netball team will be taking part in the tournament at Dungannon Leisure Centre. They will leave at 9.30am and will need to bring a packed lunch as they will not be back in time for school dinner.

Tri-County Football Blitz Day for boys and girls - Friday 29 April

Bank Holiday – Monday 2 May

The school will be closed on Monday 2.

School Holiday – Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 May

The school will be closed on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 May.

School Closure – Elections – Thursday 5 May

The school will be closed on Thursday 5 May due to elections which are taking place in the school.

Non-Uniform Day Friday 6 May

The school will reopen on Friday 6 May. Children can wear their own clothes to school. There will be no charge.

Book Launch and Exhibition Night – Friday 6 May - 7pm onwards

On the evening of 6 May we are holding a book launch for '50 Years of Recollections' and will have an exhibition of photographs taken over 50 years at the school.

The staff and children have also been working very hard on a range of projects. These projects ranging from mine-craft, digital books, models and photographs will be displayed throughout the classrooms.

There will be refreshments, strawberries and cream and a spit-roasted pig.

If you hope to attend please complete the expression of interest form or contact Mrs Watson and tickets will be sent home with your child.

Exhibition Open Day – Saturday 7 May

For anyone who would like more time to see round the school and view the exhibition, school will be open on Saturday 7 May from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

PDMU – Drug Awareness – first session Thursday 12 May

Jeannie Graham, from 'Portadown Temperance Council' will be working with children from P6 and P7 on areas linked to Drug Awareness.

Swimming Gala – Tuesday 17 May

The swimming gala will take place on Tuesday 17 May. Children from P6 and P7 will be going to support their team.





Richmount Cup Football Tournament

- Boys football team Wednesday 18 May

- Girls football team Wednesday 25 May

School Photographer – P1 and P7 Photograph – Wednesday 25 May

The School Photographer is coming on Wednesday 25 May to take the P7 leaver photograph and P1 whole class group. Any child who missed their school photograph earlier this year will also be able to get their photograph taken.

Anniversary Concert – Thursday 26 May, 2016 - 7pm



We are holding a special anniversary concert with items by past and present pupils including: song, verse, dance, Pride of the Birches Band and the Joseph Ford Memorial Band.

This will be held in the WJ Mayes Hall Civic Centre, Craigavon.

If you hope to attend please complete the expression of interest form or contact Mrs Watson.

School Closure – Friday 27 May

The school will be closed on Friday 27 May.

Bank Holiday –Monday 30 May

The school will be closed on Monday 30 May.

Fitness Freddy Energy Fitness Day – Thursday 2 June – non-uniform Sports Wear Day

All of the children in the school will take part in a sponsored fitness day. All proceeds go towards school funds.

50th Anniversary Party Day – Non-Uniform ‘The Sixties’ Dress Up Day - Monday 6 June, 2016.

The school was officially opened on the 6 June 1966 and on 6 June 2016 we will be holding a special 50th party day for the children. The theme for the party is The Sixties and the children can come to school dressed up. The PTA have organised an ice-cream van and there will also be a birthday cake!

The Loughshore Group have organised a treat for the children – they will get the opportunity to design and decorate their own special cup cake.

Sports Day - Tuesday 7 June and Tuesday 14 June



Sports day has been provisionally arranged for children from P1 to P3 on **Tuesday 7 June** at 10.00am, weather permitting.

Sports day for P4 – P7 has been provisionally arranged for **Tuesday 14 June** at 10.00am, weather permitting.

Children are to wear their PE uniform.

Everyone welcome – Don't forget to bring your running shoes!!



P6 and P7 Trip to the Share Centre - Friday 3 June

On Friday 3 June children from P6 and P7 will be offered the opportunity to take part in a day of activities at the Share Centre, Lisnaskea.

Neill Buckley Football Competition – Wednesday 8 June

The football team will take part in the annual football competition at Loughall Country Park. The children will leave at approximately 9.30am and will be back in time for the school bus. They will need to bring a packed lunch with them.

Drumming Workshop – Friday 10 June

The Loughshore Group have arranged a drumming workshop for the children with the company 'Gathering Drums'.

Tennis Tournament - Friday 17 June

The tennis team will take part in a competition at Tandragee Primary School on Friday 17 June.

The children will leave at 9.30am and will be home in time for the school bus.



They will need to bring a packed lunch and a bottle of water.

Music Night – 'Sing A-long Sixties' Wednesday 22 June, 2016 - 7pm – Milltown Church Hall



Our theme this year for our music night is 'Sing A-long Sixties'.

School Closure – Elections – Thursday 23 June

The school will be closed on Thursday 23 June due to elections which are taking place in the school.

CHANGE OF DATE Prize Day – Monday 27 June

Prize Day will take place on **Monday 27 June** at 10.00am.



Final Assembly –Tuesday 28 June

The final assembly will take place on **Tuesday 28 June**. Normal school hours

Wednesday 29 June – School closes at 12.45pm for children from P1-P3 and 12.55pm for P4-P7.

The school bus will leave at 1pm for children who normally travel on the bus.

Thursday 30 June – School closes at 10.45am for children from P1-P3 and 10.55am for P4-P7.

The school bus will leave at 11am for children who normally travel on the bus

There will be no school dinners.

NEW TERM 2016

2016/2017 School Year

School Starts back on Tuesday 30 August, 2016

*Tuesday 30 August - School will close at 12.00pm

*Wednesday 31 August - School will close at 12.00pm

Thursday 1 September - Normal School Hours

* There will be no lunch served on these days.

The bus will be available to bring children to and from school who normally travel on the bus.