**Birches Primary School**

**Welcome Back To School**

Dear Parents

I hope everyone had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for a new school year.

There are some areas I would like to draw your attention to this year.

**Friends of Birches**

* Last year was a very busy and special year for our school as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. Many community events were held and I would like to thank all of the committee members and parents who helped to organise and run each event.
* Money raised by the PTA was used to buy each child in school a special commemorative gift as part of our 50th Anniversary and paid for the publishing costs of the journalist clubs magazine.

On behalf of the staff and pupils I would like to thank everyone for helping to raise money.

* Support from our parents and grandparents is always very much appreciated and I hope that the association is well supported in this coming school year.

All parents are very welcome to join the committee and to help out throughout the year.

The AGM will take place later this term, more information will follow shortly.

**School Attendance**

* **Starting school on time**

Doors open at 8.30am and school starts at 8.40am. It is important that your child is in their class at this time. It can be quite upsetting and disruptive for children if they arrive late for school and lessons have already started.

* **Collecting children early from school**

There may be special occasions when you have to collect your child early from school. When this is the case could you please send a note to your child’s class teacher outlining the reason as we will require this when discussing attendance with the Education Welfare Officer.

* **Holidays**

A list of school holidays will be sent out shortly to each family. When booking a family holiday please refer to the school holiday list.

**The Education Welfare Officer checks on all attendance in school including absences, arriving late, leaving early and holidays being taken within term time.**

**We do require notes for all of these occasions to ensure the correct code is used when we record your child’s attendance.**

**Dinner Money**

* A dinner menu will be given out to each family at the beginning of each month. It will also be on the school website.
* Dinners are to be ordered and paid for on a Monday for the week ahead.
* Correct money is to be sent in a named envelope.
* School envelopes are available to buy from the office at £2.50 for a pack of 40 envelopes.

**Car Park**

* Please ensure that whoever is dropping off or collecting your child from school, parks in the designated parking spaces provided and does not cross over the line at the front of school as children may be walking in this area.
* The school bus will collect children at the rear of school and will require access at the side of school.

**Organisational Skills**

* As a staff, we feel it is very important that children are aware of the importance of being organised and bringing the correct items to school each day.

Please encourage your child to make sure they have brought everything they need with them for the day in school – this would include their homework, PE kit, musical instrument etc.

**Charities**

* This year the charities we will be raising money for will include: RAF Wings Appeal, Poppy Appeal, Shoe Box Appeal, Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day, British Heart Foundation and Barnardoes.