

Appleton Street, Warsop,
Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0QF

Telephone: 01623 842163

Dear Parents & Carers

What a fantastic first week was had by all across the school. It was wonderful to see all the children settling into routines, expectations and learning with such enthusiasm.

Jeans for Genes



We will be taking part in this year's Jeans for Genes day on Monday 16th September. 1 child in 25 has a genetic disorder which affects their daily life. This equates to one child in every class. By wearing our jeans and donating, we will help to change the lives of these children.

Pupils are invited to wear their jeans (instead of their school trousers/skirt) on the day for a £1 donation to this important charity.

Mrs Smith
Head of School

Educational Visits

Educational visits are a key enrichment activity for all of our pupils. We are aware that the costs of these may come as a shock to some of you. However, you need to be aware that legally the school cannot make a profit from these. We try to keep costs to a minimum. We frequently find it is the cost of the coach that increases the price. As a school we are not able to use public transport, as they do not meet the health and safety requirements for educational visits. If anyone has any queries about the cost of a visit please speak to the class teacher.



BIRKLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happening this week

Monday 9th September

Tuesday 10th September

Wednesday 11th September

Thursday 12th September

Friday 13th September

Celebration Assembly 9.00am

Uniform/PE Kits

As we are encouraging our children to be the best version of themselves that they can be, we **expect** that **all** our pupils come to school every day wearing the correct school uniform. This includes black shoes NOT trainers. Full details of our school uniform can be found on the school website.

We also ask that the school policy with regards to PE kit is also followed. Any child wearing a top that we feel is inappropriate will be asked to go and collect one from our spare PE kit. We advise that your child brings their PE to school every Monday and keeps it in school all week, then take home on a Friday to be washed.

As you can imagine, we have many of the same items of clothing in school. Therefore, please ensure that all of your child's clothing has their name in it to avoid things going missing and/or going home with the wrong child.

Attendance

Research is showing the massive impact that poor attendance at school can have on a child's life chance. As a school, we encourage all children to attend school on a regular basis. Our target for every child is 96%. Any child that drops below that target should expect to receive a letter outlining our expectations, how we can help to improve attendance, along with what we expect from you. Please be aware that as a Trust we do fine for holidays taken during term-time.

If your child has a mild cough or cold then they will be expected to be in school. We are able to administer medicine providing a consent form is signed by parents. If your child is sick, then please keep them at home for 24 hours. If they have diarrhoea, please keep them home for 48 hours. Antibiotics can be administered in school, again with a signed consent form.

Morning Snack and Tuck

As a school it is our duty to encourage our pupils to make healthy choices. We therefore request that if children bring their own snack for morning break it is not chocolate based. It should be a piece of fruit or a healthy cereal bar.

In school we do offer tuck, at morning break. Pupils can purchase a piece of toast, fruit or a cup of milk. All items are 30p and our children can buy a maximum of two items. Based on this if your child does not have a Squid account and you send them with money for tuck please send either 30p or 60p.

As we are moving towards having lunch and break run as a cashless system we encourage all parents/carers to setup and use a Squid account.

sQuid Accounts

If you would like a registration form to set up a sQuid account to pay for school meals and tuck then please collect from the school office. Please note that we are aiming to become a cashless school so would encourage parents to pay by this method. Due to parents not keeping their child's sQuid account in credit, we are now introducing a rule that if any account is more than £5 in arrears your child will not be allowed to have tuck and we will ask you to send in packed lunches until the debt is cleared. The reason for introducing this rule is that the school has incurred a large debt due to arrears from last academic year.

Free School Meals

We would encourage all parents to apply for Free School Meals if you think that you may qualify. This is very easy to do and an instant answer will be given. Parents can either register online via the County Council's website or they can telephone 0300 500 8080 to apply over the phone. All new applicants who are successful will receive a free school polo shirt. Please collect from the school office. If you would like assistance in making your application then please feel free to come into school. We would encourage everyone who thinks they may qualify to make an application. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, the school will receive extra funding which can be used to assist you in things such as school trips, uniform and enrichment activities.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available every day from 7.30am. Please do not try to enter the building any earlier as our insurance does not cover pupils being in the building prior to this time. The cost of Breakfast Club is £2. However, if your child qualifies for Free School Meals, we can offer this for free. If your child has ever qualified for Free School Meals then we can offer a reduced cost of £1. If you are unsure, please come and have a chat with us.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Our staff are busy deciding and organising which extra-curricular clubs they will be offering this term. Some of these will be during the lunch-break and others after school. Please look out for letters coming home this week, if your child would like to sign up for one or more of these.

Social Media

As a school we would prefer it if you came to speak to us if you have any concerns/worries rather than voicing these on social media.

Friends of Birklands

To increase the positive profile of all the fund raising events that happen and demonstrate that the school and our stakeholders work together we have decided to create Friends of Birklands. This organisation will be jointly led by a member of staff and a parent. We anticipate that other committee members will be made up of staff and parent/carers. If you are interested in getting involved in fund raising events please speak to the school office, who will direct you to the necessary people.

More Important News

Upcoming Dates

Jeans for Genes – 16th September (wear jeans to school for a £1 contribution)

Mansfield Museum visit for year 3 and 4 classes- 17th/ 18th/ 19th September

School Photographs – 20th September

Internet safety parent information workshop- 26th September

Parents' Evenings – 8th & 9th October

Mansfield Museum visit for Dove class (Y2) - 9th October

Book bus in school (details to follow) - 14th October

Flu vaccinations (forms to follow) - 17th October