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Telephone: 01623 842163



**BIRKLANDS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Upcoming Dates

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Football club (KS 2) 3-4pm  
Dance club (KS2) 3-4pm  
Sports4kids (KS1) 3-4pm

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Board Game Club (KS1) 3-  
3.45pm  
Film club (KS1 & 2) 3-4pm  
Book club (R) 3- 4pm  
Choir (KS2) 3-4pm

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

Boxercise (KS2) Club 3-4pm

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Work Hard. Be Kind assembly-  
9am

Dear Parents & Carers

The children have made a fantastic start to the new term. Their approach to learning demonstrates focus and self-determination.

A little reminded that as we are encouraging our children to be the best version of themselves we start our learning promptly at 8.45am (the start of the school day). Therefore, please ensure your child arrives at school promptly before 8.45am.

#### **Staff News**

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Henderson gave birth last week. Both Mrs. Henderson and her son are doing really well. We cannot wait until they pop into school for a visit.

While Mrs. Henderson is on maternity leave Miss Marsh will be teaching her class.

#### **100 book to read by the end of ...**

Please ensure your child participates in the 100 book challenge. This challenge involves each phase (EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2) reading from a list of 100 books aimed at their particular age group. Reading helps to broaden pupils understanding of different authors and genres, whilst widening their vocabulary bank and developing their reading stamina and fluency. Most importantly, we aim to foster a love of books and a reading for pleasure culture across our school.

#### **Times Table Rock Stars**

As a school, we know that the key to opening up mathematical understanding is being able to recall multiplication facts. To support this we have subscribed to Times Table Rock Stars. The children can access this online both at school and at home. All children from Y1 to Y6 have a log-in. Please encourage your child to access this at home.

## Uniform/PE Kits

We are encouraging our children to be the best version of themselves that they can be and this includes wearing the correct school uniform every day. **Please note that children must wear black shoes NOT trainers or walking boots.** Full details of our school uniform can be found on the school website. Please make sure that EVERY item is labelled with your child's name.

PE is a vital part of our curriculum. As a school, we are disappointed in the number of pupils who are 'forgetting' their kits on a regular basis. Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit in to school every Monday, it can be taken home on a Friday to be washed. 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.

## Attendance

As a school, our PA (persistent absence) is well above national. **This is not something to be proud of.** PA is deemed to be those child whose attendance is below 96%.

Research indicates that low or poor attendance at school has a big impact on a child's life chances.

Any family that has a child whose attendance drops below 96% should expect to receive a letter outlining our expectations and informing them of our expectations, how we can help to improve attendance,

Please be aware that as a Trust we do fine for holidays taken during term-time.

If your child has a cough or cold then they will be expected to be in school. We are able to administer medicine/antibiotics providing a consent form is signed by parents.

Please ensure that you contact the school office by 8.30am to report any child absences. If your child comes into school late, they must stop at the school office to let staff know whether they will be having a school dinner or not. If you are late and will not be in school by 9.30am, please telephone school to let us know if you require a school dinner as we have to confirm dinner numbers at this time. If you arrive in school after 9.30am and have not previously contacted us then you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch.

## Tuck and Morning Snack

A little reminder that all payments for tuck are now cash. This is due to the cost in admin time taken up with those sQuid accounts in arrears due to the purchase of tuck items.

Pupils can purchase a piece of toast, fruit or a cup of milk for 30p per item, and children can buy a maximum of two items. Meaning you need to send your child with either 30p or 60p. **NO MORE.**

If your child chooses to bring a snack from home for morning break, please ensure it is a healthy option such as fruit or a healthy cereal bar. Not crisps or chocolate.

## Cookies!

Ms Battiste, our school chef, will now be making extra cookies on a Friday. These will be for sale every Friday after school at a cost of 50p each or 2 for 80p. Why not start the weekend with a lovely treat!

## sQuid Accounts

If you would like a registration form to set up a sQuid account to pay for school meals or if you are having difficulty accessing your child's Squid account please contact the school office for support.

Please note that we are aiming to become a cashless school so would encourage parents to pay by this method.

If any account is more than £5 in arrears, your child will not be allowed to have a school lunch 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/Pupil Premium**

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 can telephone 0300 500 8080 to apply over the phone. All new applicants who are successful will receive a free school polo shirt. Please apply if you think you may qualify, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives Universal Free School Meals. The school does receive additional funding based on numbers of free school meals, which then has to be used to assist your child in things such as school trips, uniform and enrichment activities.

### **Contact with Parent/Carers**

Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact numbers in school. It is vital that we are able to contact you if your child is ill or we need to discuss urgent matters.

### **Building Works**

We have been advised that building work is due to take place around the offices opposite school, on Burns lane. This will mean that there will be lorries and vans making deliveries and moving in and out the site over the next few weeks. Please vigilant during this time and ensure that you take extra care when crossing the road and parking. Please be mindful of blocking entrances when dropping off/collecting your children and as always be respectful of the needs of our neighbours.