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**BIRKLANDS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Upcoming Dates

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Drama Club 3-4pm  
Premier Sports Club 3-4pm

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Work Hard. Be Kind Assembly  
9.00am

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

Football Club 3-4pm  
Sports4Kids Club 3-4pm

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Film Club 3-4pm  
Choir 3-4pm  
Board Games Club 3-4pm

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

INSET day

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas lunch- see  
information on this letter

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Dram Club panto  
performance 5.30pm

Dear Parents & Carers

#### **INSET DAY Changes**

Little reminder that there is a Nova Education Trust INSET day on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. School will therefore not be open.

#### **Children in Need**

A big thank you to all of those who contributed to our fund raising events for Children in Need. We are pleased to announce that we raised more than £200.

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

We are busy unveiling our 100 book challenge to encourage a reading for pleasure culture at Birklands. Please look out for the invite to a launch meeting for your child's class

Each phase (EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2) will be challenged to read from a list of 100 books aimed at their particular age group. This challenge will help 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 reading across our school.

#### **Christmas Lunch**

Our traditional Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. If your child will be having a school lunch on that day, we ask that you ask pay in advance. This is to enable our catering staff to have advanced notice on numbers. Christmas lunch orders need to be in by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please note we will only be serving a traditional Christmas lunch on that day.

#### **Key Dates and times**

5<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30- EYFS Nativity  
6<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30 EYFS Nativity  
10<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 Key Stage 1 Nativity  
12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 Key Stage 1 Nativity  
11<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 Carol Service at the Church

### **Tuck and Morning Snack**

You should have received a letter informing you that starting next week (week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November) all payments for tuck will be 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.

### **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. Please note, **all arrears must be paid by 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

### **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.

### **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**

Research is showing the massive impact that poor attendance at school can have on a child's life chance, and 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/antibiotics providing a consent form is signed by parents.

Please contact the school office by 8.30am to report any child absences.