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Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0QF  
Telephone: 01623 842163



**BIRKLANDS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Upcoming Dates

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Football club (KS2) 3-4.15pm  
Dance club (KS2) 3-4pm  
Sports4kids (KS1) 3-4pm

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Board Game Club (KS1) 3-3.45pm  
Film club (KS1 & 2) 3-4pm  
Book club (R) 3-4pm  
Choir (KS2) 3-4pm  
Year 6 Boosters 3-4pm

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Boxercise (KS2) Club 3-4pm  
Year 6 Boosters 3-4pm

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Work Hard. Be Kind assembly-  
9am  
Nightingale class to the Library



We will be taking part in this competition again this year. Last year we were the lucky winners of £2000 worth of WH Smith vouchers and were able to provide each class with some lovely story books as well as games for wet play.

This year the winners will receive £1500 to spend on their school. This would be an amazing opportunity to boost funds for our Foundation Playground Project!

The competition will run between Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March. For every pound spent in any shop in the Four Seasons Centre you will earn one point. If you take your receipt to the Customer Service desk (outside Debenhams) your receipt will be stamped and you will be given vouchers to post into Birklands' slot in the postbox next to the desk.

There are TRIPLE points on a Sunday so if you are planning on buying a special gift or booking your next holiday, don't forget to claim the points (and do your shopping on a Sunday!). There will be 'bonus' points throughout the promotion so keep an eye out in the Chad for more details.

Fingers crossed we can repeat last year's success!!

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### **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. We have had a few situations recently where we have been unable to contact parents. If you cannot be contacted during the day, please ensure we have alternative numbers.



## Valentine's Raffle

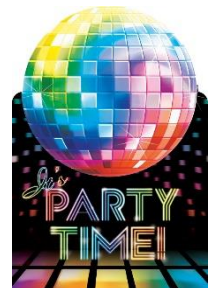
Alongside our Valentine's Disco, we will also be holding a Valentine's Raffle. We will have some amazing prizes including a First Prize of a luxurious hamper full of pampering goodies.

Other prizes include:

- Blue Ocean Chippy voucher
- Prize from Buds & Blooms
- Eyelash voucher
- Nail voucher
- £10 haircut

Tickets will be on sales from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at a cost of £1 per strip both in the school office and in the bottom hall after school.

## Valentine's Discos



Don't forget our Valentine's Discos taking place on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**. Tickets are on sale now from the school office. The Foundation stage and KS1 disco will take place from 3pm to 4pm and tickets cost £1.50. This will include a drink and a snack. The KS2 disco will be at 4.15pm to 5.15pm and tickets are £1. A tuck shop will be available so please send your child with some change to buy drinks and snacks.

## May Bank Holiday

Just a reminder that the May Day bank holiday has been moved this year to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day celebrations. This means that school will be **OPEN on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May** but **CLOSED on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**.

## **Safeguarding**

As you are aware, the safety of everyone in school is our number one priority. With this in mind, please remember to close the gate behind you when you have been buzzed into school. If you have to buzz to get in, it means the person after you should too! Gates will only be open between 8.30 and 8.45 in the morning and after 2.50 in the afternoon.

On another note, please remember that the green doors leading into the Reception area are not automatic and once they have been released by a member of staff you will need to pull the door to get in.

Please also be aware that parents and carers are not allowed into school beyond the reception area unless they have an appointment or are accompanied by a member of staff.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## **sQuid**



For those of you who use your child's sQuid account, you may have noticed that you now have an additional 'purse' added to your account. This now allows for you to pay for things like trips and uniform via your sQuid account. The process is very easy, just make sure that you choose 'Trips and Offers' rather than 'Catering' which is still used for school dinners. There should be a further guide coming out to you with this newsletter.

## **Parents' Evening**

Spring Term Parents' Evening will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February (Year 2 will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>). A letter will be coming out shortly so you can book an appointment with your child's class teacher.

## **Social Media**

We have been made aware that some parents have been trying to contact members of staff via their social media accounts. As a professional, staff are not allowed to communicate with parent/carers directly via their personal social media accounts. If any parent/carers wish to discuss anything with a member of staff, please make an appointment.

## **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.

## **Future Diary Dates**

January 31<sup>st</sup> – Dove Class to the Library  
February 7<sup>th</sup> – Nightingale class to the Library  
February 10<sup>th</sup> – EYFS Phonics Meeting - 9am  
February 10<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Evening  
February 11<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Evening  
February 13<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Evening (Year 2)  
February 12<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Discos  
February 14<sup>th</sup> – Kingfisher class to the Library

April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> – Year 3 & 4 Production