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**BIRKLANDS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Upcoming Dates

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Film Club 3-4pm  
Y6 SATS meeting (top hall) 5pm

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Drama Club 3-4pm

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Work Hard. Be Kind Assembly  
9.00am  
Goldcrest library visit 10.45am

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 5 WE day visit

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Year 5 library visit 10:45am  
Year 6 Holocaust Museum visit

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Children in Need – Fundraising  
details to follow after half term

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

INSET day

Dear Parents & Carers

#### **INSET DAY Changes**

There will be a whole school INSET day on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. This means that the Foundation Stage Nativity will now take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm.

#### **Pumpkin carving competition**

All pumpkins need to be in school by 9.30am on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The winning pumpkin will receive a £10 book voucher.

#### **Parliament Week**

Week commencing Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November is parliament week at Birklands! During the week, all classes will be doing lots of exciting work based around parliament. We will also have a special visitor in school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November linked to this learning.

#### **The Book Bus**

Last Monday, the book bus visited our school. During the day, we sold £600 worth of books. This means that we have £90 to spend on books for our school library. Thank you for all of your contributions!

#### **Exciting news...**

After half-term, we will be unveiling our new approach to encourage a reading for pleasure culture at Birklands. 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.

#### **ALDI Stickers**

We are now on our third poster for Aldi's 'GETSET, EATFRESH' campaign. It would be great if we could fill it to increase our chance to win money for the school. For each £30 you spend in store, you'll be given a sticker to bring in to school.

## Keeping Our Children Safe

Please be reassured that keeping our children safe is of the utmost importance to us. We have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all of our children and will act upon any concerns that we identify, or are made aware of. For confidentiality reasons we are not able to share all aspects of this side of our job with you.

## 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.** 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. Children should be kept at home for 24 hours after the last bout of sickness, and 48 hours for diarrhea. Please contact the school office by 8.30am to report any child absences.

## Morning Snack and Tuck

As a school, it is our duty to encourage our pupils to make healthy choices. If children bring their own snack for morning break then please ensure that it is **not crisps or chocolate**. 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 for 30p per item, and children can buy a maximum of two items.

If your child does not have a Squid account then please send either 30p or 60p in small change.

## 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. 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. Please note, **all arrears must be paid by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October.**

## 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, as the school will receive extra funding which can be used to assist you in things such as school trips, uniform and enrichment activities.