



Welcome Back!

It's so good to be back and the sun is shining too! We all know it won't last but while it does please make sure your child has a water container (for the year) and we'll take the sensible approach in school with the rest. I know it's said every year but the children really do look smart and so the first well done of the year goes to everyone that played their part in making this happen. The children old and new are quickly settling in really well and all of the staff are ready for the year ahead.

All the staff who work at Birkdale Primary are committed to providing you and your child with the very best of experiences, care and education. We always aim to maintain a high level of achievement at the same time as ensuring your child is having fun! Please support us in everything we do and let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Please Be Aware Of Or Be Reminded That...

- The school is very busy before and after school especially in the first couple of weeks of September. Schools now have to adhere to very strict timings (the times sent out on Monday). This will mean that Reception Year 1 and 2 doors must close at 8.45am (3.15pm finish) and the Main Yard gates will be closed at 8.50am (3.20pm finish for Years, 3,4,5 and 6). All doors in the morning will be open from 8.40am.
If you are late, you will need to come around to the Main Office entrance.
- You are responsible for your child before they enter and leave school at the beginning and end of the day...please do not allow your child to ride bikes or scooters on the yard or climb on anything (trees, railings etc).
- If you've not done so already, please name all clothing, especially jumpers, cardies and coats.
- Please do not comment negatively about the school on social media. If there is a problem, it needs resolving with us. Come and see myself, Mr Jessop or Mrs Ramsden or talk to any staff member...even if it means waiting until a Monday. Thank you in advance especially with this, we've got so good with this over the years. Thank you for your help with this.
- Please do not park across any residents driveways and on any local business forecourts (in particular, Nicola's and Sparkles) at pick up and drop off. It's not our responsibility to police this but we really need to maintain community harmony. Wardens regularly patrol the area now and a number of fines were issued last year.
- No dogs on the yard please, not even cute ones. Please do not tie dogs up at the gates. Sorry!
- Breakfast and After School Club—Please note that this begins at 7.30am. It is essential that all pick ups are made by 5.30pm. Please see Mrs Selby in our Hive building for all details and bookings.
 - Important Attendance information is on Page 2

Building News

Just to be assured that I would be the first to let you know immediately if we had a building safety concern. I am assured that we do not have any RAAC. I think the Victorians did a pretty good job here over 130 years ago but we do have one or two leaks! These are being attended to by the Local Authority bit by bit without affecting the school timetable.

PTA Meetings

EVERYONE WELCOME! Our first meeting will be in the staff room—please come along to the Main Office at 2.30pm on Wednesday 4th October to discuss this years events. We are hoping to buy our new school mini-bus in the Autumn Term and need your help to get us over the line with funding.

Congratulations!

News I missed in July...Miss Williams (our Pastoral Lead) was married over the summer and shall be now known as Mrs Steel from here on in! All the very best to you and your husband!

Tesco Tokens

There's just a few weeks remaining for this. All three causes are very worthy I have to say. First place will get £1500, second place £1000 and third place £500. You know what to do!

Attendance and Punctuality

It is important that your child aspires to achieve the best attendance at school as possible, arriving on time and ready to learn every day. Establishing a strong routine of punctuality and attendance goes a long way to form a positive attitude towards school and supports achievement across the curriculum.

As ever, we are unable to authorise holidays in term times (except in exceptional circumstances) - any unauthorised absences could lead to a penalty notice.

This year we will be monitoring attendance particularly closely, especially unauthorised absences where we do not have a reason for children being off. If you know your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office and inform us on the first day.

A series of unauthorised absences could also lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued.

"Avoid the fine - drop us a line!"

It would be helpful if, when making appointments for dentist and medical appointments, that these are made outside of school times, where possible.

Spare Clothing

Bags of clean clothing can be left by the Tuck Inn (our tuck shop on the Main Yard) on Tuesday, 26th September—we'll send a reminder the day before. Money raised will go to our Birkdale Buddies group.

Clubs

We offer such a wide range during the school day and after school but these take a little while to get up and running, please bear with us for a few short weeks so we can get the correct arrangements out to you.

New Website

We are working on this over the next few weeks and will keep you all informed as to when our launch date will be.

Our Reading Improvement Group (RIG) still needs YOU!!!

We have a fantastic army of readers coming into school to support our children with reading and it really makes a big difference! We would love to have as much support again this year. If you would like to join our growing army please volunteer if you are free during the school week and leave the DBS checks to us. Forms are available from the Main Office.

STAR of the WEEK is back ON!!!

Parent/Guardian text invites for this will be received on THURSDAY afternoons. The assemblies will be at 9am for Infants (quietish) and 9.30am for Juniors (loud) the day after. This is a special time of the week and you will likely be invited no more than twice in a year—we hope you can make it—no worries if not, we always BIG up the children at BPS!

Book Fair

This will be arriving around the 13th or 14th September (so soon!), we'll have details out to you as soon as we have them. It was a great success last year with all profits going back into buying books for the children in school.

Ok, that's all for now. Thanks for reading...More news soon...

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