

Half Way Through!!!

HALF-WAY THROUGH THE YEAR!

February half term signals the half way point in the school year and it's a great time to step back and reflect on what we have achieved already this year. There have been many significant milestones this year—some involving the whole school, some including year groups and classes but the most significant milestones are always the ones that children make, individually; when children take fantastic leaps forward in their progress and achieve significant steps in their own individual learning journey.

Our newly-implemented Do-Jo awards scheme is just one way that we can celebrate and reward children for their success. It is clear to see that they are really enjoying the new rewards and are gathering their points as they race towards the first **BRONZE STAR** award!!

I can't wait to start presenting these in our Friday 'Star of the Week' Celebration Assembly!

PHASED RETURN

On another positive note, I have heard from Mr Sheeran recently and he has expressed his intention to return to school on a phased return in the near future. He still needs to meet with his consultant to be given the 'all-clear' to return but, once he has received this, he hopes, initially, to make a few informal visits to school to see us all. He will then work on a 'phased-return' over a number of weeks in order to build up to getting back to school on a more full-time basis. There are no definite dates that have been agreed but as soon as I have more information I will share this with you.

We are cautiously optimistic and can't wait to see Mr Sheeran back in school—one step at a time.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK/SAFER INTERNET DAY

It's a busy week in school, this week.

Children will be exploring activities relating to Safer Internet Day this week.

The importance of staying safe on line continues to be an increasingly important fact of every child's life. This week we will share ideas and activities which will promote safer internet use and highlight the importance of staying safe on line.

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/>

Monday sees the launch of Mental Health Week in school with this year's theme: **"Let's Connect"**.

We have talked in assembly about Mental Health and there will be more work and discussions throughout the week in class about how important it is to 'connect' and to talk, in order to maintain our positive mental health.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

WELLBEING—MUFTI DAY—FRIDAY

Mental Health Week will culminate in our 'Wellbeing' mufti day on Friday.

As part of our Southport Schools Network—"Southport Learning Partnership"—the consensus from all school councils was to support the charity **Cancer Research** this year.

With this in mind all money collected on Friday will be sent to Cancer Research.

A donation of **50p per family** would be gratefully received.

The other schools in our Southport community will also be holding a similar event and raising funds for the same agreed charity.

'SEND' COFFEE MORNING—THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

Mrs Grice, our school leader for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, will be hosting another of her very successful 'SEND' Coffee Mornings this Thursday 9th Feb. from 9am in The Hive.

These informal meetings have proved a huge success and are great for parents and carers to get together to share experiences, ideas, contacts and information whilst also forging friendships and a support network within our own school community.

If you haven't been yet, drop in this Thursday morning from 9am for a coffee and a chat.

Our Chair of Governors, Machalla McDermott, who is a great source of information, will also be available.

PE UNIFORM

Following an 'AFPE' audit we need to ensure that everyone is clear about our school PE uniform. On some occasions the wrong footwear is creeping into PE lessons which is not always the safest footwear for the activity.

Clothing

INDOOR PE
shorts and t-shirt only.

OUTDOOR PE
shorts/t-shirt/joggers and hoodie (weather dependant)

Footwear

INDOOR PE
Yoga - bare feet/socks on a yoga mat
Dance & Gymnastics - bare feet or pumps.
All other indoor sport - pumps (larger sizes can be purchased online)
TRAINERS MUST NOT BE WORN FOR ANY INDOOR PE.

OUTDOOR PE
All outdoor sport - trainers

Jewellery

All items of jewellery, including watches, must be removed for all sport.
Earrings should not be worn on PE days. If they cannot be removed they must be covered.

SPRING TERM—AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There is a huge number of activities and opportunities for children to take part in after school clubs.
Below is a list of all the events held in/after school, including who runs the club and their start and finish times.

If your child takes part in one of these clubs, all we ask is that you be mindful of the finishing time of the club and collect your child promptly.

If you are interested in your child attending clubs after school, please contact the school office or the relevant member of staff named below.

Day	Club	Year groups	Times	Run by
Monday	Birkdale Buddies	Years 3,4,5,6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mrs Corlett, Miss Mullin, Miss Williams
Monday	Football	Years 5 & 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mr Murphy & Mr Gallagher
Monday	Art	Year 2	3.10pm-4.10pm	Mrs Redmond & Miss Bradley
Monday	Spanish	Year 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mr Stevenson
Tuesday	Choir	Years 4,5,6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mrs Menary & Miss Lee
Tuesday	STEM	Year 2	3.10-4.10pm	Miss Prosser
Tuesday	Multi Skills	Years 5 & 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mr Murphy & Mr Gallagher
Wednesday	Times Table Rock Stars	Year 4	8.15am-8.45am	Mrs Corlett & Miss Mullin
Wednesday	Lunchtime Choir	Years 3,4,5,6	Lunchtime	Mrs Menary
Wednesday	Netball	Years 5 & 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Miss Allen & Mrs Harding
Thursday	Book Club	Year 5	Lunchtime	Mrs Menary & a group of Year 6
Thursday	Music Tech	Year 5 & 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mrs Menary
Thursday	Dance	Years 4,5 & 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Mrs Eden & Miss Mullin
Friday	Recorders	Year 4	Lunchtime	Mrs Grice
Friday	Archery	Year 5 & 6	3.20pm-4.20pm	Archery Education

ADVANCED NOTICE!!!

WORLD BOOK DAY—March 2023

World Book Day will take place in school in March.
This is always an exciting time in our school calendar as we enjoy all of the activities and events that support and encourage a love of books and reading.

This year our World Book Day event will span two days in school:
Thursday 2nd March
Friday 3rd March

On Thursday 2nd March the whole school will take part in a shared event and use the same book to explore a variety of themes.

On Friday 3rd March we will be holding a whole school 'share a book' day.
This day will be our Pyjama Day ... pyjamas, dressing gowns and teddies at the ready...as we 'curl up' and 'cosy in' to share our favourite titles.

More details of this event will be sent out nearer the time.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

SPRING TERM PARENTS EVENING

We will be holding our Spring Term Parents Evening for children in Reception - Year 6 in March:

Tuesday 7th March 3:30pm—5:30pm
Wednesday 8th March 4:00pm—6:00pm

Nursesey will hold their parents evening on Wednesday 8th March from 3:10pm—6pm

Separate letters to book appointment times will be sent out later this week—look out for them in book bags and send your reply slip in as soon as possible.
Appointments are made on a first-come-first-served basis!!

ATTENDANCE

It is vitally important that your child attends school regularly and on time and with this in mind, we will be working hard this year to ensure that attendance in school is the best it can be, following the difficult term of viruses that we have just experienced.

Obviously children become ill and need time off school.
If this is the case, please follow our absence procedures.

It is crucial that you contact school on the first day of absence; please speak to someone or leave a message.
When your child is fit to return to school, please send them in with a note to explain their absence.
Un-authorised absences and absences without reason will be followed up and could trigger the involvement of an Education Welfare Officer or lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Our school gates close at 9:00am in the morning. Children arriving after that time should enter via the school office and are 'late' for school.

Children arriving at 8:45 each day are gaining an extra 15 minutes of activity time in their day, that's over an hour of extra learning per week.
Those who arrive after 9:00am are missing vital phonics, spelling and grammar.

LET'S BE ON TIME EVERY DAY AND DEVELOP A ROUTINE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE!!!

HALF TERM

School closes for half term this Friday at the usual time (not an early finish!)
We return on Monday 20th February.
Have a safe and happy week off!

Contacting Us

Email us on : admin.birkdaleprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk
Website : www.birkdaleprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk
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