



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attainment through Caring, Challenge & Creativity

**WELCOME
BACK!!**

Birkdale Primary Newsletter

Attainment through Caring, Challenge and Creativity

September 2024

Welcome Back to School—it's a NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

It was so good to see all of the children back on Tuesday safe and happy. They are certainly all very keen and eager to get back into the business of school! If you are new to the school, I hope you feel very welcome and enjoy your time with us as a parent or pupil. The children all looked incredibly smart so well done to everyone involved in making it all happen.

We are proud of the way in which, particularly our older children, have handled the sensitive and delicate conversations that have taken place this week regarding the events of late July. These have been small in number as we continue to monitor the needs of the children. It's a big thank you to you at home for allowing us to support and continue to support the children in a way that meets their current needs.

Please do feel free to contact us over any matter should you have any concerns or worries. Here we go then, Academic Year 2024-25, here we come! This is a long newsletter so please check everything to the end of Page 4!

- **Star of the Week!** - I often think Star of the Week is a fantastic chance to see what we are all about at BPS but it will sometimes be a loooong wait for this to happen. Rest assured we have plenty of rewards during a school day and week including Class Dojo! If you do get the invite please try to send a 'representative' but equally, do not worry if you can't make it as we will certainly make a fuss of the children when it happens!
- **ATTENDANCE—Holidays/sessions out of school during term time** - Please note that there are now additional strict rules relating to this issue including bigger fines—our school will come under scrutiny to ensure that we adhere to these. It is very hard for us to say no especially when we are aware of the range of financial issues involved or that there is previous perfect attendance or even when we hear how educational a trip may be but, please note that the answer is highly likely to be no. Frequent absences will also be challenged this year by all schools including us as attendance is a national priority for all schools. It is important that parents and school work together to ensure regular attendance at school.

**PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED INFORMATION POSTER ATTACHED TO
THIS NEWSLETTER**

ASDA's Cashpot for Schools

In a brilliant move by ASDA, school (and you!) will now receive a cash percentage of any money you spend at ASDA. It's just been launched and we've already raised £67!

Please join **ASDA Rewards** and choose **Birkdale Primary** as your nominated school. Please tell all your family and friends to do the same! Thankyou!

Security and Buildings Work

It's a very big thank you to everyone at Sefton Council involved in the improvements that have taken place over the Summer. There's building work left to do but everything from a new playdeck surface to new windows has made a massive difference to us.

All primary schools have a challenge before and after school and although we are even tighter with security during the school day we do hope that those of you who may be affected by some necessary changes will understand the need for these. There may occasionally be a delay to opening and closing and similarly for classes coming out late—there will always be a reason for this so please consider this as an ever present possibility in poor weather!

www.birkdaleprimary.com 01704 567516 email us at admin.birkdaleprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk

More News...

- **Website Updates** will be taking place over the next couple of weeks—please check your child's class page soon
 - **Book Bags**—These are available from the school office priced at £7.50
 - **Important Contact Information**

To receive letters/newsletters and day to day information such as club information and cancellations you must be on Parentmail and will need to download the app for this.

We also have the School Gateway which is our payment app that you will need to send money to us for dinner/trips etc such as the Dear Zoo trip coming up for Reception.

Please make sure we have your latest mobile number in case of emergencies and with an increasing use of texts being used by us—Thank You

Mrs Selby will liaise with all parents involved with the Breakfast and After School Club.

In all cases, we will make every effort not to bombard you with information!

- **Club Information will follow soon but here's the Music News from Miss Lee...**

We are really excited to be starting a new year of incredible musical learning at Birkdale Primary. All information is available on the school website for music clubs and small group music tuition, but here are some key dates coming up regarding extra curricular music activities.

Friday 6th Sept: Small group music tuition sign up closes - Look out for confirmation letters for places and further details in book bags next week!

Friday 13th Sept: Sign up closes for Autumn music clubs. Please see the letter sent today (6th September) via Parent Mail which includes information and the online Google form link to sign up your child for clubs. The link will stay open for Spring/Summer clubs. Confirmation of music club places will be sent out the week after sign up closes.

Monday 23rd Sept: Music tuition groups and Music after school clubs will begin for the Autumn Term.

We have gone digital for music sign ups using Google form links this year to hopefully reduce lost return slips, however paper letters will be sent to children for confirmation of places and other important information, so please keep a lookout in book bags if you are awaiting any confirmation regarding music tuition/clubs.

PTA, MINIBUS, Defibs, Discos and Together in Yellow!

There will be news of a PTA meeting shortly where we are hoping for a fresh new team to build on the success of previous years. I can say that our number one priority will continue to be raising funds for a brand new minibus and we hope to get a visual total raised for all to see soon! The PTA and the Oliver King Foundation have just provided an external defibrillator outside the school office (we already have them in school—the one in Year 6 saved my life!) .There will be many events taking place this year but for now, I can give you advance notice of **World Mental Health Day on the 10th October, 2024**, where we can wear yellow with thousands of others across the UK and raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. I can also let you know that DISCOS will take place on: Tuesday, 22nd October for the Juniors, Wednesday, 23rd October for the Infants and Thursday, 24th October for Reception—as always, there will be more details nearer the time about all our events but I'm pretty sure these discos will have a spooky theme instead of uniform on these days if children want to join in!

More News...

Whole School Immunisations

Tuesday, 1st October is the date when the NHS team will be in school to immunise the children in the whole school with the flu vaccination. As well as protecting the children themselves and the wider community, flu vaccination promotes a healthy environment by reducing the spread of flu to others.

Please note, more information will be coming to you shortly through Parentmail—this will give you an opportunity to both opt-in and opt-out.

Christmas Cards

I know it may seem a little early to be doing Christmas stuff so if your children tell you they've been designing Christmas cards they are needed well in advance by the company that produces them.

Tea—Towels

Speaking of potential gifts for Christmas! We will be getting one of those school tea towels made with the children's portraits on soon. We've not done this for years and so we'll give it a go to see if its popular!

Reading Books!—Please look after them but as we all know, accidents happen! The replacement charge is £5—no questions asked!

Some Common Sense Rules for the Year!

- No dogs on the yard at home time, even tiny ones...sorry!
- No smoking or vaping on the yard at any time.
- Please supervise the children when it's not our turn. Know where your child is out of school.
 - No riding bikes or scooters on the yard.
 - No social media negativity please—speak to us first.
- Please provide healthy, balanced packed lunches—we don't police this but please respect our concern if we have to call—eg—regarding nuts etc—we will provide more advice on this soon.
- Please park respectfully for all our residents and drive safely around the school at all times if you have to! Thank you!

And Finally

It truly has been a brilliant start for the school year but if I could just re-iterate how important it is to contact us if you are worried about anything that concerns your child. If you feel unsafe for whatever reason, there is a real strength within our community. We can help. When hate is strong, love must be stronger.

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.
Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.
The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1

Day =

2

Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160



4 children & 2 parents =

£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME

2 parents and
1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000