

# Birchwood Avenue Primary School's News



Issue 10, July 2025



## Dates for your diary

Dates for 2025	
10th July	Transition day
11th July	Y6 Leavers' Disco pm
18th July	Last day of term School closes at 1:30pm
21st July 2025	INSET
22nd July 2025	INSET
23rd July 2025	INSET
Summer holiday...	
3rd September	INSET day
4th September	Children return to school

## Lost Property



In school, there is already a growing collection of uniform with no names on. Please write your child's name or initials on the label of their uniform. This is costly and 'lost' uniform can be avoided.

## Message from Miss Hall

Dear families,

We have finally reached the end of this academic year- I'm sure you've felt that at times we may not get there! The children are very ready for a break- time to relax and recharge, enjoy the sunshine and time with family and friends.

I am very proud of everything the children have achieved this year. There has been much progress made in their learning and standards at Birchwood are improving. I'd like to publicly thank Ms Swash (EYFS lead), Mrs Dyos, Mrs Chalk and Mrs Cristia for the incredible EYFS results this year. 73% of our children have met the GLD (good level of development). This is something to celebrate.

Our Year 6 pupils have now received their end of KS2 SATs results and I'm sure there will be many happy children, and proud parents. Thank you to the Year 6 staff for their hard work. Again, we have a higher number of children who have passed the KS2 assessments in reading, writing, SPAG and maths.

I would like to thank all the staff for the care, time and energy they invest in the school and ensuring that your children are supported and encouraged to reach their potential. I'd also like to thank our families for your ongoing support and working in partnership with the school. I recognise that this may not always be easy, and there may be differing opinions, but continuing to communicate with openness, mutual respect and transparency is important.

I wish you a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing what next academic year brings.....

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## School Diary

Please check the school diary on our website for updates for school events. This calendar can be synced to your phone.

[Calendar | Birchwood Avenue Primary School](#)

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## Staffing Updates

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Mowatt, Miss Hare and Mrs Hope at the end of this term. On behalf on the children, and staff, I'd like to thank them all for their commitment to Birchwood Avenue Primary School.

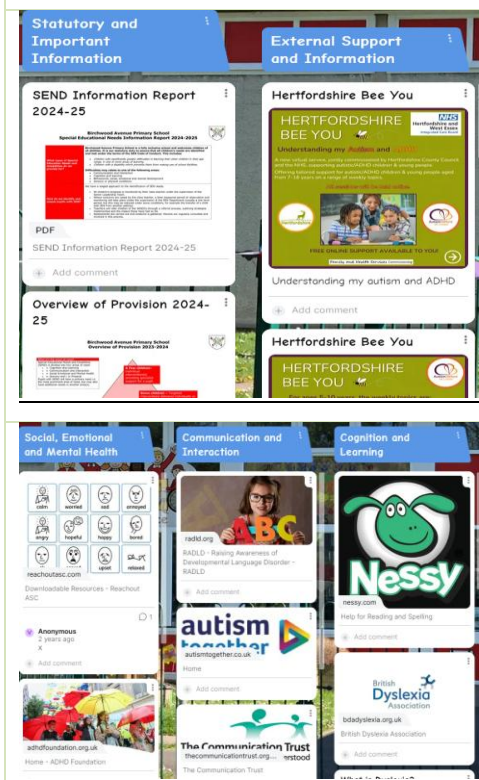
## SEND at Birchwood

Miss James has been updating the page providing support to parents of children with SEND needs.

[Birchwood Avenue Primary School SEND](#)

Please follow the link above and find all our SEND info in one place.

A couple of screen shots are below to give you a taste of what you can access.



### Messages from our school office.



Please check that you are receiving emails from Arbor. Some people have not been receiving these due to changes in contact email addresses.

Please check that you log-in to Arbor and SchoolGrid are working. Please let the school office know if you need support with accessing either of these platforms.

Between them they have been at our school for just over 20 years! I wish them well for their next stage of their careers.

Mrs Charalambous is also leaving us for a while to go on maternity leave. We hope Mrs Charalambous and her family enjoy every moment with their new arrival when the time comes.

In September, we will be welcoming Miss Atherton (teacher), Miss Eason (TA) and Mrs Rexhaj (TA) to our school.

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## Congratulations Miss Brown!

We are delighted to share that Miss Brown has successfully completed her training year to become a Maths Mastery Specialist.

Over the past year, she has taken part in three intensive residential training days, designed to deepen her understanding and expertise in the teaching of mathematics.

As part of her training, Miss Brown also led a Teacher Research Group (TRG), working with a small group of teachers from other schools. She expertly modelled effective mastery lessons and facilitated thoughtful discussions around the key features that support deep mathematical understanding.

Looking ahead, Miss Brown will continue to share her knowledge and enthusiasm by supporting other schools on their maths mastery journeys, while also helping to drive excellence in maths teaching here at Birchwood. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and excited for the positive impact this will bring to our wider learning community.

## *July's Highlights*

### Archery Workshops

**Year 2:** "Archery was fun because we could shoot arrows" - Noah  
"I liked Archery because it reminded me of darts when shooting at the target" - Teddy

**Year 1** "I liked when I shot at the target." Joseph  
"I liked when I shot and I nearly got 10." Brodie

"We had to make a cake. If you hit the 7 it burned the cake." Tyvan

**Year 6:** "I think it was quite a fun activity. We played a game at the end where we had to try to shoot the right numbers or we had to restart, so it helped us work on our aim" - Jamie  
"It was fun. I liked the cake game at the end where we had to hit different colours." - Alfie



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### Hatfield Foodbank

If you are struggling at the moment with the cost of living and buying essentials, please speak to Miss Hall or Miss James and we will support you with getting a code to access the Foodbank.



### Goalball Workshops

**Year 2:** "Goalball was exciting because we got to throw balls with bells inside" - Belles

**Year 1:** "Rolling the ball in a circle was hard because there were gaps between us that the ball could go through." Freddie

"I liked that I could roll the ball anywhere. I knew where it was by listening to the bells." Archie

**Year 6:** "We had blindfolds on and rolled the ball with a bell inside. I enjoyed it. We were nervous that we were going to miss because we couldn't see." - Methembe

### Governor Corner



Have you ever wondered what school governors do? Governors are volunteers who play an important role in making sure the school is doing the best it can for all our children. We work closely with the headteacher and school staff - not in the day-to-day running of the school, but rather we help with big-picture things, like setting the school's overall direction, overseeing decisions about the budget, and checking how well the school is helping pupils to learn and progress.

Our role is to be supportive, but also ask the right questions to help school leaders reflect and improve. We meet regularly to talk through plans and progress, check the school is meeting its legal duties and that it is a safe, happy, and successful place to learn.

Governors come from all walks of life - parents, staff, and members of the local community - and bring different skills and perspectives. We currently have vacancies on the board, so if you or someone you know would like to find out more about the role to see if it's something you could help with, just drop by the school office who can then arrange a chat for you.



### Year 4- Steel Pans

Year 4 have been attending the music centre weekly, all year. They've been learning to play the steel pans. Their skills have improved and they gave their performance to parents last week.



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### Kew Gardens

## Year 6 Leavers' Disco

Thank you to all the parents who helped provide a night of music, fun and sugar to our Year 6 pupils. A special thank you to Kirsty and Ellie for organising this. The children had a great time.

"The leavers disco was fun and amazing. People kept cheering for the candy floss. The music was amazing and I liked the photo booth. It was really nice to celebrate with everyone." - Emma

"It was amazing. We really liked the candy floss. The music was good it was really fun." - Adura



## **Last month, Year 2 and Year 3 visited Kew Gardens.**

Year 2 - "Kew Gardens was fun because I liked seeing all the different plants and flowers" - Elanor

"I liked seeing the triangle trees at Kew Gardens" - Ali

"I enjoyed looking at the plants at Kew Gardens" - Arabella

Year 3- 'I liked going into the hive, it was amazing to see how bees live!' Evelyn

'It was interesting to see all the different plants, even some that were here before dinosaurs' Adam





## Sports Day

Thank you for joining us for this year's sports day. Congratulations to Emerald team who won this year.

Here's what some of the children thought about it...

- "I liked watching the parents' race" - Aronas
- "I liked sports day because we experienced different challenges" - Abdoul
- "I liked football. I scored 3 goals." Brodie
- "My favourite bit was basketball. I liked it because I got to throw the ball." Grace
- "I liked the bean bag bucket challenge. I threw the bean bag and it landed in the bucket" Tyvan
- "The sack race was good. It was really fun." Luciana
- "Sports day was fun because we got to do different activities. We got to show what we can do and use teamwork to support others." - Devon

## District Sports- Gosling Sports Park

Well done to all the children who represented our school this year. Congratulations to Kayla, Year 6 who came first in the 600m race.



## Herts Shining Communication Award

As a school, we're continually reflecting on our provision and our offer to the children. We have many children in school who have identified communication and language needs. To ensure our provision meets these pupils' needs, the school is currently working towards the 'Herts Shining Communication Award'. This is being led by Mrs Nugent and Mrs Tilley who, amongst many other things, deliver speech and language intervention and work closely with our Speech and Language Therapist. If you would like to know more about this, please speak with either of them in the playground.



## Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Your school is on the journey to achieving the Herts Shining Communication Award



Parents can access our **website** for useful advice or use our **advice line** to speak to a member of the team - 01923 470 680 (option 3, then option 1)  
Facebook: @HERTSCYPT | Twitter: @Herts\_CYPT | Instagram: @herts\_cypt



www.hct.nhs.uk

**Year 4 attended a drama workshop at Onslow.**

As you know, we love a bit of drama at Birchwood!



Lacrosse Workshops

As part of our curriculum offer, we provide opportunities for children to participate in different sports. The children all took part in a lacrosse session with PE coaches.



**This is what Year 1:**

"When you have ball in your net you need to throw it." Islam  
"I liked when we had to throw the ball and then move to get it." Salar  
"It was easy to carry the ball in the net." Tyvan

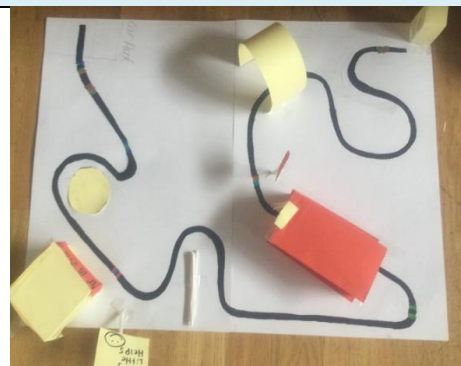


**Year 5 and Year 6 STEM Day**

In the morning, Year 5 and Year 6 took part in STEM workshops. These activities developed their understanding of technology and engineering. The children worked well collaboratively and improved their problem-solving skills and needed to be quite resourceful. Parents were invited to attend during the afternoon- thank you to those of you who were able to make this session.

Morning workshop: Year 6: "I thought it was really fun because we got to experiment with different colour codes. We got to use everyone's ideas and put them together to make our own track." - Mariam

Afternoon with parents: "It was fun and creative. We made roller coasters. The challenge was to make a loop. It was nice to have our parents come in as well." - Ava



## MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

The data below shows attendance for this term so far.

	Year 6	96.4%
	Year 5	95.22%
	Year 2	94.99%
	Year 3	94.39%
	Year 4	92.99%
	Year 1	92.5%
	YR	91.93%

Our whole school attendance figure for the school year so far is at **93.8%**. The national average to date is 94.5%. Thank you for ensuring your child attends school daily and is punctual.

Unfortunately, we have 20.1% of our children who are 'persistent absentees'. This means that one fifth of our pupils have attendance which is below 90%. This remains an ongoing concern. For these 40 pupils, this absence is having a noticeable negative effect on their progress, attainment and sense of belonging.

### Term Time Holidays

Families are reminded that Amendments to the 2006 Pupil Registration (England) Regulations, which came into effect on 1st September 2013, removed all references to *family holidays and extended leave for holidays in term time*. The amendments make clear that Headteachers may **not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### Contact us...

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