

Birchwood Avenue Primary School's News



Issue 9, June 2025



Dates for your diary

Dates for 2025	
2 nd -13 th June	Y6 Swimming top up lessons
Wb 9 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Wb 9 th June	Year 4 MTC
9 th June	Archery workshops
11 th June	KS2 Dance workshops
12 th June	Ultimate Frisbee workshops- whole school
20 th June	Sports Day- a.m
25 th June	District Sports
26 th June	Y2 & Y3 visit to Kew Gardens
27 th June	Reserve date- Sports Day
2 nd July	Music assembly to parents @9:00am
2 nd July	Sea Cadets visit Y5 & Y6
1 st July	Parent Consultations
2 nd July	Parent Consultations
3 rd July	Street Dance workshops- whole school
8 th July	Rocksteady Concert pm
9 th July	Year 6 production x 2 1:30 & 6:00 shows
10 th July	Transition day
11 th July	Y6 Leavers' Disco pm
14 th July	Y5 & Y6 STEM workshops

Message from Miss Hall

Dear families,

We are now in our final half-term of this academic year. It has flown by and the final 6 weeks, as always, are busy ones. We have Sport Day, District Sports, class trips, dance and archery workshops to be enjoyed.

Our Year 1 children will be taking the PSC (Phonics Screening Check) this week. The Year 4s will be completing the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check). Both of these statutory DfE assessments will be carried out in a way which will not be adding unnecessary pressure or anxiety to the children.

In a couple of weeks, we will be having our summer term assessment week and parent consultations which I hope you can all attend. This will be a chance to see how your child has progressed this year and areas which will need further support and to be a focus in their new year group in September.

I understand that this time of year can be a worry in terms of who will be your child's class teacher in September. I have not finalised staffing arrangements yet due to a few factors. Please be assured that this will be shared with you once staff deployment has been confirmed.

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](#)

Staffing Updates

I'm sure this news will come as a surprise to many of you. Sadly, Mrs Mowatt will be leaving our school at the end of this academic year after being at Birchwood since September 2014. I'm sure that many of you have children who have been taught by Mrs Mowatt over the years and have many fond memories. Mrs Mowatt is taking up an Assistant Head post at a primary school in Herts.

She will be sorely missed by the staff and pupils but we wish her all the very best in her new role. Thank you from all of us here, and I know you will be a real asset to your new school.



	& parent workshops
18 th July	Last day of term School closes at 1:30pm
21 st July 2025	INSET
22 nd July 2025	INSET
23 rd July 2025	INSET
3 rd September	INSET day
4 th September	Autumn Term begins. Children return to school.

Lost Property



In school, there is an ever-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.

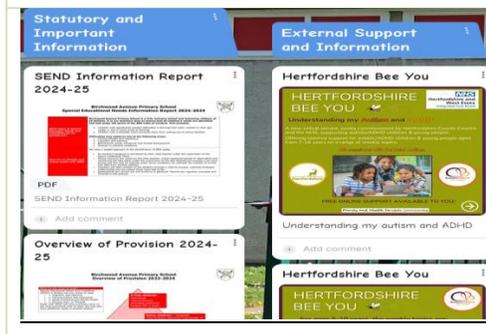
SEND at Birchwood

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.



Other Staff News

Miss Monk has left our school staff. I would like to thank her for her commitment to our pupils. She supported many pupils during her time at Birchwood and always with a smile on her face. We wish you well for the future.

I would like to welcome Miss Williams and Mr Porter to our team. Mr Porter has joined as a new MSA (Midday Supervisory Assistant) and Miss Williams as a member of support staff working with Mrs Markus in The Hut.

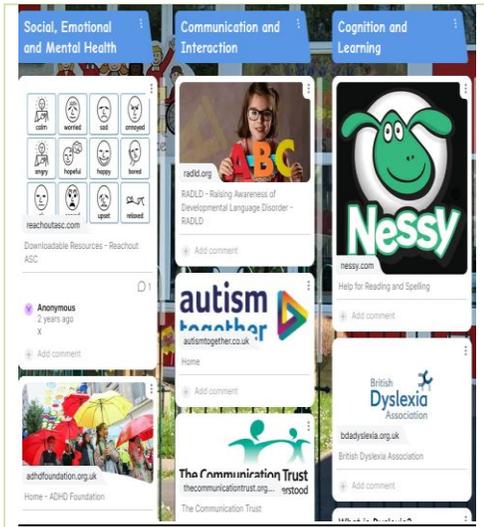
Year 6 Residential

Just before half-term, some of our Year 6 pupils attended a residential at Cuffley Camp with Miss Plane and Mr Connolly. The children had many activities throughout the week. These included: archery tag, zip wire, gladiator course, crate stack, nightline.

The children (and staff) proved themselves to be fearless! Blindfolds, harnesses and spiders played a big part of the week. Well done to everyone who faced a fear, showed they were resilient and worked as part of a team.

Thank you to Miss Plane and Mr Connolly for supporting the children during the week.





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.

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.



Owls Visit Birchwood

On Friday, we had some owls visit the school. The children learned about these incredible animals and saw them in action. 'Night Owls', the bird of prey demonstration team, gave the children a talk and a flying display. There was a photo opportunity with Dottie, the barn owl. You will have received a letter last week detailing information about purchasing this photo should you wish too.



Thank you

On Friday, we had a 'green day' to raise awareness of Tourette Syndrome. You have helped raise a whopping £104.47 beating last year's total. Thank you for your support. The green made an interesting change to the 'sea of red' in school.



**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The data below shows attendance for this term so far.

	Year 6	97%
	Year 5	95.4%
	Year 2	95.3%
	Year 3	94.6%
	Year 4	94%
	Year 1	92%
	Year R	92%

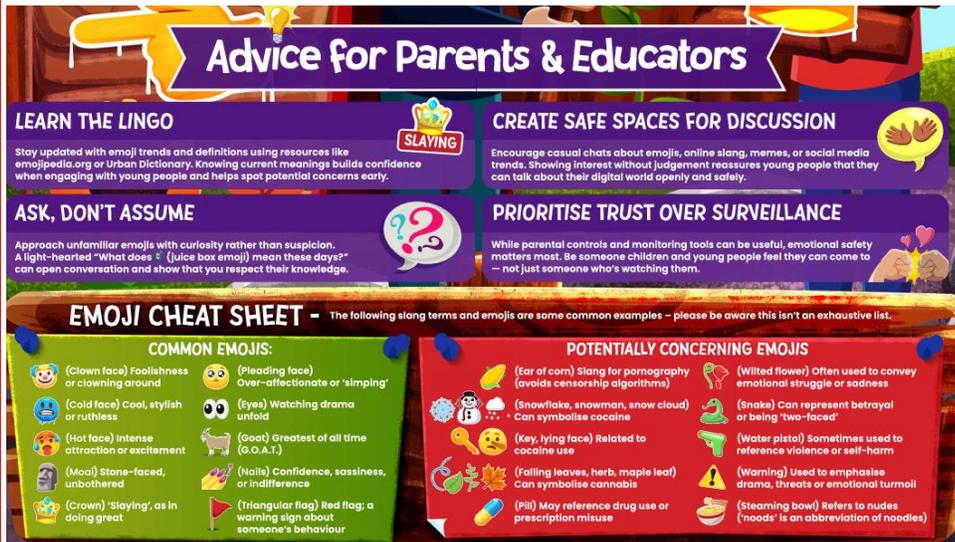
Our whole school attendance figure for the school year so far is at **94.2%**. The national average to date is 94.5%. Thank you for ensuring your child attends school daily and is punctual.

Unfortunately, we already have 17.9% of our children who are 'persistent absentees'. This means their attendance is below 90%. This remains an ongoing concern. For these 35 pupils, their learning and sense of belonging is being affected.

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.

**Top Tips
What parent Need to Know About Emojis**



Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO
Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojiopedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION
Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME
Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE
While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- (Mead) Stone-faced, unbothered
- (Crown) 'slaying', as in doing great
- (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- (Eye) Watching drama unfold
- (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- (Triangular flag) Red flag: a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Safeguarding

If you specifically have a safeguarding concern, please contact Miss Hall, Miss James or Ms Swash.

Alternatively, you can still contact Children's Services directly on 0300 123 4043.

Contact us...

 admin@birchwoodave.nue.herts.sch.uk

 01707 262503

 [@birchwoodavesch](https://www.facebook.com/birchwoodavesch)