

Birchwood Avenue Primary School's News



Issue 7, April 2025



Dates for your diary

Dates for 2025	
6 th May	YR visit Hertfordshire Zoo
12 th -16 th May	KS2 SATs week
19 th -23 rd May	Year 6 Cuffley Camp residential
20 th May	Year 5 STEM workshop
26 th - 30 th May	Half term
2 nd -13 th June	Y6 Swimming top up lessons
6 th June	Owl visit
12 th June	Ultimate Frisbee workshops- whole school
20 th June	Sports Day- a.m
26 th June	Y2 & Y3 visit to Kew Gardens
27 th June	Reserve date- Sports Day
28 th June	Summer Fete 1-4pm
2 nd July	Parent Consultations
3 rd July	Parent Consultations
3 rd July	Street Dance workshops- whole school
10 th July	Transition day
11 th July	Y6 Leavers' Disco pm
18 th July	Last day of term School closes at 1:30pm
21 st July 2025	INSET
22 nd July 2025	INSET

Message from Miss Hall

Dear families,

Welcome back to school and the summer term. The children (and staff) have all returned rested and ready to learn.

It's a very short half-term but still a very busy one. We've already been able to squeeze in an 'ultimate frisbee' day, a trip to the Houses of Parliament, BMX workshops and a bit of 'tree planting'.

Our Year 6 pupils have their KS2 SATs tests in a couple of weeks. They have worked very hard during the year challenging themselves and I'm sure they will do well. Reception Class is visiting Hertfordshire Zoo next week which they're very excited about. There are many more events planned for this term which you will have already received information about or will be shared with you in a timely manner.

With the wonderful weather we've had this week, can I please ask that all children arrive at school with a water bottle to ensure they stay hydrated during the day- these can be refilled during the day with drinking water in each classroom.

Enjoy the sunshine and let's hope it continues- it's making all of us smile.

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](#)

April's Highlights

Reception Class

We have been reciting poetry to the school and learning to work as a team.



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.

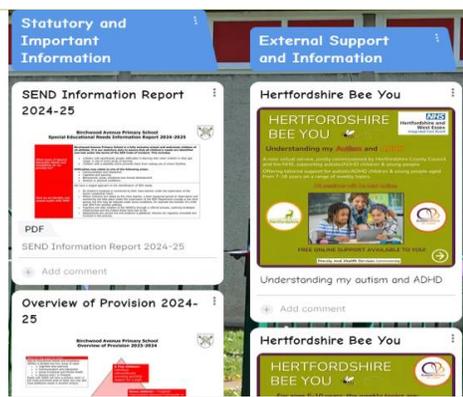
SEND at Birchwood

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.



Visit to the Houses of Parliament

On Monday, the school council and our head/deputy boys and girls went with Miss Khan and Ms Swash to the Houses of Parliament. The children, part of our pupil leadership team, represented the school wonderfully. You should be extremely proud of them; I know we are. Thank you for organising this amazing opportunity for the children, Miss Khan.



Here's some of their thoughts on the day...

Samarth- I really liked seeing Queen Victoria's throne and all the detailed designs.

Teyahna- I enjoyed walking through History

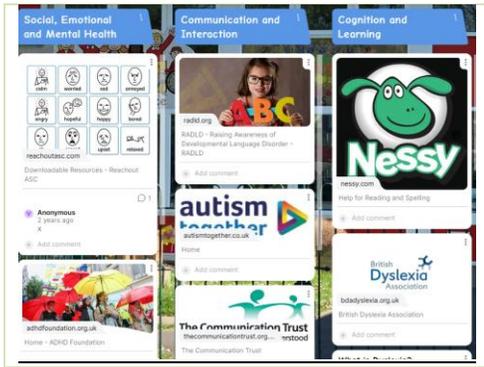
Vinnie- I liked the sovereigns gate and the robing room.

Andikan- I liked seeing the House of lords and finding out more about what they do.

Lyla- I liked seeing the House of Commons and House of Lords and seeing where they do the debates.

Ava Lily – I liked going on the train to London

Theo – I liked the workshop and guessing the items in the bag.



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.

Eco-Council's Message to the School

Thank you to all children who shared suggestions for our poem. These have been enjoyed and the 'best bits' have been included in the poem below which is now Birchwood's 'Eco-Code'.

You can see this on the next page....



BMX World Champion Visit

On Wednesday this week, we had a visit from Mike Mullen, a former BMX world champion. Mike delivered a whole school assembly speaking about resilience, growth mindset and having high aspirations. He gave us a demonstration of some of his tricks which including cycling off the stage and flying through the air over poor Miss Khan and Miss Brown.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children then took part in a workshop. They were amazing! So fearless and really pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.



Kayla- I think it was really fun and entertaining – I learned new tricks that I'd never tried before. Mike was very motivating and kind when we were nervous. He said we can't do it 'yet'.

Ross – I think it was really fun because I got to learn some new tricks and new techniques to balance better on the bike. It was also really cool to meet someone who was a former world champion and six time half pipe champion.

Our Eco-Code

- B**in your rubbish
- I**nspire others to care for the environment
- R**educe, re-use and recycle
- C**ut your carbon, and walk to school
- H**arvest our own vegetables
- W**aste less food, electricity and resources
- O**utdoor experiences
- O**bserve and support wildlife
- D**onate to causes



Forest School Update from Miss James

We're thrilled to announce our new Forest School area! It's a fantastic space for outdoor learning and exploration. Forest School sessions begin again this week—let the adventures begin!



Our lovely new 'base camp' for Forest School.

Again, many thanks to FoB for releasing funds to have the shelter installed.

Thank you to Mr Hendon, our site manager, for doing the groundwork. Our children will be enjoying this area in the months to come.

Tree Planting - A big thank you to all the children who helped plant the trees generously donated by the Woodland Trust. With enthusiasm and care, they worked together to give each tree a new home in our school grounds. Their hard work and teamwork will make a lasting difference—well done, everyone!



Ultimate Frisbee Workshop

Last week, each class took part in an 'ultimate frisbee' workshop. The children enjoyed learning some new skills.



Year 2 say:

We had lots of fun throwing frisbees and learning how to throw them properly.

We used our crocodile arms to help us catch the Frisbees.



Our head boy and head girl say...

Teyahna – It was really fun and enjoyable and I got to learn the proper technique to throw a Frisbee. I liked the fact that we worked as a team.

Vinnie – It was super fun and I found it quite calming. It was helping me learn because not a lot of people really play it as a sport. Lots of people in our class really enjoyed it.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The data below shows attendance for this term so far.

	Year 6	96.59%
	Year 5	95.7%
	Year 2	95.07%
	Year 3	94.69%
	Year 4	94.32%
	Year 1	92.29%
	YR	91.68%

Our whole school attendance figure for the school year so far is at **94.3%**. The national average to date is 94.5%. Thank you for ensuring your child attends school daily and is punctual.

Unfortunately, we already have 17.7% of our children who are 'persistent absentees'. This means their attendance is below 90%. This remains an ongoing concern. For these 34 pupils, their learning and sense of belonging is being affected.

Top Tips- Road Safety

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

- #### 1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, liberally modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.
- #### 2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.
- #### 3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practice double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.
- #### 4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.
- #### 5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of walking instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should **never** crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.
- #### 6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.
- #### 7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view. Instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.
- #### 8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.
- #### 9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?
- #### 10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

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.

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



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