

# Birchwood Avenue Primary School's News



Issue 1, September 2024



## Dates for your diary

30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	KS2 Diversity Role Models workshops
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Rocksteady performance & workshops
28 <sup>th</sup> October - 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Half-term holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 3 & Year 5 swimming
7 <sup>th</sup> November	F.O.B. AGM
11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 3 & Year 5 swimming
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Open afternoon YR 2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024	Occasional Day
11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity 2:00 & 6:00 performances
13 <sup>th</sup> December	FoB, Winter Wonderland Disco
TBC	KS2 Carol Concert
16 <sup>th</sup> December	YR Christmas songs 9:00am & 3:00pm
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch
20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term School closes @ 1:30pm
<b>Dates for 2025</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	INSET
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Children return to school
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Young Hearts, Healthy Minds- Year 6

## Message from Miss Hall

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year.

It was so lovely to welcome everyone back after the summer break, which is already a distant memory! Your children have returned to school with a spring in their steps and a smile on their faces. It has been a calm and happy start to the term.

Our youngest children have settled into 'big school' and are enjoying the outside play area and all the activities which Mrs Dyos, Mrs Chalk and Mrs Cristia are planning for them. I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families and I'm sure you'll feel part of our Birchwood community very quickly.

Welcome to our new starters higher up in the school. You've all settled in beautifully and have made friends already. We are very fortunate to have only 3 spaces to fill in our school. Many schools are struggling with pupil numbers.

I hope all our Year 6 families have been enjoying visiting the local secondary schools with their children. Just a gentle reminder that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

Here's to a happy and healthy (as there are generally lots of coughs and colds) autumn term. Please do not hesitate to speak to me, or another member of SLT, on the gate in the morning. If you wish to discuss something of a more confidential nature, please contact the school office and the lovely ladies will book an appointment with me for you.

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

Mrs. Squires has resigned from her position as admin assistant to spend more time with her family. Thank you for your commitment to our school whilst you were with us.

You will have noticed that our lovely Mrs. Bennett has returned from her retirement! Mrs. Bennett is helping us out for this term until we recruit an admin assistant. I will let you know when this vacancy is being advertised in case anyone is interested in this position.



16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Young Hearts, Healthy Minds- Year 6
21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	INSET
22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	INSET
23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025	INSET

*Our school environment is improving!*

Staff and children have been working hard on brightening up our school learning environments. Have a look at some of our displays. We have some very creative adults and children in school.

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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.

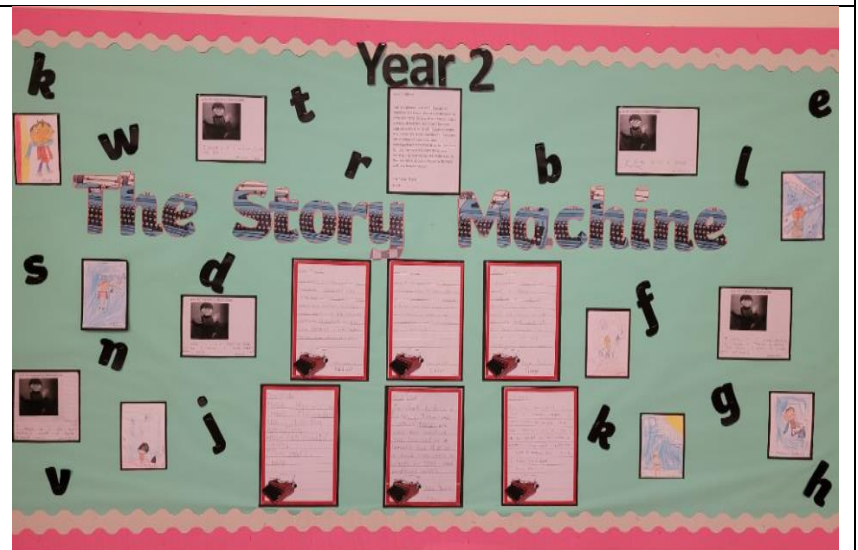
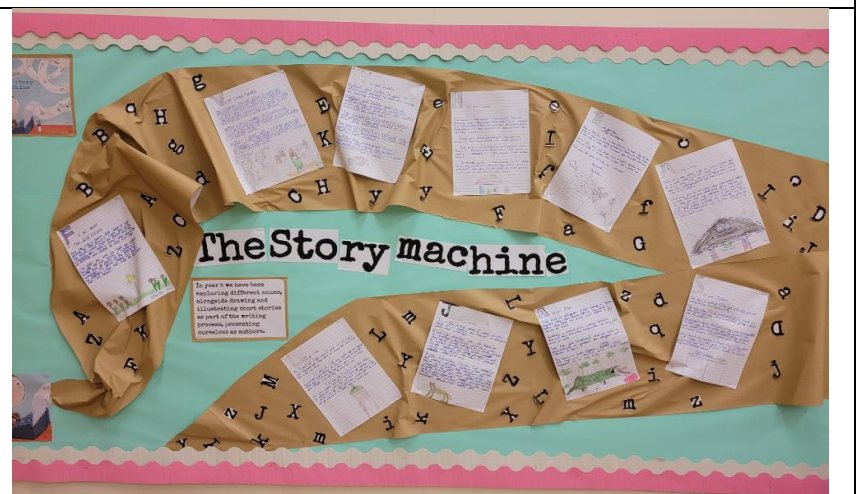
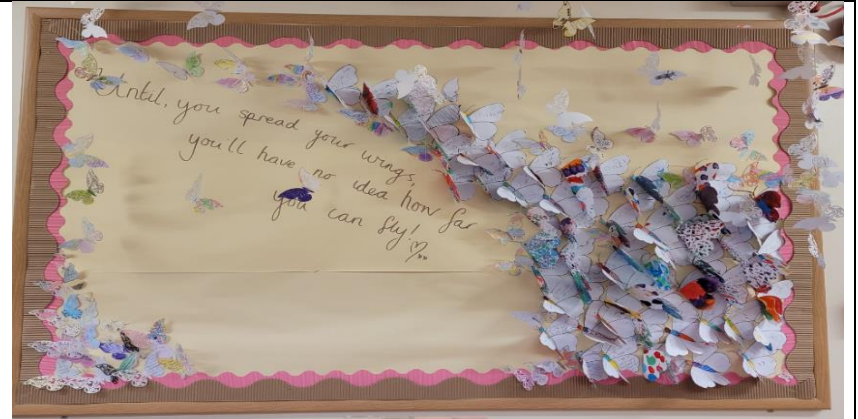
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Diversity Role Models Workshops

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September, our KS2 classes are attending workshops on 'Diversity'.

The children will attend a workshop and will be inspired to celebrate diversity, challenge bullying and create a safe and welcoming school environment for all.



## Year 5 and Year 6 Cross Country Event



Last week, some of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went to Onslow School with Mr Connolly and Mrs Kiely for an inter-school event. They ran their hearts out on a very muddy route.

We have some very impressive runners in school. Well done to everyone who took part in this event.

Congratulations to these pupils who have qualified for the final at Stanborough Lakes this week.

### Year 5

Abu- 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Andreas- 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Bianca- 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Maya- qualified in top 12

### Year 6

Kayla- 1<sup>st</sup> place.

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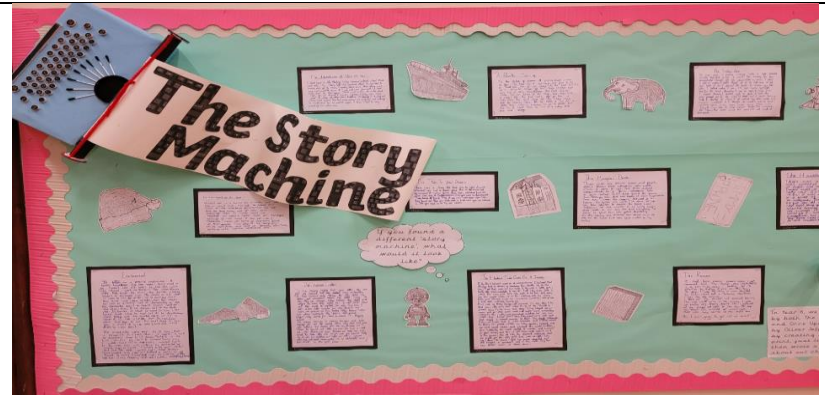
## School Council Representatives



Congratulations to the following children who have been elected by their class to be their School Council Rep.

Year 1- Amy  
Year 2- Ava-Lily  
Year 3- Lyla  
Year 4- Ciaran  
Year 5- Abu  
Year 6- Andikan

I'm sure you will have a very exciting year working on some projects with Miss Khan and represent the views of your classmates in a responsible and enthusiastic manner.






Our reading garden in the KS2 corridor is proving to be a tranquil spot for both children and staff to sit, have a chat or look at a book.

Thank you to all my Year 5 and Year 6 helpers! We will make sure that this stays a calm and clutter-free area.



# MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

The data below shows attendance for this term so far. It's looking positive!

	Year 4	97.68%
	Year 1	96.19%
	Year 3	95.77%
	Year 6	95.18%
	Year 2	94.72%
	Year 5	94.39%
	Reception	91.82%

Our whole school attendance figure for the term so far is at **95.1%**. Thank you for ensuring your child attends school daily and is punctual.

Unfortunately, we already have 17.6% of our children who are 'persistent absentees'. This means their attendance is below 90%. This is a huge concern.

### 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.

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## Attendance

Attendance is still a concern across the country. The DfE have introduced new systems for schools to follow when issuing penalty notice fines for school absence. Please see the information below. Please speak to Miss James or Miss Hall if we can support you by helping you to ensure your child is in school.

**Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing**

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Per Parent, Per Child</b></p> <p>Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.</p> <p>For Example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5 Consecutive days of Term Time Leave</b></p> <p>Penalty notice fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 Sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10- week period</b></p> <p>Penalty notice fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First Offence</b></p> <p>The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be : £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.</p> <p>Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Second Offence (within 3 years)</b></p> <p>The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)</b></p> <p>The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's court. Magistrates fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.</p> <p>Cases found guilty in Magistrates court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.</p>	
<p><b>Local Authority DO NOT accept the following as exceptional circumstances:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My work do not allow me to take holidays during the school summer holiday period, even if they provide a letter</li> <li>My child needs a holiday at quieter times due to needs</li> <li>Our holiday has been gifted and paid for and did not have a choice of dates</li> <li>My child has good or 100% attendance</li> <li>I will report my child being poorly - schools are expected to carry out home visits, if a holiday is suspected, school will report to the local authority for a penalty notice fine</li> </ul>	

*From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. #AttendanceCounts”*

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## Contact Details



If you have changed any of your contact details recently, please could you update the office with your new contact details. These may include:

- Mobile number
- Home address
- Email address
- Emergency contact details

There are many children on roll who only have one emergency phone contact on their records. Please provide the office with a second contact if necessary.

### Hatfield Foodbank

If you are experiencing difficulties, please speak to Miss Hall or Miss James and we will support you with getting a code to access the Foodbank.

**S** Please follow the link  
**E** below for a wealth of  
**N** resources, websites etc.  
**D** Miss James has created  
this page of useful  
information.

## [Support for Parents of Children with SEND](#)

## 'Cut Your Carbon' event in November

Our newly elected eco-council representatives will be organising this event in November with the support of Mrs Gethin-Golder.

Congratulations to the children below who are representing their classes. I'm looking forward to seeing all the wonderful work you do this year to help look after our environment.

Year 1- Brodie

Year 2- Abdoul

Year 3- Aarya

Year 4- Nordell

Year 5- Luisa

Year 6- Jamie

### Safeguarding- website information

I have created a 'Child-friendly Policy' page on our website. On this page you will find a child-friendly Safeguarding Policy and an Online Safety Policy. These have been shared with children in school, at their age-appropriate level.

[Child-friendly Policies | Birchwood Avenue Primary School](#)

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@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk)



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