



Dear parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who've taken the time during my first term to say hello and to introduce themselves. As you can imagine, it has been a huge challenge getting to know the school and community but I thank you for your support with this. We are only one term in but the school is moving forward in a positive way and I am very proud of the children's attitude to their learning and their determination to achieve well and to succeed. As you may know, we have had a full review of site security. Please come and see me if you want to discuss this further. I will continue to work hard to get to know all the families and to do my very best for the school.

Have a great break and Happy Christmas to those staff and children taking part in the celebrations.

Mrs Z Thewlis

### Pupil groups

Birchfield School now have prefects as well as a Community Cohesion group and Safety Awareness group. Well done to all the pupils who were selected. I am looking forward to seeing the great work the pupils will do in representing the Birchfield pupils.

### Sports Personality of the Year

We were delighted that Birchfield was chosen to take part in creating a video for Sports Personality of the Year. This is an annual awards ceremony that is televised on the BBC. The BBC, Premier League and Aston Villa Football Club were all in school on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of November as well as Radzi from CBeebies and Blue Peter and the gold medalist and Olympian Mark Lewis-Francis.

Children from Year 2 and Year 5 danced and exercised to music which involves an element of Maths and English. As part of the morning, the children were also able to see the SPOTY and Premier League Trophy. This was a very special occasion and the chance for children to be inspired by role models and athletes from the West Midlands. The feedback from our guests was glowing about our school and children.

### Spring Term Dates

Spring term for pupils starts on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 8.45am.

Half Term: Monday 18th February 2019 - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Spring term Ends: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Aston Villa partnership

It has been the first term of our unique partnership work with Aston Villa football club. Mr Owens, our Aston Villa community champion, has already had a huge impact on the children and the experiences we can offer across the school. A large number of our children have also had the chance to visit the Aston Villa grounds this term for a number of learning experiences. We have also been able to offer many clubs for pupils across the week as well as our morning 'Wake up Shake up'. Thank you to all those who've attended the 'mums and tot's' sessions. Watch this space for more in term 2.

### Book Fair

This term's book fair has been extremely successful. For all the money raised, we get the equivalent amount to invest in new books for our library and classrooms. Thanks to the generous support of parents and staff, we are thrilled to announce that we have raised over £1700.00. It is just fantastic to have this additional money for books so a huge thank-you for your support. Happy Reading!

### Parent Workshops

There have been a number of parent workshops over the term. This is a great opportunity to spend more time with your children in their school environment. You can find out more about school and their learning and the many ways that you can support at home. If you attended this term, thank you so much as the children love to see their parents in school. There will more in Spring term - we look forward to seeing you there.

### School Lunches

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December, children from across the trust joined school staff to hear presentations from different catering companies and to try the foods on offer. The children were from our new prefects group and gave their feedback to leaders from across the trust. More information will be coming to parents about how we are intending to improve school lunches later on in the year.

## Nursery

The children have settled really well into nursery and all the staff are really proud of them and their growing independence. They have settled well into routines and seem really happy in their learning. The children have been put into family groups and have spent this term making friends and getting to know their family group leaders. The children have explored the outside area and especially exploring their new water area. We are all very excited to see who may visit us at our Christmas party but fingers crossed it's Father Christmas!

## Reception

The children have now settled really well in their new classes. They have been making new friends and have been exploring their new environment. The children have had the opportunity to be creative with paint, clay and collage. They have been busy learning letters and the sounds they make and using these skills in their reading and writing. Thank you to all parents who attended the Phonics workshop, it was lovely to see you. The next bit of excitement will be after the holidays when they will get the opportunity to see 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' on their first trip!

## Year 1

Wow, what a fabulous term Year 1 have had. They have been learning all about the world around them and looking at changes and how they and their environment changes over time. In Science, they have learnt all about materials. Unfortunately, the class teddy lost his home, so the children helped him to create a new one. As part of Literacy the children have been learning about instructions and how to give instructions for others to follow. We also planted cress and then had the chance to write about how we did it so others could have a go. We have had so much fun this week with the Christmas nativity and we are so super proud of our children and how they performed. Well done year 1.

## Year 2

It has been a very busy term for year 2 who have had some wonderful experiences so far. They had a lovely day visiting the Aston Villa Football ground. They had a tour of the ground, and learnt about how the football club has changed over the years. We were then asked by SPOTY if our children could be involved in a montage in which they could show off all their dancing and multiplication skills. To end the busy term, we have been supporting Year 1 with the nativity and showing off our best singing skills. Well done year 2, you have worked very hard this term.

## Year 3

Year 3 have had a great term learning all about the people who lived in Britain in the Stone Age. They have had two WOW days where they have been encouraged to get to grips with ancient art techniques. They have produced: hand prints using stencils; cave paintings of animals; clay thumb pots; painted ancient symbols on to stones and even built Stonehenge out of biscuits. In English they have read the Iron Man story and have learnt how to write direct speech. They have loved the story and have taken the Iron Man to their hearts. In their Maths lessons they have been learning their 3, 4 and 8 timetables and how to divide by 4 and 3. In Science they have been learning about the relationships between the body of different animals and their own body. In P.E. they have had great fun doing gymnastics, netball and handball. Class 12 have had a great time swimming and have made great progress in the pool. We are proud of

## Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy and exciting term. They have been focusing on Roman history and have made ancient soldier shields and swords. In English they have been working on Roald Dahl's George's Marvellous Medicine. The children have loved learning about the characters and then they have had WOW days where they were given to opportunity to make their own concoctions. They have also looked at the work of Jackson Pollock and how he mixed paint and been inspired to create their own artwork. The children have been learning how to be persuasive by writing adverts to sell toys to other children. They are all very good at selling toys, but only really want to buy them! In Maths they have been learning how to multiply numbers up to three digits by one digit. In P.E. the children have been developing their gymnastics and netball skills. Class 14 have also done amazingly well in their swimming! Well done

## Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy term learning about number, place value and statistics. We are very proud of how the children have applied themselves and that they are now secure with this learning. In Learning for Life the children have learnt about all aspects of Tudor life and then had the opportunity to recreate the drama of the Battle of Bosworth. Children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Tudors and were amazed at the differences which they would have encountered if they were brought up in the Tudor times. As part of Anti-Bullying Week we learnt that bullying can really affect a person, and that there are different types of bullying such as cyber-bullying, emotional bullying and physical bullying. We discussed the measures we, as a school, have in place to prevent this and whom we can speak to should this occur. Well done Year 5 for all your hard work this term.

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a great start to the year, they have shown real enthusiasm with regards to the learning and have settled down well. The teachers are very proud and pleased with the way the children have focused and how they have demonstrated a mature attitude to learning. Children have continued to try their hardest for the planned tests that take place every half term. They have also enjoyed learning about Word War 2 and have been involved in creating Anderson Shelters through their Art and DT sessions. The children have also been keen to develop their scientific knowledge through their topic of Light and Shadows. Children have conducted science investigations where they have developed a range of skills linked to scientific enquiry. We are also very proud of the Year 6 pupils who were selected to head up the prefects group. Our oldest pupils play an important role in setting the example in school.