



'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

Friday 14th October

On Thursday eight of our school council representatives took part in a workshop with groups from 9 other local schools. They worked together and in mixed-up groups finding out about making group decisions, running meetings and planning events. Our School Council is really important in giving pupils a voice on day-to-day school matters. School Council representatives gather ideas from the whole school and discuss things like lunch menus, playtime rules, charity events and clubs. Well done to the school councillors who took part in the event.

Next week is a busy week with Phonics Workshop for Ladybirds and Hedgehogs parents on Monday morning, Harvest Festival on Tuesday morning and our community 'Harvest Tea' on Wednesday.

Also next week, our Year 5 children will be doing Bikeability Training (Cycling Proficiency.) They start off practicing skills in the school playground then move out onto local roads to learn how to negotiate traffic and junctions.

Playground Equipment

Please do not allow children to play on the playground equipment before or after school or when picking up from clubs.

The playground equipment is not supervised at these times. The large castle is suitable for Key Stage 2 children, can parents please ensure the safety of toddlers by not allowing them on the equipment when waiting to collect siblings from school.

Class Assemblies

Parents are welcome to join us in our Friday assembly each week at 2.50pm when we celebrate the achievements of the children. Class assemblies will take place on the following dates, starting at 2.45pm

Friday 11th November – Ladybirds Class Reception
Friday 2nd December – Badgers Class Year 3

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held at St Mary the Virgin church in Birchanger on Tuesday 18th October at 9.30am. All parents are welcome to join us.

This year we will again be collecting for East Herts YMCA - a charity that supports local young people.

Any donations of tinned and packet foods would be gratefully received to pass onto the YMCA.

Harvest Tea

Wednesday 19th October at 2pm

We would like to invite grandparents, Birchanger residents and friends of the school to join us for a harvest tea.

Tea and cake served by children in the school hall with harvest songs performed by the school.

Please pass on this invitation to grandparents and neighbours who would like to come along.

Open Morning

Friday 4th November 2016

For prospective parents and children due to start school in September 2017.

Tours of the school from 9.30am with a short presentation and opportunity for questions at 10.15am.

Application is online at

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Admissions/Pages/Apply-Online.aspx>. The application system opens on 14th November.

School Meals

Children are enjoying our new school meals service and we were pleased to invite parents of Reception children for lunch today. After half-term there will be new Winter Menus.

We are aware that the online booking system is not working well for everyone and a letter regarding this was set home on Wednesday.

While IT issues are being resolved we want parents to be able to book lunches easily so we would like to offer parents the option of booking meals on a paper form and paying through the school office as we used to. Menu forms have been sent home for next week and after the October holiday we will send out forms for next half term. Spare forms are available in the entrance lobby.

If you are happy using the online system to book and pay for lunches and it is working well for you then please continue with this.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

We would like to take part in this Christmas charity, where shoeboxes are packed with gifts and given to children in other countries. Mrs Bayford and Mrs Russell will be holding two 'Box Packing' after school sessions. If children would like to bring some small gift items, we can then combine to make gift boxes. Further details have been emailed and we hope lots of children will be able to donate some items and come along to help decorate and pack the boxes.

Medicines

If children need regular doses of prescription medicine (4 times a day or more) we are able to administer these in school. Please leave the medicine, in its original container, at the office and fill in a consent form. Unfortunately we are not able to administer non-prescription medicines. Please don't send children to school with medicines, including throat pastilles etc, in their bags. There are clear dangers if these are found and eaten by other children!

Diary Dates

Our final non-pupil INSET day for the academic year has been set – Monday 20th February

Parents consultation meetings will be held on Wednesday 16th November 5 – 8pm and Thursday 17th November 3.30 – 5.30pm. Further details will be sent nearer the time.

Next Friday is a non-pupil INSET day and children finish for the half-term holiday on Thursday 20th October.

Have a lovely weekend

Helen Coop