



# 'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

*'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'*

## **Friday 16th June**

This week our Year 6 children, along with Year 6 children from across the district, attended Crucial Crew. This is a morning of activities covering health, safety and wellbeing topics such as road safety and drugs education. The children take part in a carousel of sessions, all led by staff from the emergency services and local organisations.

On Wednesday our Reception children had some very exciting visitors when Mr Butler, one of our parents, came into school with an enormous digger and some building materials. Ladybirds Class loved watching the digger and even had a go at bricklaying! Nursery children also came over to have a close-up look at how the digger moves. Many thanks to Mr Butler and his team for providing a brilliant experience for the children.

## **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 23rd June – Squirrels Class

## **Instrument lessons**

You will have received a letter this week about instrumental tuition. We are working with Essex Music Services and are very excited to be able to extend the range instruments children will be able to learn in school. Please complete the form if you are interested in this and, providing we have enough interest, lessons will start in September.

## **Coffee Afternoon for parents of children with learning needs – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2.15pm**

Last term we held an informal meet-up for parents of children with learning difficulties and Special Educational Needs. This was a successful afternoon with parents getting together over coffee to share ideas and experiences and we would like to make this a termly event. We know parents have a wealth of knowledge and information to share, or sometimes it's just good to meet like-minded parents who are facing similar issues. All parents are welcome, whether your child has a diagnosed special need or you are just concerned about difficulties they are having with learning.

Mrs Cook and Mrs Coop will be available to welcome parents (and put the kettle on!) but this is intended to be an informal parent led coffee afternoon. The meeting is not for parents to discuss individual issues with school staff– if you have concerns about your child's learning then please make an appointment to see your child's teacher or Mrs Cook, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

### **Play equipment**

We have regular safety checks done on all our play and PE equipment and unfortunately we have been advised that the two small 'play houses' and the small boat need to be removed. They are now roped off so children don't play on them until they can be dismantled. We hope to replace them soon.

### **Homework club**

On Mondays, Mrs Casey is running a homework help session during lunchtime. This is for pupils in Key stage 2 who have had a go at their homework at home but need a bit more help to complete it.

### **Diary Dates**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – PTA Summer Fair and Children's Fun Run

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July – School Sports Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July – KS2 performance at 1.30pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – KS2 performance at 6.30pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers Service in church at 2.15pm

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Leavers Assembly in school time tbc

### **Term Dates**

Term dates for the rest of this academic year and for 2017-18 are on the school website under Letters and News.

### **INSET days for 2017-18**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 will be non-pupil INSET days. Two further INSET days will be set in due course.

Have a lovely weekend

Helen Coop