



# 'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

*'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'*

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

## E-Safety

On Wednesday we joined with other schools for an e-safety day with workshops for Year 5 and 6 pupils, staff and parents. This is such a fast changing area and the risks are very real and apply to **our** children from a very young age. Almost all of **our** pupils said they do play the games that were highlighted as posing a risk. Many of our children had received messages from people they did not know. However our children said they had not told their parents for fear their devices would be confiscated and their games removed!

*Do you know which games your children play?*

*Do you know what the privacy settings are on these games?*

*Is your child sharing images and videos that can be seen by anyone who is looking for images of young children?*

*Is your child chatting with new 'friends' online?*

*What would you do if they told you?*

Iain Rankin, one of our parent governors, attended the parent workshop:

*On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November our year 5 and 6 children went to Joyce Frankland Academy for an E safety afternoon. My daughter has come home with some excellent knowledge and practical tips on the dangers of the web and how to stay safe online. I was able to go to the parents workshop in the evening, and I would very much like to thank the school for arranging what was one of the most unpleasant, uncomfortable, challenging but ultimately rewarding evenings in many years. If your children use Disney Club Penguin, Spotify, Snapchat, Live.ly, Musically, Roblox, Periscope, Whisper, Youtube, Clash of Clans, or have an X Box, to name but a few, this workshop is an absolute must. To make our children safer online we must understand the threats, and make sure our children are happy to talk to us about what is happening online, safe in the knowledge that we will help them sort it out and not ban them from sites. Education, not filters and exclusion is the way, like us, our children will always find a way to do what mum tells them not to. Please make it your New Year resolution to go to the next event. I can guarantee a thoroughly unpleasant, but empowering evening. Once again thank you to our school for offering our children and parents this vital education.*

*Iain Rankin, Parent Governor*

If you weren't able to attend the training this time, the following are useful resources:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk>

This gives information about popular apps and games – explaining what the potential risks are and how you can help your child stay safe while using them.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

This site has lots of information for parents as well as activities that parents and children could work through together to help start a conversation about children's online life.

### **Parent Coffee Morning**

I would like to invite parents to meet with me at an informal coffee morning on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 9am**. This is a termly event where I can give updates about the school and there will then be an opportunity for informal discussion and general questions about the school.

### **Nursery Christmas Fair**

Birchanger Nursery are holding their Christmas Fair next Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November from 3.30 – 6.30pm.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Badgers

Our school PTA Christmas Event will be held after school, 3.30 – 5.30pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. There will be cakes, crafts, carols and of course Father Christmas in the grotto! Thank you to everyone who has agreed to donate toward the hamper raffles – sign-up sheets are in the playground.

### **Catering Assistant**

TCS Catering, our school meals provider, are recruiting a catering assistant. Monday – Friday for 1 ½ hours a day, 7 ½ hours a week. For more details ask in the school office or contact TCS on 01474 338739.

### **Diary Dates**

- Ladybirds and Hedgehogs Nativity Play – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm
- Christingle Service in Church – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am
- School Visit to the pantomime – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm

Have a lovely weekend

Helen Coop