



'BIRCHANGER BUZZ'

'Learn to Love, Love to Learn'

Friday 30th June

On Wednesday our Year 5 children spent the day at Forest Hall School for a 'Mission X – Train Like An Astronaut' challenge day. The challenge uses the excitement of space exploration and astronaut training to challenge, inspire, and educate children to set physical fitness goals and to practice physical fitness and proper nutrition. Our Year 5 children enjoyed finding out about space exploration and astronaut training and they said the training challenges were exhausting but fun. There is lots more information about Mission X at <http://trainlikeanastronaut.org/>

Play equipment

A big thank you to the parents and governors who helped dismantle the play equipment last Sunday. Apparently it was quite therapeutic! We will be looking at replacing the equipment next term.

Summer Fair and Children's Fun run – Sunday 2nd July

Thank you for all your contributions and tombola prizes today. The weather is looking fine for the weekend and we look forward to seeing you at the Fair on Sunday.

Sports Day

Sports Day this year will be on Friday 7th July from 10.30am. The day will start at 10.30am with children taking part in competitive races on the track. After lunch children will work in their house groups taking part in 'Fun Sports' events around the field.

Parents are invited to come along for the whole day or just join us for part of the day. Parents are welcome to bring a picnic and children having school dinner that day will be provided with a picnic lunch.

Key Stage 2 Performance – The Wizard of Oz

Children have been busy rehearsing, learning songs and lines for the end of term production. A letter was sent out earlier this week regarding tickets for the performances on Tuesday 11th July at 1.30pm and Wednesday 12th July at 6.30pm.

Summer Storytime

I've been sent details of a weekly children's storytime in Birchanger Church Village Hall during the school holiday. Starting Friday 28th July at 10.30am and each week after that. The session is run by Pam Lee who lives in the village and is free and open to all but children must be accompanied by parent or carer.

Online Safety

It's important for parents to know about the apps and games that children are using so you can guide them in their safe usage. Snapchat we know is used by our pupils from at least Year 4 and possibly younger. Last week Snapchat launched a new feature, SnapMaps, which allows users to see the location of their contacts. This feature allows others to accurately pinpoint where you are and this obviously has safety implications. There are three possible privacy settings:

- Ghost mode, where only you can see your position;
- My Friends mode, where any contact can see your location; and
- Select Friends mode, just those who you choose can see you

ChildNet have posted an explanation of SnapMaps and how to ensure users stay safe, it might be useful for parents to talk to children about this and help them check their settings. Further information is at <http://www.childnet.com/blog/introducing-snap-maps-the-new-location-sharing-feature-in-snapchat>

Leave of Absence

May I remind parents that the current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term-time. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence to a pupil where there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. In most cases, a family holiday or travelling abroad is not considered to be an exceptional reason. The recent court case in the Isle of Wight upheld this law and parents are strongly urged to book family holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays. If children are taken out of school, the absence will not be authorised and the Education Welfare Service may issue a penalty notice.

Diary Dates

Sunday 2nd July – PTA Summer Fair and Children's Fun Run

Friday 7th July – School Sports Day

Tuesday 11th July – KS2 performance at 1.30pm

Wednesday 12th July – KS2 performance at 6.30pm

Tuesday 18th July – Leavers Service in church at 2.15pm

Wednesday 19th July – Enterprise Fair 2.30

Friday 21st 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 4th September 2017, Friday 20th October 2017 and Tuesday 2nd January 2018 will be non-pupil INSET days. Two further INSET days will be set in due course.

Have a lovely weekend

Helen Coop