



Dear Parents and Carers

8 March 2017

It has been another bumper week! Years 7 and 8 had a lot of booky fun on Thursday for World Book Day. We have had more sporting successes at local and regional levels in rugby and basketball and have progressed to National finals in Badminton and Water polo. Not bad for a small, all-boys comprehensive from Southport. Year 11 are finishing their Math PiXL exams and are now getting ready for the big Art practical next week. We wish you all good luck. On Thursday we are holding our first intervention parents' evening and I hope to see many of you there. This is an extra evening organised to enable parents and teachers to meet where concerns may have been raised about a student. It is in addition to what we have done in the past and we welcome your views on how helpful you found it.

This week I would also like to highlight two special groups of students who merit a special mention. The Green Machine, our environmental warriors, have spearheaded many initiatives since their inception 2 years ago but this week they really got their hands dirty and went litter picking down Windy Harbour Road. This small gesture has made a tremendous impression on the residents who have emailed the school to show their appreciation. I also want to thank the members of the Animal Club who meet every lunchtime with the support of Mr Leece, the Science Technician. Not only do they look after the animals and support the younger boys who are interested in the Club but they also produce their own video and this week, with the support of Mr Leece and Ms Flood, took their menagerie on the road again and visited Churchtown Primary. Again we have had tremendous feedback with the primary staff praising our boys for their knowledge, maturity and manners. Thank you all. The school couldn't wish for better ambassadors!

YEAR 11 CATERING EXAM

A big well done to all boys who took part in their catering exam. All the boys performed very well and were a credit to the school and few examples of their hard work are attached. Mr Ascough



YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING – THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2017

The Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 23 March 2017 from 4pm - 6.30pm. Students have been given a letter today explaining how to log onto the online system and make appointments. Mrs Ellis

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - WORLD BOOK DAY 2017 EXTRAVAGANZA!

All Year 7 and 8 students did 'something booky' to celebrate World Book Day last Thursday. They were all involved in an afternoon of spending their hard earned Birkdale Pounds on items from our shop as well as to take part in the exciting activities we had on offer: taking on the Hunger Games, Katniss style; deciphering 'emojied' book titles; hitting literary villains with darts; table tennis battles, Harry Potter style; and Quidditch fun. Hopefully the boys realised that as well as reading widely offering short term gains, it is more about the long term benefits that they will reap.

Special rewards were offered to our Golden Ticket winners who were able to choose from one of three rewards on offer: a lunchtime in the computer room, a fish and chip lunch or a pass to get to the front of the dinner queue. These lucky boys will receive these rewards next week.

Year 7 golden ticket winners = Jasper Berry, Benjamin Bianchi, James Caldwell, Patric Lee, Harvey Leggett, Ethan Marshall, Jake Rimmer, Oliver Sharples, Anthony Waite, William Sutton.

Year 8 golden ticket winners = Alexander Major, Josef Saunders, Christopher Hartles, Travis Nolan, Benedict Summers-Boyce, Jensen Worsley, Sam Murray, Faysal Patel, Christopher Rolfe, JD Sanderson, Jamie Shaw, Dylan Taylor.



World book day 2017



QR Codes Quiz Winners

Well done to all boys who took part in the QR hunt, scanning the 10 barcodes hidden around the school to reveal the ten questions relating to staff's favourite books. The following boys all handed in winning entries and will receive their prizes in due course!

Matthew Tighe, Ethan Fletcher, Arthur Beadell, Thomas Morris, Luke Atkinson, Laurie Woods, Ben Bianchi, Ed Sinclair, Liam Sargent, James Brookes, Jake Davies and Ben in 7SK (please come and tell Mrs Follett your surname as there is more than one Ben in this group!)

Mrs Follett

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English Literature Revision

Name	Class	BB P59-79
Laurence F	1	100%
Josh Powell	4	100%
Martin Rimmer	1	100%
Ethan Watson	1	100%
Jake Marchant	1	100%
Josh Wilkinson	3	100%
Hiam Blake	1	97%
Max Hindle	1	97%
Aaron Mobbs P	2	97%
Tyler Birch	4	97%
Angus Ball	2	93%
Morgan Ashcroft	4	93%
Adam Watterson	2	93%
Harvey Jackson	4	93%
Ben Mawdsley	5	93%
Kieron Allerton	6	87%
Leon Storer	3	85%
Morgan Neilson	1	85%
Ben Ankers	4	82%
Luke Monaghan	3	77%
Sam Livingstone	1	77%
Luke Harbon	2	73%
Lewis Chambers	1	73%
Tre Daley	2	73%
Ben Lund	4	70%
Jacob Roberts	2	67%
Will Berry	3	67%
Ethan Scrutton	2	67%
Jacob Harrison	2	67%
Cai Coulson	4	63%
Ethan Fletcher	3	60%
Joseph Bradley	4	60%
Lucas Winterborn	3	60%
Jack Blundell	3	57%
Oliver Stephen	4	57%
Alex Sourbutts	6	57%
Thomas Linker	2	50%
Rustam Stepan	4	50%
Andi Pillana	4	37%

Due to the increased content and more challenging nature of the new literature exams, early revision and preparations are vital. If your son hasn't started revision for literature you must encourage him to do so immediately. As part of our drive to support your child with their revision we would encourage them to access a range of online resources. One of these resources is our weekly SMHW quiz. Each quiz focuses on a different section of one of our literature texts (currently Blood Brothers). Each quiz tests your child's knowledge of key quotations from the text. Each week the results are analysed by the department and are fed back to the students through our Elit presentation board on the English corridor. Please see the latest board and well done to all these boys. If your son is in year 11 and doesn't feature on this picture, that means he obtained 0 for this quiz as he either didn't access it or got none of the questions correct.

Mrs Morgan

YEAR 11 ART EXAM

Reminder that the Year 11 GCSE exam is on 14 and 15 March 2017.

Mrs Carrington

JOB VACANCY – EXAM INVIGILATORS

We have vacancies for the post of Examination Invigilator. Applicants must be available for the summer examination season, from the beginning of May to the end of June, and for the mock exam period for 2 weeks in December 2017.

Please ring the school and ask for the exams officer Karen Williams, if you are interested and would like any further information.

Ms Williams

ANIMAL CLUB

Churchtown Primary Visit - Wednesday 22 February and Wednesday 1 March 2017

Ms Flood and I took a group of boys who attend the Birkdale High School Animal Club to Churchtown Primary School to forge further links with local primary schools.

The Year 4 pupils were treated to a PowerPoint presentation on "Food Chains" and "Adaptation" by Ms Flood. After that they were allowed to meet the animals from the club and discuss with the Animal Club members how each animal would adapt in the wild and where it would belong in the food chain of its habitat. Our boys were very knowledgeable regarding the animals as the children asked countless questions. All pupils were engaged in the activity which was a pleasure to see.

The Year 4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained a lot of useful information from the session. I would like to include the feedback we received from Churchtown Primary School

'I just wanted to say a huge thank you from the Year 4 staff and children for the fantastic visits that you provided for us over the last couple of weeks. The children absolutely loved meeting all of your animals and have learned so much from the information they were given in the sessions. The boys that you brought with you were an absolute credit to your school, they were such good role models for our children. The way that they helped the Year 4's

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was lovely to see and the children really responded to working with the older boys. Thank you again, it was such a pleasure working with you'. Mrs McGregor - Churchtown Primary School

A very big thank you to Ms Flood for her time and effort in making this visit a success. Ultimately, the praise goes to the Birkdale High School Animal Club members. If it wasn't for the time and commitment they put into the club every single day (lunchtime and after school) to keep our animals healthy and safe this wouldn't be possible.

As on previous trips to primary schools, the boys conducted themselves towards the younger children and staff in a manner which we expect from Birkdale High School and acted as great ambassadors to promote the school in a positive way. The boys who travelled with us over the two sessions were: Aidan Reece-Slinger, Anthony Bradley, Lewis Rose, Henry Maw, Adam Scrutton, Daniel Sanders, Ben Bianchi, James Brookes, Oliver Bedwell, Sebastian Boulger, Edward Sinclair, Louis Searle. Well done boys. Mr Leece



PE/SPORTS NEWS

Water polo

Birkdale u15's Squad: Michael Ascott, Mason Galley, Declan Sherrington, Matthew Cook, Tobias Lea, Charlie Kelly, Henry Maw, Matthew Spencer, Fraser Cooke, Keenan Parr, Jack Green.



On Monday 6 March 2017 Birkdale u15's travelled to Northampton to play in the u15 ESSA National Plate Water Polo Finals. The other teams involved included City of London, Queen Elizabeth Boys Barnett, St Ambrose, Bedford College and Harrow. First up Birkdale played Queen Elizabeth Boys although we contested well, in the end we lost 9-3. Birkdale won their first ever game in a final beating Bedford 8-3. Birkdale then won their second game in a final beating Harrow 5-1. Birkdale then played the eventual winners of the tournament and although losing 13-1 they did not disgrace themselves.

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In the final game Birkdale played St Ambrose competing well but eventually losing 11-4. This is a massive step scoring in each game and winning two games out of five beating Bedford 9-3 and Harrow 5-1 in the process. This only bodes well for the future of the swimming and water polo programme at Birkdale. A fantastic achievement meaning that Birkdale are technically one of the top ten schools in the country for water polo. A big thank you must also go to Mr Jenkins for his support.

Mr Keary



BTEC Sport

On Friday 3 March 2017 we had a visit from Fowler Education and Football Academy (FEFA) providing 'Stretch & Challenge' for our Year 10 & 11 BTEC Sport and GCSE PE courses. College lecturers Kieron and Mark arrived to deliver a talk on the college where education seems to be the main focus rather than football. The boys then took part in a practical football masterclass coaching session using the Polar monitors to analyse performance. Definitely a worthwhile day for our students to gain an insight to the other opportunities provided at post-16 level. It is hoped that FEFA will return in June and we will visit there in September.



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Badminton

Squad: Danny Hyde, Ben Wilkie, Owen Highton, Oliver Rimmer

After winning the Merseyside competition the Birkdale u16 badminton team travelled to the Manchester Velodrome to play in the North West Finals. They faced the winners of each of the other four boroughs of the North West: Christleton from Cheshire, QEGS from Cumbria, St Peters from Wigan/Greater Manchester and Bacup in Lancashire. They brushed aside Christleton, St Peters, QEGS and Baccup and Rawtenstall 5-0. 5-0, 5-0 and 4-1. They played top class badminton and deservedly won. They have become North West Badminton Champions and therefore will represent the North West at the National Schools Badminton Finals in Milton Keynes on the 6th May 2017, meaning they are one of the top nine schools in the country for badminton. I am massively proud of these boys, not bad for a small state school in Southport!!! A big thank you must go to Mr Ross for his support.



Year 7 Rugby Team

The Year 7 Rugby Team played in the Quarter Finals of the NW Schools Rugby League Plate Competition yesterday at Walkden High School, Salford. On a very muddy pitch they played some excellent rugby and came out the deserved winner by a 34-26 score line. Excellent performances all round and the boys are awaiting their Semi Final opponents.

Mr Thorne

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GREEN MACHINE

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday last year, many people and groups cleared their neighbourhoods of rubbish for "Clean for the Queen". It was such a success, that it was decided to make it an annual thing. This year, it was called the Great British Spring Clean. Our School's Green Machine took part, by doing a litter pick in the yards and along Windy Harbour Road after school on Friday. Two Windy Harbour Road residents very kindly emailed the Head to say that they appreciated it. Pictured here are some of the boys who took part in the litter pick.



This week is Waste Week (a screen saver has come on to all the computers in school when boys have logged on, to remind them of this) and the focus is recycling and upcycling, turning old stuff into something new and getting people to think differently about waste. There are only two days left if boys wish to enter the Upcycling Competition (details on the Green Machine notice board in the English corridor) Our next meeting will be on Monday 13 March, in Mrs. Marshall's room at 12.30pm. Please feel free to bring your sandwiches.
Mrs Bradley

BPA NEWS

BPA Meeting

Birkdale Parents Association will meet tonight at 7.30pm. New members are very welcome and a member of the BPA will be on hand to show you where we meet.

BPA 200 Club

The quarterly draw will take place at tonight's meeting and all fully paid up members will be included in the draw. If you would like to be a member of the 200 Club, it's easy to join. Simply set up a standing order for £2 per month, using the following details:-

Account Name - BPA 200 Club
Account Number - 73448649
Sort Code - 20-80-33

Once the standing order has been set up, please email bpa@birkdalehigh.co.uk , and we shall then confirm your 200 Club number.

Not only will you be supporting the BPA with their fundraising, but you'll also be in with a chance to win a cash prize. The draw takes place quarterly, with 4 cash prizes available to win at each draw.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Bourgade
Headteacher

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