

# **BIRCHFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2012**

18 January 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

*A very happy New Year to you all!*

We have made a busy start to our year so my apologies for this letter being a little late. You will also be receiving Year Group newsletters this week (if not already) so that you can be fully aware of the classes plans, topics etc.

### **London Olympics 2012**

Mrs Parker has successfully put together an application to be part of the Olympic Schools Network. It was based on the Year 6 topic on the Olympics from last summer, our current commitment to sport and our future plans. The result is that Birchfield is only the 356th school in the country to receive this award!

In addition to the logo on the bottom of our school headed paper we have a plaque to display and then there will be special Olympic based events that we will be able to access. This will be a great and exciting opportunity for our children – thank you Mrs Parker!



### **After School Club**

We are hoping to proceed with this as soon as possible. Our Governing Body approved the plans. The next steps are to confirm the pricing and recruit staff. Further news soon!

### **Emergency Closure**

Just a quick reminder about the procedure we follow if we have to close the school.

- The school website's [www.birchfieldprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.birchfieldprimaryschool.co.uk) home page is updated with news regarding the current situation.
- Local radio stations will broadcast which schools are closed:

BBC Somerset	95.5FM / 1566 MHz
Heart FM	97.1FM / 102.6 FM
Midwest Radio	96.6FM / 97.4FM / 105.6FM / 106.6FM
- A message will be left on the school's answer phone giving closure details and a message will be sent to parents, who have a designated mobile phone number, via the School Text Messaging Service.

### **Contact Details**

I am guessing that Santa may have brought some new mobile phones this Christmas. This would seem to be a good time to ask that you please ensure that you keep your contact details up to date. This is really important if we ever have to contact you in any circumstance but particularly in an emergency.

### **Text Messaging**

We are now able to send messages to the mobile number of the first contact on your child's contact details. In the event of your child not attending school and no message having been

received in the school office, a message is sent to the mobile number of contact number one stating that your child is not at school please contact the school to let them know the reason why. The text messaging system can also be used to inform you of any clubs or events that have to be cancelled or if the school has to close due to unforeseen circumstances so it is very important that your child's contact details are kept fully up to date.



### **E Safety**

We are planning to hold an information advice evening this term but in the meantime can I take this chance to remind everyone of the importance of keeping a close eye on your child when they are online.

At the moment Facebook is not recommended for under 13's, but I know how difficult it is to deal with the desire to join up – along with texting, BBM, MSN etc. Therefore please continue to remind your children when they are online about being safe and respecting those who we are communicating with.

### **Start of the School Day**

Can I please remind parents/carers that the school day commences at 8.55 am. It is important that children are in class at this time so that the register can be taken and lessons can commence. It is disruptive for the class when children arrive late. Your help in this matter is much appreciated.



### **Triple P – Positive Parenting Program**

“Other parents don't seem to get it as tough as you”  
“Your child constantly misbehaves”  
“He rarely does what you ask?”

#### **Is this you??**

We have been successfully running Triple P courses in and around the Yeovil area and feedback from those parents who took part has been really positive. The course is for parents of all children and builds on what already works for you as a family.

We will be running a group starting the **5<sup>th</sup> March** at Birchfield Children's Centre. Places are limited so it is good to express your interest now as we already have a waiting list! If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact Danielle Barter (Parent and Family Support Adviser) at school.

“My son is now sleeping in his own bed for the first time after 8 years and he is as pleased about it and proud of himself as I am. Brilliant course ALL parents should attend.” (Parent that attended a group last year)

“Before the course I was warned that I would be criticized for my child's behaviour. I soon realized that I was the one that needed help and was given nothing but praise and ideas to help me teach my children a better more positive way to live.” (Parent that attended a group last year)

### **Trip Payments**

With the forthcoming Y3 Hillcrest and Y5 London trips coming up, can I please remind you that when paying in money could you also send in the payment card. This is important so that our records and your payment card are showing the current figure.

### **Finding Your Own Way As A Carer**

South Somerset Mind is pleased to offer:

- 6 workshops for carers who care for people with mental health difficulties
- One workshop a week on a Monday from 2 pm – 4.30 pm
- Choose one group to attend but with 3 sets of dates to choose from
- With an additional support group for further discussions about your needs and more in depth support

The workshops aim to explore the following in a safe way for those in the group:

- Being a carer and taking care of yourself
- Caring for someone living with mental health difficulties
- Exploring coping strategies
- Caring and communicating with others

Dates for the workshop:

9 January – 13 February 2012  
 27 February – 2 April 2012  
 16 April – 28 May 2012 (excluding 7 May)

Support groups will run on Tuesdays from 2 pm – 4 pm on 24 January, 6 February, 6 and 27 March, 3 and 24 April, 1 and 29 May 2012.

For further details please contact South Somerset Mind on 01935 474875 or [info@southsomersetmind.co.uk](mailto:info@southsomersetmind.co.uk)

**Dates for your Diary**

Mon – Fri	13 – 17 February	Half Term holiday
Thursday	1 March	World Book Day
Wed – Fri	7 – 9 March	Y3 residential trip to Hillcrest
Mon – Wed	19 – 21 March	Parent Consultation Evenings and Book Fair
Tue – Thur	27 – 29 March	South Somerset Music Spectacular – further details to Follow
Mon – Fri	2 – 13 April	Easter holidays
Monday	16 April	INSET Day – school closed

Yours sincerely

R. Culham  
**Head Teacher**