



# Birch Wood Newsletter

## April Edition



April 2017

ISSUE 4

Spring is here! It has been lovely to see all the wonderful daffodils that the students planted last term sprouting up at both Birch Wood and Birch Wood Vale. A big thank you to Tesco in Melton for the donation and our Governor Sue Herilhy for organising.

It was brilliant to see so many parents and carers on April 3rd for parents evening. I am sure that you all were impressed by the work the students have done and by the progress that every child has made – I met some very proud children the next day! We were particularly happy with the feedback we have got from you about the new option courses available at Birch Wood Vale next academic year, which include Construction, DT, Art, Food for Life, Music, Duke of Edinburgh, BTEC Sport and Leisure, Computing and GCSE RE. Birch Wood is now also qualified as a registered provider for Duke of Edinburgh, which provides our students with yet another fantastic opportunity! Next year our KS4 MLD learners will also get an additional lesson of Maths, leading to 5 sessions a week, which will really boost their numeracy confidence and progress.

We also launched our new Mastery Learning Reports at site 2, which have given you more information about your child's progress and targets. All parents will also get a new end of term report which will provide a summary of how your child has progressed this year and their next steps.

A big thank you to the drivers and bus escorts for the donation of the Easter eggs for our students, this was a big help when the Easter Bunny arrived at Birch Wood on Thursday!



I would also like to thank the BWPA and Rutland Bridge Group for their hard work in raising enough funds to help the school purchase an Eye Gaze Machine. This amazing communication device provides yet another opportunity for our PMLD students.

Birch Wood has had some great sporting successes recently! In the Spring Games our Boccia team came 3rd receiving their Bronze medal and the Basketball team came back Champions with Gold medals and a nice trophy which is now displayed in reception at site 1. Our horse riders are also making some wonderful progress and really benefitting from their RDA sessions.

It is with great pleasure that I would like to welcome some new students to Birch Wood. This term we have been joined by Faye Keely in 2C, Rose Harknett in 1SO and Jasmine Parker at Birch Wood Vale. All students have made a great start and we look forward to seeing them progress and develop new skills at Birch Wood.

**Happy Easter everyone! Have a happy and safe school holiday - we'll see you on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Rosalind Hopkins- Headteacher**

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### Fundraising

Well done to everybody at Birch Wood who raised over £200 for Comic Relief by wearing something red!

We have also been raising awareness of Autism through celebrating World Autism Week and raising some funds for the National Autistic



World Autism Awareness Day

Society. This includes a wonderful coffee morning where parents chatted and shared their experiences of having a child with autism. This was so successful that we will be having another one next term, Amy, our Autism lead will get dates out to you next term.

Well done to students, staff and families who helped raise £339 for Children in Need this term.

### Health and Wellbeing Officers

**Health and Wellbeing Officers, Laura Nichols and Alison Kowal** have made a great start with our temporary school Nurse, Shalene. The team are on hand to provide a support service for students dealing with **medical needs, illness, injury and emotional wellbeing**. Laura who is also a qualified nurse will be starting her return to nursing course this May and will complete in October, meaning she will be revalidated and registered as a nurse from early next academic year. This will provide the final layer of support and care for our children, parents and carers.

### Bamboozle

At the beginning of March, pupils with complex Autism across Site one were treated to a special performance of Shakespeare's 'Storm' by Bamboozle Drama company. The interactions between the performers and the students was absolutely fantastic and every student was engaged throughout. A great day for all involved!

### Welcome Back

**I would like to welcome back Sarah Bell, our communication lead who has returned from maternity leave!**

### Birch Wood Vale New Uniform

New uniform will be available at [www.yourschooluniform.com.schools/find?name=birch+wood](http://www.yourschooluniform.com.schools/find?name=birch+wood)

There is no need to get all the uniform straight away, but do try to get some pieces to help your child adjust. We have the next term to transition to the new uniform in order to help parents and students manage the change. Any problems please let Ros know.

### Healthy Start Breakfast Club

Don't forget we run free breakfast club from 8.15; at our Birch Wood Vale site, for more details or to book on contact Lou.

### Book Fair

In February we held our annual Book Fair which was really well supported by students, parents and staff. Over £400 was spent on books which means Birch Wood is able to buy almost £200 worth of books for our school libraries. So well done and thank you to all who supported the Book Fair.

### Whole school attendance 92%- well done!

#### School Website

Don't forget to look at the School Website, we update it regularly with School letters and policies for you to have a look at.

#### Sunscreen

**With more nice weather coming please look out for class team information about sunscreen and hats.**