



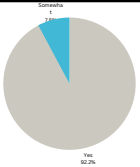
Birchfield Nursery School

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Thankyou to all parents who responded to our parents survey around transition and communication. We will never get everything right for everybody all the time but we endeavor to make decisions that best serve the majority of our community and also to provide opportunity for regular open and honest communication that informs how we do what we do. This newsletter is dedicated to responding to the questions raised to hopefully clarify any areas where queries have arisen and to take on board any suggestions that will improve our offer for you and your child.

What we wanted to know

Birchfield supported children well during transition into nursery

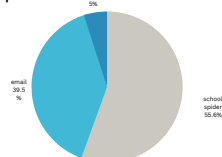


We understand that a phased transition presents problems for working parents and may seem like a luxurious way to start a school year. This year we knew that we had an exceptionally high number of children who had been at home with less experience in other surroundings and these children would need support. Having a phased transition allowed us to support those children and put plans in place to support them. Unfortunately staff are not contracted to work through the holidays and we are not insured to house children at this time or this would be considered. Our 'stay and plays' before the holiday were both popular and successful. We do try to direct families to our website before children start to familiarise you and your child with the nursery. This year 1:1 meetings with parents gave an opportunity to get to know more about your child and their needs.

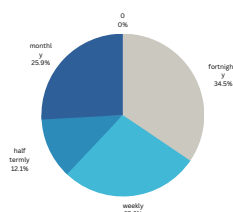
We received adequate and timely communication during transition into nursery



How would you like us to communicate with you during your child's time at nursery?



How often would you like to receive newsletters



We will always send messages through school spider that also reach you in email format. As we now move out of settling in the new children we will be communicating via a weekly newsletter.

This will consist of

- Upcoming events
- A round up the weeks learning highlights
- The following weeks 'BIG QUESTION' which is the basis of our curriculum learning
- 'NUMBER OF THE WEEK'
- PHONICS HIGHLIGHTS

As the year moves on this will then include this weeks sounds and any speech and language updates.



We had several comments about the use of Tapestry. This was once our major platform for sharing information about your child. I was a huge advocate for Tapestry however in light of reforms to the statutory Early Years Framework we are required to reduce unnecessary workload and subsequently advised to produce less in terms of observations. I understand this is frustrating for parents but what this does mean is that staff are spending their time working with the children and not photographing them or spending time away from them writing these up. Staff were spending exceptional amounts of their own time writing up observations which often were not then looked at by parents. Everything we do must have value and impact on the child and their learning but first and foremost we must consider the children's safety and welfare. Staff spending time on observations did not add value and did take their attention away from being present for the children. We appreciate that generic observations do not feel as personal however we will endeavour to have some evidence of all children across the week



Parents meetings and stay and plays

This was another area where we wanted your input. Most parents are happy with half termly or less often and this is what we offer. You have a chance each half term for a 1:1 with your child's keyworker. If the times available do not work for you simply drop us an email : office@birchfield.halton.sch.uk and we will do our best to accommodate you. Throughout the year we do offer several 'stay and play' opportunities including an opportunity for grandparents! This will be on our events page.

Most parents feel that they can approach staff and leaders (94%). I would like to reassure all parents that you can approach me at anytime at drop-off, alternatively Mrs Rice is available or Mrs Bancroft. If this time is too rushed or your matter is confidential please contact me via head@birchfield.halton.sch.uk. If the matter is for a keyworker this will be passed on.





School Spider is proving successful for the vast majority of parents and we thank you for engaging with this. This really is your one-stop shop where you will find everything to help you navigate the year including

Payments

Events

Health information (how long to stay at home)

Signs and symptoms of common illnesses

Policies

Curriculum

...and much more. Please do take a look and if there is anything further you would like us to add let us know.

Keyworker groups have now been assigned and this has led to a little confusion. The nursery is a large place and it is impossible to say that your child would be working with one member of staff all day every day...I am pretty sure they wouldn't want to do that! Children are grouped once settled according to how they learn and what they need to learn. We have a huge spread of ages and stages of development at the nursery and each child deserves to receive the experience most relevant for them. This group can change through the year as children progress at different rates. Your keyworker then is the member of staff who spends 'teaching' time with your child (Maths, phonics, learning challenge curriculum). I am confident that all of my staff know a lot about all of the children already so if you ever have a question ask the first person you see, if they don't know they will certainly find out.

APPLICATIONS SEPTEMBER 2024

We have already had a high number of children apply for next September. There are now very few places remaining. If you have friends or family who have a child turning 3 who wishes to send their child to Birchfield please do direct them to apply via our website or the main office ASAP. Applications close in April but this will help us to plan for the next academic year.

I hope that this newsletter has helped to address any of the concerns or questions raised in the survey in the best way possible and look forward now to what is a very busy time of year for our Birchfielders

Thank you for your continued support
Cathy and the team at Birchfield

EVENTS

week beginning 9th October

1:1 meetings

book via spider app

Friday 27th October

SCHOOL CLOSES

Monday 6th November

SCHOOL REOPENS

Thursday 9th November

Diwali dance workshop
(in school nothing required)

Thursday 7th December

Grandparents stay and play
(survey to follow to confirm attendance)

week beginning 11th December

group stay and plays
check events soon for dates

TBC

Nativity at Wade Deacon

Hayloft adventure



How are you feeling?



PIC • COLLAGE

THE BIG
QUESTION



Dough disco 



PIC•COLLAGE



Dance with Claire





MAKING SALT DOUGH



PIC•COLLAGE