



Birtenshaw School

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Everyone at Birtenshaw School would like to say a really big **hello** and **welcome** to a new young person in school: Megan who joins the Owls class. Also to our new starters: Paul Carolan our new Head Teacher, Nicky Aspinall - Teaching Assistant in the Owls class and last but not least Jeff Harper our new Senior Teacher also in Owls class. We hope they have all settled in quickly and enjoy their time at Birtenshaw school.



Nicky & Jeff



Paul



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BREAKING NEWS! - 'Money in the bag for New School Building-details in next issue!'

David Reid - Chief Executive



Art Exhibition

Turton High School Media Arts College kindly invited Birtenshaw School to their annual art exhibition. Kestrels, Goshawks and Ospreys classes all took up this opportunity. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition and thought the work was outstanding!



There was a wide selection of art work including paintings, photography, sculptures and other 3D work. The display was well set out and easily accessible too! Thank you Turton High and well done!

Tuck shop

Goodies Galore



Tuck Shop continues to be as popular as ever on Wednesdays mornings in school. We have added some new drinks cappuccinos and hot chocolate which have proved very popular. Some changes will be taking place over the school year and the duties are to be shared between all the classes so that everyone gets the opportunity to be involved.



Birtenshaw - Book

Books are fun



On Friday, 10 October Birtenshaw school celebrated the end of children's book week. Everyone came to school dressed as a character from a children's book. Some weird and wonderful characters were present: Lucias Malfoy and Hermione Granger from Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland, Cat Woman, Zorba the Greek, Donkey from Shrek, Zorro, Florence Nightingale and Kermit the Frog to name but a few. Kestrels class made bookmarks and listened to a variety of stories. A special assembly took place so all the costumes could be shared and admired. A fun time was had by all!

Interview with our new Head Teacher

Are you enjoying working at Birtenshaw School?

Absolutely – yes! I find the positive atmosphere and wealth of enrichment opportunities on offer very uplifting. It's an honour to work with a truly professional and dedicated team. I'm also really enjoying building relationships with everyone that attends school – there's some real characters who bring a smile to my face every day – all making excellent progress in many areas of their individual programmes.

Have you always been a teacher or have you done other things?

I've done lots of different jobs as well as teaching – from working on building sites, to teaching martial arts. I opened an art gallery and interiors shop with my wife a few years ago. I love travelling to other countries and have probably spent about 2 years visiting places like Nepal, India, Thailand and Sumatra. Currently I provide accommodation for up to 14 Indian post graduate management students who attend local college courses for 6 months at a time.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like taking my dog, Archie, out for long walks along a river that he can jump into. I play percussion in a band with some friends called 'The Hammoned'. I play 5 a side football and squash each week, and have been trying to train for a triathlon this year – but I don't think I'm ready yet!

Which football team do you support?

Ah ha! The big question...I am from Wigan and proud of our team's achievements, but from being a young lad have always followed Liverpool (if you watched them beat Manchester United the other day, you'll understand why!!)

What are your plans for the future?

My plans are to lead Birtenshaw School through exciting developments including the proposed move to a new, purpose built site. I want Birtenshaw to be widely recognised as an outstanding provider of educational services to children and young people, ensuring a brighter future for everyone who is or becomes part of our extended community.

Sponsored Swim on Lake Windermere

Aaron Halleron one of Birtenshaw School's roving reporters interviewed Jo Gadd our Occupational Therapist;

Q. Which charity did you raise money for?

A It was for Cancer Research and I raised £150.00

Q. How far did you swim? And how many people took part?

A I swam one mile, just over 1600m. More than 2,000 people took part over two days, we swam in groups of 200.

Q What was the most difficult thing about the swim?

A Well the water was very, very cold, brrrr! It took your breath away!

Q. Would you do it again?

A Yes I think I might do it just once more, I have already done it before you see.

Well thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed and very well done!



Pink Afternoon



Birtenshaw school held a "Pink Afternoon" on Thursday, 22 October to support Breast Cancer Awareness. The afternoon took place in the hall and included a Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Lily The Pink photographs, cake stall and refreshments. Staff and young people were asked to wear pink and those choosing not to comply were

asked to pay a £2 donation. The afternoon went very well and the hall was alive with the buzz and excitement. All the stalls proved very popular and there was lots of laughter and frivolity. £120 was raised in total - Thank you everyone.



Greenhouse / Green School

Birtenshaw School is very proud to announce the long-awaited, safe arrival of our new greenhouse. There are just a few minor finishing touches to be added – for example the access ramp needs some slight work at time of going to press - then it will be ready for action!

The greenhouse can be used for our science curriculum, in our daily living skills lessons and as part of vocational studies.

Everyone at Birtenshaw School is looking forward to seeing beautiful flowers next

spring and sampling tasty, home-grown vegetables and possibly even fruit later on in the year!

Other recent "green" improvements in school include a real commitment to using both sides of the paper, reducing the amount of photocopying by reusing menus etc and continued use of energy saving measures.

Watch out for our report in the next newsletter about "Switch Off Fortnight"

(Monday 2 November to Friday 13 November 2009).

Cath Stones
On behalf of the Eco-Action Team



Thank you

A massive thank you to Bolton Wanderers Football Club, Jussi Jaaskelainen (goal keeper) and his wife Tess for their support.

As you are aware Jussi has chosen Birtenshaw as one of three local charities to raise money for during this his testimonial year.

There are several events taking place over the year and the first was a legends game followed by a testimonial game against Hibernian. These took place on Saturday, 8 August at the Reebok Stadium followed by a Gala Dinner.

The legends match included a collection of former Bolton Wanderers players and a guest appearance from Amir Khan WBA World Light-Welterweight Champion.

Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped on the day by shaking buckets.

We are delighted that such a high profile sports star has chosen to support Birtenshaw and this



Your say

If you have any comments or articles that you would like to share in our next newsletter please contact us (as below), Trish Briody and Suzanne Waldram - Editors

Up-and-coming dates

- **Autumn half term will begin on Monday, 26 October to Friday, 30 October 2009**
 - **Autumn term ends on Friday, 18 December 2009**
 - **Spring term will begin on Tuesday, 5 January 2010**
 - **Spring half term will begin on Monday, 19 February 2010 to Friday, 19 February 2010**
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We are also on the Web!
Please visit our website:
www.birtenshaw.org.uk