

Emails/Letters home this week: ALL - Omegle Online Safety, Sleep Resources

## What's on in school after half term?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Inset Day	Term begins.			

If your child has not received their copy of these letters or the 'Bugle', please contact their class teacher or the office.

**REMINDER : Parents please use [birchwoodparents@welearn365.com](mailto:birchwoodparents@welearn365.com) when emailing school.**

## Engagement During This Half Term

We come to the end of another very challenging half term for everyone involved. Over the last 6 weeks all of our children, parents and staff have been brilliant in their positive approach to dealing with this period of partial school closure.

I would like to thank everyone for all their efforts in making sure we do our best to limit the impact of this period on children's education. Levels of daily engagement have been very high and have remained consistent over the whole six weeks. The average daily engagement levels have been 92%. This includes children joining in with their daily remote learning sessions and then completing their follow up activities and uploading that to their class teachers, so that they can assess attainment and progress and provide feedback to children.

As a school we have tried to keep sessions and learning as fresh and interesting as we can. Class teachers have been really creative with their sessions and follow up tasks, and have tried to continue to cover most of our planned curriculum. They have been brilliantly supported by our Teaching Assistants who have joined remote sessions, whilst also continuing to support children attending school. Bespoke dance and music sessions have also improved our remote learning offer.

The main advantages of delivering live lessons is that they have allowed interaction between staff and children, but have also enabled children to stay in touch with each other. We hope that the timed sessions have helped to provide a structure to the day for children and parents. Having contact 3 times a day has helped us to deliver key teaching points, model learning, share resources and provide guidance and instructions to support follow up learning activities. We have also been able to keep groups of children and individuals back on live sessions to offer more support or further challenge.

We have staggered our live sessions across school to try to reduce the likelihood that children from the same family are having live sessions at the same time, and hoped that this would also support families, where devices to connect to the internet were limited. We have been successful in providing I.T equipment to families to support learning from home and have also provided printed materials to support learning when required.

During these 6 weeks we have been really well supported by all our parents. You have all done a fantastic job juggling the pressures of home life and work, at the same time as helping and encouraging your children with their learning from home. We are also very appreciative of all the positive comments that you have shared with us and for your continued support for our school.

Despite how well this half term has gone, nothing can ever replace the benefits to children being back at school with their friends and teachers. We are all desperate for our children to return and hope that we get told after half term that Primary Schools will reopen on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Fingers crossed for that news, but in the meantime, we hope you all enjoy a relaxing and very well deserved half term break.

**Mr Coleman - Headteacher**


## Building Blocks of Learning!

All photographs can be purchased for £3 per A4 colour copy.  
Please see ParentPay for details.

## Spotlight this week is on...

### ..... Networks

There are times when we all need someone to chat to about those little, or sometimes even those bigger worries we have, or just to share how we are feeling. At Birchwood, we describe the people we feel comfortable talking to at those times, as our network. Sometimes, especially at the moment, our networks may not be face to face, but a video call may be just as supportive.

It is really important to have a network, rather than just one person in case the first person you go to speak to is not available, or is not where you are at the time. For example, if you had a worry in school and your network was only made up of people at home that would be a problem. Similarly, if you were at home and your whole network was made up of people at school you would be stuck!

As part of our work on 'Protective Behaviours', there are a range of things we work on and teach children to help them know how to keep themselves safe. We encourage children to think about their networks and who they would be comfortable talking to, both in school and outside school. We use the idea of a 'network hand' to try to get children to think about 5 people they would be able to talk to if they ever felt worried or unsafe.

Taking time to talk to someone when we feel worried is really important, especially at the moment. If someone explains that you are on their network, or asks to talk about their worries with you, take the time to listen to what they have to say. Listening to them could be the little thing that changes their day for the better.

**Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher**

## Academic Year 2020-2021

### Spring Term 2021

Half Term	Monday 15th February
Professional Development day	Monday 22nd February
Term time Begins	Tuesday 23rd February
<b>Children Possible Return to School</b>	<b>Monday 8th March</b>
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Thursday 1st April

### Summer Term 2021

Children Planned Return to School	Monday 19th April
May Day	Monday 3rd May
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 31st May
Professional Development Day	Monday 7th June
Professional Development Day	Friday 18th June
Term Ends for Summer	Wednesday 21st July
<b>Planned Return to School</b>	<b>Monday 6th September</b>

These dates may be subject to change if necessary.

**New and amended dates shown in bold.**

Details and times to be confirmed nearer each event.

Please note the early finish on 21st July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

## Where's The Bear?



Some of our Reception children enjoyed going on a bear hunt, with their home made binoculars. 'They're not scared!'

Want to be part of an award-winning team?

**Sing** Boys aged 7-11

Free

Online Singing Workshops

4:45pm, on Zoom sign-up now at  
Wed 3 | 17 | 31 March **choristers.org**



## Birchwood Best Practice

### Modern Foreign Languages (French)

Bonjour! I am responsible for French in school, which is taught between years 3 and 6. It is a fascinating subject to lead as it is about learning a new language and another culture.

France is not too far away from the UK but the differences in language and culture are so diverse and exciting.

Learning to speak other languages is a gift that we should all embrace. It is a key that allows us access to different parts of the world, and allows us to break communication barriers with people globally.

When we embark on a journey along the path to learn a new language it can be a little scary, which is totally normal. The more you learn, the bigger your key to the world becomes.

We are always looking for exciting ways to how we deliver and teach French at Birchwood.

Please remember to show me any work you have completed in French lessons or in your home learning tasks! I so enjoy seeing and discussing this with you and always have dojos to give out.

Au revoir! - Mrs Smith



**CAMEO DANCE** EST.2003

### FUN CHILDRENS DANCE CLASSES HELD IN POLESWORTH

**Little Dancers from age 2 1/2** Tuesdays & Fridays

4:30 – 5:30pm The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

**Juniors from age 7** 5:30 – 7:30pm

The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

Tuesdays & Fridays 5:30 – 7:30

Classes include Ballet, Tap, Acrobatics, Modern plus lots more **FIRST TRIAL CLASS IS FREE!**

Call Liz 07443421867

Cameo is a great place to build confidence, develop dance skills, and make good friends whilst working towards our annual show weekend, with no pressure

Cameodance.co.uk \* cameodance@rocketmail.com

Facebook Cameo Dance or search Cameo Dance Polesworth

**Covid-19 Secure \* See Facebook for up to date opening information**



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THE DORDON CLUB  
LONG ST.  
B78 1PZ

### DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES

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**07880 714532**

www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK

Our registered charity  
2020/21 ZELLWEGER UK.  
Amount raised so far:  
**£1750.14**



<https://www.jobcentrejobs.co.uk/>

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**Jolly Phonic Letter Sounds**

Helping children to read.



Please note that although we check the suitability of Applications, they can be changed without notice. Parents should therefore check the Application BEFORE children go on to them.