

Letters home this week: ALL - Winter Wish List, The Maths Challenge, YR,1,2 - Winter Reading Competition, Y3-6 - Reading Plus 'House Combo' Competition

What's on in school next week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y3,4 Christmas Performance Library - 3.05	Y5,6 Christmas Performance Y5-6 - Forest Schools	Y6 V.E Day Celebrations	Christmas Dinner	Non-school Uniform/ Christmas Jumper Day Early Finish - 1pm

REMINDER : Masks must be worn by all who are over 12 (unless exempt) at all school events.

Christmas at Birchwood

Christmas is a busy time for all, not least for those who are involved in schools. This year we are really pleased that we have been able to have a relatively normal Christmas and it has been lovely to welcome parents back into our school. This week our Reception children performed their first ever Christmas performance to their parents on Thursday, and on Friday it was the turn of Year 1 and 2. Next week, we have two more performances - Year 3 and 4 on Monday and Year 5 and 6 on Tuesday.

In school, our staff and children have been working really hard over the last couple of weeks. Our children continue to make us proud for not only their behaviour, but also for their hard work and incredible enthusiasm, which was so evident at our recent Christmas fair and Christmas performances. Christmas time in school can be difficult as we try to juggle the demands of our school curriculum with Christmas activity. Apart from rehearsals, our Christmas fair crafts and Christmas Pantomimes, we stay on timetable until Thursday 16th December. It is only then that we put some time aside to create cards, calendars, decorations and, if time, watch a Christmas movie. Christmas craft Thursday and toy morning on Friday are really important times for children in school. They get the chance to relax, enjoy each other's company and start to get even more excited about breaking up for the holidays.

Last week, the children really enjoyed making their Christmas products and games for our Christmas fair. Team Birchwood have informed us that they raised £3350 which is a fantastic effort. Thank you to them for all their hard work and for their organisation and a big thank you to all our children and parents who came and supported this event.

Our teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, governors, PTA and volunteers deserve recognition and our gratitude this term. Birchwood Primary School is very lucky to have incredibly dedicated and talented staff who constantly go above and beyond for all the children in our school. They make me proud on a daily basis, and I remain eternally grateful for their amazing professionalism, hard work and their continued support for myself and the school.

Team Birchwood are again showing their thanks to all our staff and children by buying and presenting them all with a new book for the winter holidays. It will be lovely to have some time off and spend some quality time reading a book. I look forward to finding out what everyone thought of their new book when we return in January.

In our last newsletter of the calendar year, may I take this opportunity to wish you all, on behalf of all the children, staff and Governors of Birchwood Primary School, a very Merry Christmas and a relaxing and prosperous New Year.

Mr Coleman – Headteacher



'A Very Special Baby'

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

Spotlight this week is ...

Christmas comes to Birchwood

This week we have seen the arrival of the festive season here at school. After our fantastic Christmas Fair and our Lower School pantomime last week, this week has seen our upper school children enjoying a performance of Dick Whittington.

We have also enjoyed the first of our own children's performances from our younger children in lower school. It has been lovely to share these performances with parents and we have loved seeing and hearing the children perform. We are now looking forward to our Upper School performances in school next week.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping your children to learn songs and lines at home over the last few weeks. It is much appreciated.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher



Doctors/Dentist Appointments in School Time

We prefer parents to avoid booking appointments during the school day because of children missing important work in school. However, we do understand that this is sometimes unavoidable.

We would ask parents to let us know of any appointments **in advance** and send in a copy of the appointment card/letter for school records.



PANTS

NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.

This week is 'S'

Speak up, someone can help



Tell your child that if they ever feel sad, anxious or frightened they should talk to an adult they trust.

This does not have to be a family member. It can also be a teacher or a friend's parent - or even ChildLine. Remind them that whatever the problem, it is not their fault and they will never get into trouble for speaking up.

Cross Country



Well done to the year 5/6 cross country team. They have competed in two races so far. One race at Warton Nethersole Primary school and the other one at Pingles in Nuneaton. Both races have had their own challenges including running across farmers' fields, cold weather and it being 2.5 km long. We are very proud of the team; they never give up and always try their best. We look forward to finding out how they get on in the next race in January. Well done to Alex in year 6 who has achieved a medal in both races 2nd and 3rd.

Mrs Atkins - PE subject leader

Digital Leaders Chatter!



Happy Chatter

Hello everybody, Junior Road Safety Officers here!

There are 8 JRSOs across Birchwood Primary School, one from each Key Stage Two class

and our role is extremely important in keeping us all safe. We have already been busy ensuring all children joined in with Road Safety Week, where classes were encouraged to complete at least one Road Safety themed activity.



Key Messages to Remember:

When it is icy, be careful when walking along paths or across the road.

The roads outside our school get extremely busy, especially at drop off and pick up times. Remember to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing the road.

Be Bright...Be Seen.... (Not just in clothes but also in your thinking)

Poppy Appeal



Thank you to everyone who supported this years Poppy Appeal. We have received a certificate to say that our school raised

£231.51.

Parking

Bearing in mind our one school rule of 'Consideration and Respect', please may we remind parents/carers to park courteously on the roads surrounding school.

Thank you.



Community Governor Vacancy



Are you interested in being a Community Governor and supporting the on-going success of a local school?

We are looking to recruit Community Governors to our School Standards Committee (formally known as the Local Governing Body) for Birchwood Primary School, part of Community Academies Trust.

We are looking for people who have the skill to act as a 'critical friend' and ask challenging questions about performance and use their skills and experience to support the school in addressing its aims. You will be involved in creating and developing a strategic plan for the school, setting and agreeing objectives, and monitoring and evaluating the schools' success by focusing on progress and outcomes - within CAT, this is known as being 'Guardians of Standards'.

This is a voluntary position. If you are aged 18 or over and are able to commit around 10 to 15 hours per term to the role, which includes School Standards Committee meetings and pre-reading of associated papers each half term, we would love to hear from you.

You do not need to be a parent of a pupil at the school.

No prior knowledge is needed - training and support is offered and available to all new and existing governors.

This is an extremely rewarding role, one which holds great importance within our schools and trust. If you feel that you have skills which could be transferred to help make a real difference to children's lives, please contact us for further information.

For further information and opportunity to discuss this role further, please don't hesitate to contact the school office at admin2619@welearn365.com or phone 01827 892913, where an appointment will be made to speak with the Chair of Governors, Mike Potts.

Nomination forms, a skills audit form, and Terms of Reference are available by email from the school office on the email above.

The closing date for receipt of nomination forms is midday, **Monday 31st January 2022.**

WINTER WONDERLAND AT CONKERS

On Monday, Birchwood's Reception classes enjoyed a festive visit to Conkers Winter Wonderland where they were met off the coach by an elf. They also met Santa and were given a present each. They enjoyed fun activities including making a robin collage, and meeting a talking owl and singing reindeers.



THE VERY SPECIAL BABY

Birchwood's Reception classes put on an amazing Christmas performance of The Very Special Baby, this week. It was fantastic to be able to welcome family and friends in to see them after all of their hard work practising. Well done to all of the children.



Academic Year 2021-2022

Y3 & Y4 Christmas Performance	Monday 13th December
Y5 & Y6 Christmas Performance	Tuesday 14th December
Y6 V.E Day Celebrations	Wed 15th December
Christmas Dinner	Thursday 16th December
Non School Uniform and Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 17th December
Term Ends for Christmas 1 pm	Friday 17th December

Spring Term 2022

Staff Inset Day	Tuesday 4th January
Children Return to School	Wednesday 5th January
Y4 Assembly	Thursday 20th January
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 21st February
Professional Development Day	Monday 28th February
Parents Evening	Tuesday 8th March
Parents Evening	Wednesday 9th March
Y3 Assembly	Thursday 17th March
Grandparents Lunch	Friday 18th March
Easter Hats/Eggs	Friday 8th April
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 8th April

These dates may be subject to change if necessary.

Details and times to be confirmed nearer each event.

Please note the early finish on 17th December 2021 and 21st July 2022. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

Team Birchwood

Thank you to everyone who helped at, donated to and visited the Christmas Fair. We had an amazing turnout and we hope that you all enjoyed it. We have raised just over £3,350, which will be used to bring lots of moments of delight to the children.

The year group that raised the most on their stall was year 6 with an impressive £198, year 4 came in 2nd with £151 and year 3 came in 3rd with £109.

We had so many incredible and creative jingle jars this year, you really went all out. The class that made the most was a tie between Maple 3 and Oak 3.

The winning raffle tickets numbers are 2764, 1672, 4121, 1049, 3892, 2801, 1067, 2692, 1005, 4135, 1140, 2768, 3229 & 2294. Ticket 2260 was also a winning ticket but we were unable to read the details, so please check your tickets and bring it to the office if it is yours. If you have not already done so could you please collect your prize from the school office before the end of term.

Merry Christmas and thank you again for your continued support for Team Birchwood.



M42 Closure

The M42 will be closed between Junction 9 and 10 (northbound and southbound) for 7 days. This will take place from 9pm Friday 24th December to 9pm Friday 31st December. This is to facilitate BBV to complete works that will enable the Marston Box bridge to be moved into position in winter 2022. This is for the HS2 railway. A clearly signed diversion route will be in place over this period with advance signage in place to help remind motorists of the closure. You can still get to where you need to go but you will need to follow the diversion, plan ahead and leave more time for journeys. For more information please visit www.hs2.org.uk/marston-box or click on the link below:

<https://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/local-community-webpages/hs2-in-warwickshire/marston-box-rail-bridge-crossing-over-the-m42/>

M42 Junction 9-10 closure

From December 2021

Diversion in place
Please plan ahead



Children's Weekly Spelling Challenge:

Use Technology

Type out your spelling words on the computer.

Try to use at least 4 different fonts.



We have currently raised £385.35 for our chosen charity
Coventry and Warwickshire Mind



Registering for School

Parents can now apply for Primary school places. The deadline for **Primary school applications** for reception places is **15th January 2022**.



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



Information leaflets and adverts sent or published by Birchwood Primary School

Birchwood Primary does not endorse any of the services, or products advertised and does not give any representation or warranty about any of the organisations. Birchwood Primary School is not an agent for any of these organisations and any enquiry concerning their services and/or products should be referred directly to them.

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The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

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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