

Letters home this week: ALL - Parents Evening, Y1 - Toy Museum

What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.05 Embody Dance Y1-6 Violin and Keyboard Lessons 3.10 - After School Library	8.20 Cross Country Club Y4-6 3.05 Aston Villa Multi Skills Y1-3 Drum and Guitar Lessons	3.05 Elite Football Skills Y4-6	8.20 Cross Country Club Y4-6 Clarinet Lessons 3.05 Boogie Bounce 3.05 Eco Club	3.05 Top Score Football Y1-3 Swimming Lessons - Oak 3 Cello Lessons 3.05 Musical Theatre Y2-6

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

REMINDER :Do not forget all uniform should be labelled with your child's name. Label order forms are available from the school office.

Core Principles at Birchwood Primary

To ensure Birchwood runs smoothly and that there is a shared vision, we have some common language and ideas that have become an everyday part of our lives. I thought I would take this opportunity to share and reiterate some of these as a reminder to those of you who have been with us for a while and as an explanation for those parents who are new to school.

Our One School Rule – Consideration and Respect

There are some schools who have a long list of rules that they expect the children to learn, remember and understand. At Birchwood we only have one rule and it is – Consideration and Respect. The children learn quickly that this means they are expected to have respect for themselves, each other, all adults and the school environment. They are also taught to be considerate in all things they do and say. We find it to be extremely effective when discussing the choices children have made. Have you been considerate or shown respect? This is a question that gets children to reflect on their actions.

Stop It Please

These three words are designed to help children regulate the behaviour of their peers by making it clear that they do not like something someone is saying or doing. It takes time and practice for children to get this right, but it does work as a system for managing low level disruption. Quite often we will ask children if they used 'stop it please' when there has been an altercation between children. We encourage children to use it as a cue to prompt their peers.

Readiness for learning

We want children to come into school ready to learn - that is after all what they come to school for. This starts with a prompt start to the day. Making sure they have all they need for the day ahead and establishing clear routines for the start of the day gives children the best chance to access all their learning, which starts as soon as they enter the classroom. Parents can play their part in this by ensuring their children have everything they need for the day and minimising any fuss on the playground in the morning. Ensuring that children are in school on time, enables them to have a positive start to the day and prepares them to be in the position mind-set for learning.

I am sure you will have heard 'stop it please' at home between siblings. In fact it is so ingrained in school that I often hear the staff saying it to each other and often to myself too! The reinforcement of these ideas at home is key to an effective home/school partnership. We look forward to continuing to work close with you again this year.

Mr N Coleman - Headteacher


Ready to Learn!

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

Spotlight on Excellence this wee is....

A Culture of Safeguarding

Keeping children safe is a key priority for us in school and we do that in a number of ways. One is our work on Protective Behaviours, which over the next few weeks in school, children will be starting work on in their classes.

This is a vital and very important part of our work in keeping children safe. It is the taught part of a much wider curriculum which helps children to recognise situations where they feel safe, their own 'Early Warning Signs' that they might feel when they do not feel safe and the 'network' of people they have to talk to when this happens. Through this age appropriate series of lessons, which is delivered after training from the Warwickshire Taking Care Team, children also discuss the rights and responsibilities of children, safe and unsafe secrets, as well as the proper names for private body parts.

The taking care work is a vital part of enabling children to speak up if they ever feel worried about a situation and the evidence shows that this is key in our wider safeguarding culture in school.

You can support your children at home by using the language of safety, talking about your own 'early warning signs' and who you would talk to on your network if you were worried. If you have any questions about the Protective Behaviours programme, please come and chat to us here at school.

Mrs M Day - Associate Headteacher




Community Governor Vacancy

Birchwood Primary School is looking to recruit high quality Community Governors to join the Local Governing Body.

We are looking for members of the local community 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. Your role will also include collectively allocating and controlling the school budget as well as being influential in the appointment of staff.

If you are over 18, able to commit approximately 10-15 hours per term to the role we would be delighted to hear from you. You do not need to be a parent of a student 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 school 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 please contact:

Mrs Sara Ferris, - Clerk to the Governors
Birchwood Primary School
Birchwood Avenue
Dordon
Tamworth
B781QU
Telephone: 01827 892913 or ferris.s@welearn365.com



School Attendance

It sounds obvious but children are more likely to succeed when they attend school consistently. It is not just about the lessons that are missed, children also find it difficult to engage in the lessons when they return because they have missed the important teaching points when they were off, to allow them to successfully access the next stage of learning.

Good attendance at school is vital for pupils to achieve their full educational potential. Pupils with good attendance records benefit in the following ways:-

- *Continuity of learning which makes progress and retention easier*
- *Improved performance in coursework tasks*
- *Enhanced performance in examinations*
- *Continuity of relationships and friendships*
- *Good references for further education or employment*
- *Good habits are formed for later life*

Then there is the law! Children by law must attend school and all schools are required to record details of pupils' attendance and absence at school. We do so at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions and within strict time limits. We are also required to report poor attendance.

We encourage children to be on time and attend by giving children lots of praise when they are 'being brave for carrying on' with minor ailments like a cold. We reward 'never lates' and 'good attendance' by giving children certificates on a termly basis, which the children are very proud of. We do however understand that children are sometimes unwell and certainly do not wish children to come into school unwell just to achieve an attendance reward, and for this reason we include children whose attendance is also slightly below 100%.

Our schools always achieve better rates of attendance than schools nationally. Our children love coming to school and hate missing anything. The Government has recently set an attendance target of 95% for all schools. We are delighted that our school attendance rate is significantly above this at 97.5%.

Well done everyone!

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The boys all played brilliantly in the Newton Shield Football Tournament on Thursday 10th October. They did themselves and the school proud! They reached the semi-finals and just missed out on the final after losing to penalties. Well done boys!



TRADING CARDS

Please can we remind you that trading cards such as Pokemon and football cards are not permitted in school!!

School photographs

This week the school photograph proofs were sent home with children.

The deadline for orders to be returned to school is Friday 25th October. You are also able to order photographs online for delivery to school or your home address. Thank you.



An invitation from Scorch

Coventry Blaze's mischievous mascot Scorch the Dragon would love to see you at the Skydome Arena for one of the team's next two games and he's offering pupils, family and friends of our school tickets for a very special price of:

Adults £10 Under-16's £7

Max 5 per-person (normal price Adults £18 Under 16's £10)

Scorch's invitation is valid for the following games:



Half-term hockey night in Coventry
Thursday 24th October
Blaze vs. Guildford Flames
Challenge Cup (7.30pm)



Sunday Hockey night with FREE ice skating
Sunday 27th October
Blaze vs. Nottingham Panthers
Elite League (5.30pm)

Skydome Arena, Croft Rd, Coventry CV1 3AZ

To book email: coventryblazehockey@gmail.com
Quote the name of our school

Collect and pay for the tickets (in cash) on the night of the game.



Base Skills - Forest school

Children who chose Forest School for their Base Skills enjoyed learning how to safely build a camp fire last week.



Eco Club

Eco Club have had a busy start to the year with both the harvesting and cooking of the pears grown at school. This week they created spiced pear jam to sell at the Christmas Fair and next week they will be making chilli apple chutney. Delicious!!



Road Safety.

On Thursday, children learned about staying safe on the road. Warwick Bear helped us to learn actions which help us remember to walk, stop, listen, look and hold hands.



PANTS

NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.

This week is **'A'**

Always remember your body belongs to you.

Let your child know their body belongs to them, and no one else. No one has the right to make them do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. And if anyone tries, tell your child they have the right to say no.

Remind your child that they can always talk to you about anything which worries or upsets them.

Next week **'N'**



Tea Party Time!

Sycamore have enjoyed their first tea party this year with Mrs Day after the whole class hit their weekly reading target. Well done everyone and thank you to all those people at home who helped them achieve this. We are now looking forward to our tea party with Mr Coleman after reaching our target for a 2nd consecutive week.



Asthma Inhalers



If your child has been prescribed an asthma inhaler by a doctor they **MUST** have it IN school at all times, even if they have:

- 'Never used it'
- 'Only have it because they went through a bad patch'
- 'Only get asthma in winter'
- 'Have grown out of it'

For children who have been prescribed an asthma inhaler and do not have it in school, parents will be contacted immediately to bring one in. Asthma is far from a minor ailment and is in reality a killer when it all goes wrong.

Parking

Please may we remind parents/carers that parking is not permitted in the schools car park. Please park courteously on the roads surrounding school. It is also important to ensure that driveways and pavements are not obstructed as this can prove dangerous for other road users, pedestrians and be frustrating for our neighbours.



CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

FUN CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES HELD IN POLESWORTH

Little Dancers from age 2 1/2

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

Fridays 4:30 – 5:30pm, The Tithe Barn, Polesworth

Juniors from age 7

Tuesdays 5:15 – 7:15, The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

Fridays 5:30 – 7:30, The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

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

Cameodance.co.uk cameodance@rocketmail.com

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo

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.

Birchwood Primary School Website



Want to know what is happening in school? Go to www.birchwoodprimarieschool.com. There is so much information for you from: school policies, newsletters, copies of letters sent home, curriculum pages, photos and much more.

Click on the parent tab to open the ParentPay shop, where you can order school uniform, book bags and water bottles.

You can also follow us on twitter: @BirchwoodPrim

Academic Year 2018-2019

Academic Year 2019/2020

Autumn Term 2019

New Intake Morning	Monday 21st October
Y4 Conkers Trip	Monday 21st October
Y5 Wroxeter Trip	Tuesday 22nd October
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 28th October
Professional Development Day	Monday 4th November
Children Return to School	Tuesday 5th November
Y1 Toy Museum Trip	Weds 6th November
Late Parents Evening	Weds 13th November
Early Parents Evening	Thursday 14th November
Y5 Class Assemblies	Thursday 28th November
New Intake Morning	Monday 2nd December
KS2 Pantomime trip	Weds 4th December
TBPS Christmas Fair	Friday 6th December
Nasal Flu Immunisations	Tuesday 10th December
Y1 Polesworth Abbey Trip	Weds 11th December
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Monday 16th December
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Tuesday 17th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Weds 18th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Thursday 19th December
Christmas Dinner	Friday 20th December
Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks)	Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2020

Professional Development Day	Monday 6th January
Children Return to School	Tuesday 7th January
Young Voices Concert	Thursday 16th January
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 17th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 24th February
Children Return to School	Tuesday 25th February
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 3rd April

Summer Term 2020

Children return to School	Monday 20th April
May Bank Holiday	Friday 8th May
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 25th May
Children return to School	Monday 1st June
Professional Development Day	Friday 19th June
Warwickshire Moving Up Day	Wednesday 8th July
Term Ends for Summer	Friday 17th July

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 May Day 2020 is on a Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Please note the 1pm early finish on 20th December and 17th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.



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Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. Let us keep this service flying.



Are you planning on having a clear out ready for winter? If so, we have a collection point on site for any clothing, bedding, paired shoes, belts and bags if you would like to support our local air ambulance service. Look for the big yellow collection box to the right of the main school drive. This is emptied on a regular basis and the Air Ambulance Service appreciate all of the donations made. Thank you.



Monkey Maths

Fundamental maths skills for children aged 3-6 years

