

Letters home this week: ALL - Staggered School Day, Yr 3-6 - Reading Plus, Yr 4 - Roman Workshop, Yr 6 - Ukulele Club, Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, Boosters

## What's on in school after Half Term.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

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

**REMINDER : YR 6 Parents, please make your secondary school applications by October 31st.**

### Birchwood Covid 19 update

As we end of our first half term back in school the country moves into a 3 tier approach to managing the pandemic. Our local area remains at medium risk, for now, but the measures currently in place are still having a huge impact on the everyday running of school. The 'new normal' remains far from our normal practice in school. Both the staff and children have adapted brilliantly to the changes we have introduced, but there are going to continue to be many challenges that still lie ahead. We always look to approach everything with positivity and are determined to make the most of the current situation. Staff and children constantly demonstrate their resilience and can do attitude.

### **Parents Evening**

Normally we would be preparing to set up our parents evening meetings. Obviously, things will be a little different this year. Instead of inviting parents in for an appointment, class teachers will be sending out a short report slip and telephoning parents. You will be able to make an appointment through eSchools in the usual way, but different year groups may be on different days simply because of the availability of phone lines. An email and text will be sent out when the booking windows open and this will provide further information.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

This is an area that remains under review. Over the course of the next half term we will be deciding if we can increase this provision. This will depend on the possible take up of clubs by individual year groups, as we cannot mix children across our year groups as per our risk assessment. We will be starting morning booster sessions and after school tuition for our Year 6 children and hope to have other after school clubs set up for January 2021.

### **Christmas arrangements**

Covid-19 is going to have a significant impact on all the activities we normally do in school during the run up to Christmas. The Christmas Fayre would be classed as a mass gathering and therefore would be illegal. Our usual traditional Christmas plays and performances cannot happen, but recent changes to guidelines on singing in school mean that we may now be able.....



### **Staying Safe at School!**

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

to put together a collective retelling of the Christmas story, with each year group taking the lead on a section and song. We have booked our Christmas dinner day for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, but this will not be with the whole school all together as is usually the case. More details about this to follow. We will aim to make Christmas in school as special as we can, but it is highly unlikely we will be able to share this with the community as we would like to. As always, we will aim to keep the community updated on events in school through letters, email and the social media pages. We appreciate your understanding and hopefully next year will be much more 'business as usual' - if we adhere to the current guidance. Thank you for your ongoing support during this difficult time. Wishing you all an enjoyable half term.

**Mr Coleman - Headteacher**

### **Applying for a Secondary School Place**

Children born between **01/09/2009 and 31/08/2010** are due to start Secondary School in September 2021. **The deadline for on-time applications is 31st October 2020.**

Warwickshire residents can make an on-line application for Primary and Secondary places at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool). You can also apply by calling 01926 742037 or 01926 742047.



## Who's Who this week ...

### **Mrs Williams**

I have been a teaching assistant at Birchwood since both my children joined in 2004. My role has certainly changed over the years and has become both varied and rewarding. My afternoons are spent covering PPA and Senior Leadership time for teachers; I am incredibly lucky to have such wonderful classes and teaching assistants to work with.

In the mornings I can be found working as a TA with a brilliant teaching team in Year 5 who work incredibly hard, as do all of our intelligent and lively Year 5 children. Birchwood is certainly a school to be proud of!

I have a passion for computing, which fortunately teachers allow me to indulge at school. At home I have begun Ballroom and Latin dance classes with my husband which is great fun but challenging at times! In my spare time I like to read, knit and play with my grandson, who is a lively toddler. I also enjoy a swim at the local leisure centre.

Spending every day with my Birchwood family is a pleasure!



## Birchwood Best Practice

### **Website and Twitter**

A school website is very important for making a good first impression of a school and it is often the first contact that people will have of us.

Our website is easy to navigate for both parents and children, and it includes a wide range of information from contact details, a welcoming message, the Birchwood school values, curriculum information, wellbeing, news, events calendar and other school information like class pages, where you will find your child's learning journey with us.

On our homepage there are images of the brilliant learning that goes on in school, as well as a newsfeed to our Twitter account, and a link to our weekly newsletter. Great for the times your little one forgets to bring one home!

The website certainly came into its own during the difficult time we spent away from school. Children were still able to share their wonderful achievements at home and to continue to stay connected with their classmates and teachers. Another example of our Birchwood Best! Mrs Williams.



## Myths and Legends ...

*'The school won't let me take my child on holiday in term time!'*

Wrong! In actual fact the law will not let you, and the school has no option but to follow the law or it can also get in trouble. The Department for Education say:

*'The current law **does not** give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.'*

Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school; indeed **parents at our school have already received large fines for doing so.**

- It is important that children attend school regularly if they are to benefit from the learning opportunities provided.
- Children who are absent from school due to a holiday in term time will miss out on important learning.
- The time teachers have to help all the children in a class is reduced if they spend time helping a child to catch up after a holiday.
- Educational experiences in school missed as a result of a family holiday cannot be re-captured later.

## School Photographs

Anyone wishing to order school photographs through school, must ensure that orders are sent to school by Wednesday 4th November for collection by NextGen. Thank you.

## GLOW PARTY

Following the success of Wake Up & Dance, Embody Dance would like to invite you to join them 'at home' via Zoom for an Embody Dance Glow Party on Saturday 31st October, 4-5PM!

Spread some light with this family friendly alternative to Halloween!

Grab your own light, torch or glow sticks to join Embody for a fun packed dance party suitable for all ages and abilities- why not join in as a family?

Tickets Available through "Embodly Dance Glow Party" on Facebook or Eventbrite.

£5 per household!



giving everybody the chance to dance

## Correspondence

In last week's news letter we announced the new email address to be used by parents to send a variety of information into the school. This is:

**[birchwoodparents@welearn365.com](mailto:birchwoodparents@welearn365.com)**

When emailing into the address can you please ensure that your child's full name and class are used in the subject heading.

Thank you



Congratulations to all the pupils on a great achievement in the first half term of the school year, in spite of these challenging times.

Birchwood Primary School pupils have achieved an outstanding attendance rate of 97.8 % for the first half term.

**WELL DONE!!!**

### PUMPKIN TRAIL



The Polesworth Pumpkin Trail has been set up by people who live locally and is a coloured, zoned and numbered trail around the village. The idea is for families to download a trail sheet from the

Facebook group and spot the pumpkins around the village. It will run from Friday 23rd October and end on Saturday 31st October. It is a non-contact event and can be completed over a number of days. Families can contact the group, The Polesworth Pumpkin Trail, on Facebook to obtain a number and have their own pumpkin if they wish.

The Parish Council are creating an extra special pumpkin display at the Tithe Barn, and children will be able to collect a sweetie prize for completing the pumpkin trail by visiting the Tithe Barn on Saturday 31st October between 3pm and 7pm.



Search: POLESWORTH PUMPKIN TRAIL on Facebook.

### Spotlight this week is on...

Exciting Early Years

This week has seen our Reception children welcoming some very interesting guests into their classes. On Thursday our Early Years classrooms were filled with teddy bears who had all come for a picnic with the children to finish the end of their learning for this half term.

Throughout the half term both Acorn and Chestnut classes have been learning about Goldilocks and the 3 bears, including using their Talk for Writing actions to help them retell the story and comparing sizes of bears as well as other objects in maths. They have also been learning about friendship, which is so important for everyone, and it was great to see all the children (and bears) getting along so well at the Teddy Bears Picnic as they shared the banana sandwiches together.

Our reception classrooms are always an active and exciting place to visit, and it has been lovely to see how well children have settled into life at Birchwood over their first half term. I can not wait to see what they get up to next half term in their learning.

Happy half term to everyone, stay safe and enjoy the time with your family.

**Mrs Day**  
**Associate**  
**Headteacher**



### Safety Message



***"How do you make sure you keep SUPER SAFE if you are going to a Bonfire Party?"***

We remind children to wear bright clothing to be seen on dark nights, make sure they stay with a grown up or a grown up knows where they are at all times. Never touch fireworks, even if they appear to have already been discharged and be very careful when handling sparklers.



**We wish you an enjoyable and safe bonfire weekend!!**





## Academic Year 2020-2021

### Autumn Term 2020

Half Term (1 week)	Monday 26th October
Professional Development day	Monday 2nd November
Children Return to School	Tuesday 3rd November
Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks)	Friday 18th December

### Spring Term 2021

Professional Development Day	Monday 4th January
Children Return to School	Tuesday 5th January
Half Term	Monday 15th February
Professional Development day	Monday 22nd February
Children Return to School	Tuesday 23rd February
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Thursday 1st April

### Summer Term 2021

Children 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

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 1pm early finish on 18th December & 21st July.  
If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.



### Monkey Maths

Fundamental maths skills for children  
aged 3-6 years



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



## 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

**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.

Our registered charity 2020  
**ZELLWEGER UK.**  
Amount raised so far: £1060.46



## Birchwood Primary School Website



Want to know what is happening in school? Go to **www.birchwoodprimaryschool.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

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



Are you planning on having a clear out of your wardrobe? 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.

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.



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