

Letters home this week: ALL - Protecting Our Children, ALL - Reading Plus

## What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nasal Flu Immunisations				

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

**REMINDER : Please can Yr 4 bring in clean cardboard boxes, kitchen roll tubes and plastic bottles by Monday.**

## Safeguarding Children

At Birchwood we take the safeguarding of our children very seriously. We maintain a 'culture of vigilance' noticing changes in children whether they are significant or small. All schools have Designated Safeguarding Leads whose job it is to act on any reports from staff and decide on appropriate actions. Their training is kept up to date and our safeguarding team meet regularly to discuss the ongoing position.

Our safeguarding team at Birchwood consists of Mrs M. Day – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mrs Webb (Deputy DSL), Mr Coleman (Deputy DSL) and Mrs L. Day (Deputy DSL).

All staff in school regularly receive safeguarding training and know the signs of abuse. They all know the process for reporting their concerns. They follow these regularly because their number one priority and concern are the children in their care.

We are an OPERATION ENCOMPASS school. This means that if there is an incident of domestic abuse or violence where children are present to which the police are called, the school receives a notification. We take no further action other than to keep an extra eye on the child and offer support if they need it.

As part of our curriculum we teach children about their right to feel safe all of the time. Using the 'Protective Behaviours' programme, we give them the language of safety and will talk to them often about their Early Warning Signs and the importance of talking to people on their network. Mrs Day has provided more information about this in our spotlight section. A letter to all parents has also gone out this week to explain the sessions that your children will be undertaking over the course of the next 4 weeks. The important messages covered in these are revisited with children over the course of the year.

We also teach children about the PANTS rule. After half term we will run a section on each of these in our newsletter covering one letter a week. P – Privates are private. A – Always remember your body belongs to you. N – No means no. T – Talk about secrets that upset you. S – Speak up, someone can help. For our DSLs, this makes it much easier to talk to the children about how they are feeling.

It is as important that as parents you know that we are committed to the safeguarding of all the children in our care. **ALL** children deserve to feel safe **ALL** of the time.

**Mr Coleman - Headteacher**



## Protecting Our Children!

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

## Spotlight this week is ...

### Protective Behaviours

Keeping children safe is a key priority for us in school. 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 learning about 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. 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 Day - Associate Headteacher**

## Who's Who this week ...

### **Mrs Fisher**

Hello,

My name is Mrs Fisher and I have been a teaching assistant at Birchwood for 14 years.

My first 2 years were spent in year 1, then I took on the challenge of working in year 6 for many years and now I am currently in year 5. During my time here, I have worked with some amazing teachers and have had the pleasure of teaching many wonderful children.

I really love our historical themes in our curriculum and enjoy reading the books that go alongside each theme.

Outside of school I have many hobbies. My main passions are history and reading, although I do enjoy baking, (apparently I make some really nice cakes!), knitting, watching a really good film, going to the theatre and travelling. I even managed to grow lots of vegetables during our lockdown time, which was great as I did not think that I had "green fingers"!



## Birchwood Best Practice

### **Food Technology Room**

Here at Birchwood, we have an amazing addition to our school. The food technology room has been up and running for a couple of years and is a fabulous asset to the children's learning.



During each term's theme, sessions are allocated to each year group to cook something appropriate, whether it is hot or cold, and either taken home to enjoy with the family or taste tested in school.

There are many important life skills taught during these sessions - hygiene, preparation of food, correct knife handling, use of ovens and hobs and the all important washing up and tidying away!

All the children enjoy their time in the food technology room, even our fussy eaters. Many have tried different food for the first time, along with their friends, and have been surprised at what they now like!

Our food technology room has been used for several base skills sessions and for preparing food for the Christmas fair and the farmers market. As I am sure you will agree, this has been and continues to be a wonderful asset for our school and our children.

**Mrs Fisher**

## **HANDS FACE SPACE!!**



A new science based public information campaign will be launched ahead of winter to highlight how everyone can help to stop the spread of the virus by remembering to wash their hands, cover their face and make space.

The 'Hands. Face. Space' public information campaign urges the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak.

The link for a fantastic video which highlights how the virus spreads, can be found below.

<https://vimeo.com/455704121/01b3eea402>

Schools are being encouraged to support local authorities in promoting the use of face coverings when travelling to and from school. As already highlighted, we have vulnerable children and parents on the school site during arrival and collection times and the use of masks at these times will help to protect these, and in fact everyone, from potential exposure to the virus.

Please, please help us to protect each other!!

## **REMINDER**

If your child has had to have a COVID test can you please contact the school immediately when you receive the result and arrange a return date before bringing your child back to school. Thank you.

## **Illnesses and absences**

### **Procedures if your child is absent from school:**

1. **Telephone** – PLEASE report absences by 8.30am on the day of absence by telephoning the school office leaving a message on the answerphone if necessary, giving the date, your child's class and reason for absence.

A telephone call is required **each** day of your child's absence. If we do not hear from you we need to PROTECT CHILDREN by calling parents to make sure that a child has not left home and then not appeared in school.

2. **Absence Note** – A note should be provided with an explanation for a child's absence including dates of absence and class name, by email (wherever possible) from a parent or guardian and this should be sent into school on the **first day** of your child's return.

Please can you email any absence notes or medical letters/appointment cards into school where possible. Thank you.

## **Year 4 On the Beat!**

I was lucky enough to be invited to hear the year 4 children performing a poem this week as part of their music work on beat and rhythm. I was really impressed that in just a few lessons they had managed to learn to keep the beat so accurately that they could perform the poem in 3 parts at the same time and stay together. Well done year 4, your hard work and listening is really paying off. It is great to see your musical skills improving so quickly.



**Mrs Day**







## Academic Year 2020-2021

### Autumn Term 2020

Flu Immunisation	Monday 12th October
Glow Day	Friday 23rd October
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.

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.

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



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



## School Uniform Reminder

Parents, please help us to maintain our smart school uniform at Birchwood. Children should come to school wearing black school shoes. Not only do these look smarter than trainers, but they are also better for your child's feet. Many school shoes nowadays are made of softer water proof materials that are plain, but look quite trainer looking. These are fine to be worn in school. Please do not buy trainers for your child to wear in school.

If your child is not able to wear school shoes for any reason, please can you let the class teacher know via the 'Me to You'. We understand that sometimes shoes get wet, or it takes time to replace them with a new pair. Thank you for your continued support.



## LUNCH TIME

Please can we ask that children bring their own water bottle to school for in class, and a drink in their lunch box if required. Please can we also ask that if your child has something which requires cutlery in their lunch box, that you ensure they have the cutlery included. Thank you.



### Busy Things

Another great problem solver app for younger children from Busy Things.



## 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

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