

Emails/Letters home this week: Yr1 - Victorian Day, All - Christmas Cards

## What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Yr1-Victorian Day				

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

**REMINDER : The third Home Learning stop off date is Monday 23rd November**

### Catch Up Plan

Children across the country have experienced unprecedented disruption to their education as a result of COVID-19. Across the country the impact of lost time in education will be substantial, and the scale of our response as a school, must match the scale of the challenge.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March the decision was made to close all schools, other than supporting children of key workers. Our approach was to do all we could to limit the impact of time out of school. Birchwood remained open throughout the lockdown period, even providing support for key worker's children during the Easter holidays and summer half term. We were also able to support children with learning at home from day one and made regular wellbeing calls home to all our families to offer our support.

From 1<sup>st</sup> June we were able to open up our school to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 cohorts. We were really pleased with the large uptake of families, who despite their concerns, took the opportunity to send their children back to Birchwood. For the last 4 weeks of the term we were also able to offer each of our children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 the chance to spend a week back in school with their friends and teaching staff, before the start of the summer holidays.

Despite all the efforts of staff at Birchwood and the fantastic support that our parents provided their children with home learning, we know that children will have missed out on their full educational entitlement last academic year. To support schools with their catch up plans the government announced a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all children make up for lost teaching time.

At the heart of our catch up plan is the professional knowledge and expertise of our teaching staff in school. We were determined to return to normal educational routines as quickly as possible in September. Although we are currently working under Covid 19 restrictions which hinder some areas of Teaching and Learning, we know that quality first teaching has the biggest impact on our children's progress and attainment.

From September we increased our teaching assistant provision across school, particularly in Reception and Year 1, to support children's early development. We have altered timetables and increased provision and time for the teaching of phonics, reading and key maths skills this term. We have started booster groups in the morning to support our Year 6 children in preparation for their SATs and we have this week begun our after school tuition programmes for identified children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. We have also purchased several learning resources including 'Reading Plus' and 'Pen Pals Handwriting' to enhance and support our curriculum offer.

Our aim is to support all of our children to 'catch up' on any learning missed. We approach 'catch up' as a long term strategy of intervention which will be reviewed and monitored regularly over the next few years. Unfortunately, there are no 'quick fixes' when it comes to education. We will continue to focus on what we do best and use any additional funding to offer more quality first teaching.

**Mr Coleman - Headteacher**



### Sharing Home Learning in School!

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

### Spotlight this week is on...

#### Different Ways of Communicating With Parents



In these changing times, we are constantly looking for ways we can improve communication with our parents to make it more efficient. As part of this we are now starting to share many of our letters with parents via email instead of in a paper format.

There are many benefits to emailing out letters, it allows us to get letters to you quickly, so we can share information promptly and by having an electronic copy it is also better for the environment as we do not use paper or printing resources in sending out paper versions. At the moment it also helps us to minimise the number of items moving between home and school.

We would ask all parents to make sure they check their emails regularly to make sure they do not miss out on any letters. We will also now be emailing families a copy of our Birchwood Bugle as well as sending a copy home. This is always available on our website as well. If you need to contact school, remember that the [birchwoodparents@welearn365.com](mailto:birchwoodparents@welearn365.com) email is your dedicated address to contact us with any queries or updates.

**Mrs Day**

**Associate Headteacher**

## Who's Who this week ...

### **Miss Mould**

Hello everyone, my name is Miss Mould and I have been at Birchwood for seven years now - the time has just flown by while I have been teaching here. So far, I have had wonderful experiences teaching in year 2, 5 and 6 and am now teaching year 4. I have also enjoyed being Birchwood's English leader for many of these years as well.



Outside of school, I really enjoy reading, going to the gym (sometimes!), exploring new places to visit in my local area, and most importantly travelling to new places on holiday whenever I possibly can. I usually like to make the most of the summer holiday by travelling around different countries - my most recent trips have been travelling around America and Italy.

Over the past couple of years at home, I have been keeping busy renovating my house and garden - this has been very time consuming but a really great project, although I must say that I can not take too much credit for the manual labour myself!

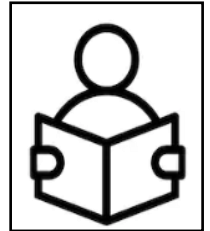
## Birchwood Best Practice

### **English - Reading and Writing**

At Birchwood, we see reading as the gateway to accessing all areas of the wider curriculum, and we value the skill of language as essential to children's future participation and success within society. We have placed books at the heart of our own school curriculum and we are extremely lucky to have wonderfully supportive parents who understand the importance of reading regularly and reading for pleasure - this is something which collectively we work towards in order to facilitate confident, fluent readers who have developed a love of reading alongside a wide, rich vocabulary.

With books at the heart of our curriculum at Birchwood, we ensure that our children experience a wide variety of high quality fiction and non-fiction texts - this immerses them in a high quality education which also supports their ability to write fluently. We teach children how to write for a variety of audiences and purposes, in a range of different forms, carefully adapting and building on their knowledge and skills, and enabling them to participate fully in the next stage in their education.

**Miss Mould**



## **PANTS**

**NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.**

**This week is 'N'**

**No means no**

Make sure your child understands that they have the right to say "no" to unwanted touch - even to a family member or someone they know or love.

This shows that they are in control of their body and their feelings should be respected. If a child feels confident to say no to their own family, they are more likely to say no to others.

**Next week 'T'**



## **Myths and Legends....**

*'It doesn't matter if my child is late for school'*

Not what the children would say! They absolutely hate being late. They arrive after all their friends are already sat down in school and enter a classroom of 30 others looking at them.

We now have a 10 minute window for children to arrive:

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 – 8.30am-8.40am

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 – 8.40am- 8.50am

At the start of the day teachers take registers, explain to the children what they will be doing for the day and all sorts of other important instructions about what will be happening around school.

**PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD TO ARRIVE ON TIME.** Thank you

## **Self Isolation Guidance**

**What does self isolation mean?**

If you believe you have been exposed to Coronavirus, national guidance dictate that you must self isolate to prevent onward transmission to others.

**If you are self isolating, you must not leave your home:**

- \* Do not go to work, school or public places - work from home if you can.
- \* Do not go on public transport or use taxi's.
- \* Do not go out to get food or medicine - order online or by phone, or ask someone to bring it to your home.
- \* Do not have visitors in your home, including family and friends, except for people providing essential care.

If anyone does develop symptoms, which includes a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss or change to your sense of taste or smell, the family should self isolate straight away and book a test.



Could we please ask you to keep school updated and inform us of any test results as soon as possible. Thank you.

## **Recycling**

At Birchwood we are still taking part in the Big Battery Hunt initiative, run by Duracell. We are collecting old batteries and sending them for recycling. This helps to reduce the amount of batteries ending up in landfill sites.





## My School Fund

### Join the My School Fund initiative to help boost our budget

We are pleased to announce that **Birchwood Primary** is part the My School Fund initiative. This innovative scheme allows for us to be able to boost our school's budget with your help.

#### How does it work?

Parents, guardians and carers can sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback on the things they buy in participating retail stores, including Sainsbury's and Argos. As you spend you will receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school on the My School Fund website we will also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Add that all up across our school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

#### How to get involved

Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) to register for free and link Birchwood Primary School. From there, everything you spend in participating stores will go towards helping boost our budget, plus your own!

Sign up today at

**[myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org)**



gg70361781 www.gograph.com

#### How does it work?

My School Fund links your spend to your chosen school, meaning every time you make a purchase at participating retailers you both benefit through an innovative cashback scheme.

#### What's in it for me and my child's school?

Both you and your child's school will receive eGift Cards to spend in participating retailers based on a percentage of your overall spend.



£ Add that all up across the school's network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) and register for free today!

#### Getting started



**Step 1**  
Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) to register for free



**Step 2**  
Link to your child's school



**Step 3**  
Spend at participating retailers



**Step 4**  
Start receiving your eGift Cards!



## Feel Good Friday for Children in Need



## Academic Year 2020-2021

### Autumn Term 2020

Year 1 Victorian Day Monday 23rd 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.



**Squeebles  
Times Tables**

Perfect fun times table practise for  
5-11 year olds



Our registered charity 2020

**ZELLWEGER UK.**

**Amount raised so far: £1479.92**



### 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. It is important to ensure that driveways and pavements are not obstructed as this can prove dangerous for other road users, pedestrians and can be frustrating for our neighbours. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

### Free School Meals

Unfortunately some of our children are having to endure periods of 14 day isolation due to cases of Covid. Birchwood is happy to be able to provide food hampers for children who are entitled to Free School Meals. These hampers contain food to cover the lunches for the child/children, for the total period of their isolation. These parcels will also include learning resources which are available for all children if they have to isolate.



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



## CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

**FUN CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES HELD IN  
POLESWORTH**

### Little Dancers from age 2 ½

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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