

**Reminders:** Our newsletter is always uploaded to the front page of our website: [www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com](http://www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com)

## What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Violin & Keyboard Lessons 3.05 pm Embody Dance Playtastic Orchestra	Drum & Guitar Lessons 3.05 pm Multi Skills Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Y4-6	Woodwind Lessons Extra Guitar Lessons 3.05 pm Elite Football Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Y1-3	TBPS Non-uniform Day 3.05 pm Football Club Y4-6 3.05 pm Young Engineers Club Y3-6	Cello Lessons 3.05 pm Top Score Multi Sports Y 4-6 3.05 pm Musical Theatre

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

**Letters sent home this week— TBPS Raffle Tickets, Y1 Coventry Cathedral Trip, Y2 Wild Encounters, All House Competition**

## Birchwood Local Governing Body

I am very proud of the excellent Governing Body we have supporting us at Birchwood. Our School Governors make a valuable contribution to our children's education, opportunities and futures.

It is important that our Local Governing Body have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective. Birchwood's Local Governing Body benefits from a range of professional knowledge including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations and organisational change.

Our Local Governing Body provides strategic leadership and accountability to our school. Its key functions are to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure that our money is well spent. They also hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of our school and our pupils and they ensure that there is a clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. Our Governors set the aims and objectives for the school and set the policies and targets for achieving these. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher.

Our Governors are all very committed to their role and to the children and staff of Birchwood. I am always amazed at the level of dedication, time and effort that our Governors give, in what is a voluntary and unpaid role. As well as attending meetings, our Governors complete a lot of background reading about the school and pay many visits during the school year. Our Governors state that some of the reasons they have taken on their roles are because they want to help Birchwood achieve its aims, invest in the learning and development of our children, to encourage and support the staff, to get involved in the community and to develop some of their own skills.

Currently we are looking to recruit a Parent Governor to our Local Governing Body. We are looking for someone who has 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. If you are interested or know someone who is, you will find more information on the advert inside our newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Governors, past and present, for the wonderful work they do and for the support they have given to myself and Birchwood.

**Neil Coleman—Headteacher**



## Governors take every opportunity to support learning outcomes for our children

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

## Spotlight on Excellence Our focus this week is: Digital Leaders and Online Safety



Today more than ever, children have access to the digital world and while this brings great benefits in enabling them to communicate, find out and share information; it is also a place where children need to be aware of how to keep themselves safe and what to do if something worries them online. It is important that both parents and children are aware of what to do in these situations.

At Birchwood we continually look to develop our children's understanding of online safety. This week we welcomed Mr Bailey from Animate 2 Educate into school to work with parents to develop their understanding of how to help keep themselves and their children safe online.

Mr Bailey also worked with the digital leaders in school, teaching them how to use the 'Microbit' to create their own programs. Following this, they then presented an assembly to Key Stage 2, demonstrating how to use the Microbit to create both flashing badges and their own Fitbits.

Our digital leaders will now be supporting their peers with learning about the Microbits in their classes. We look forward to seeing what the children create in their codes in the future.

**Mrs M Day –Associate Headteacher**

# Dive

## into your school lunchbox

### Make yourself a balanced tasty lunch

#### Sauces and spreads

Why not try adding these to your sandwiches?

Low fat mayonnaise or salad cream

Mashed avocado

Tomato sauce or horseradish

Mustard, pickles or chutney

Yeast or beef extract

Pesto



#### Out of Uniform Days

The School Council have arranged the following non-uniform days during December and have written a piece for our newsletter to tell you all about them.

##### Christmas Jumper Day

On 7th December, children are invited to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper, instead of their school jumper. There is no need to go out and buy one, Christmas coloured jumpers will be fine too (red, green or white).



##### Sparkle Day

On 14th December, we are proud to say that we are holding a sponsorship day to raise funds for our registered charity the NSPCC. The charity have suggested a 'Sparkle Day', where pupils may wear sparkly items. Don't worry if you don't have anything sparkly to wear, because tinsel around your hair or wrist are just fine too.

**Both of the above fundraisers are for a small donation.**

#### School Crossing Patrol Vacancy



A vacancy has arisen for a School Crossing Patrol Operative outside of Birchwood School. Times are to be confirmed, but the position will require morning and afternoon cover, at the busiest times of the school day. Usually shifts are around 30 minutes each. The position is for Monday to Friday term time only (38 weeks per year spread across 12 monthly payments.) Pay for this position is £8.61 per hour plus holiday enhancements. A uniform and full training will be provided.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact the School Crossing Patrol Service for more details, on 01926 412661 or email [scp@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:scp@warwickshire.gov.uk).

Application packs can be downloaded at <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolcrossingpatrols>



#### Academic Year 2018-2019

##### Autumn Term 2018

Year 5 Class Assemblies	Thursday 29th November
Non Uniform Day TBPS	Thursday 29th November
Phonics Meeting – EYFS Parents	Thursday 29th November
KS2 Trip - Pantomime	Friday 30th November
Open Morning for Sept Intake	Monday 3rd December
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 3rd to Friday 7th December
Year 1 Trip - Coventry Cathedral	Weds 5th December
<b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>	<b>Friday 7th December</b>
TBPS Christmas Fair	Friday 7th December
<b>Sparkle Day</b>	<b>Friday 14th December</b>
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Monday 17th December
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Tuesday 18th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Weds 19th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Thursday 20th December
Term Ends for Christmas (Early)	Friday 21st December

##### Spring Term 2019

Professional Development Day	Monday 7th January
<b>Reception Trip - Snowdome</b>	<b>Thursday 10th January</b>
Year 6 & R Heights & Weights	Tuesday 15th January
Young Voices - Genting Arena	Friday 25th January
Year 4 Class Assemblies	Thursday 31st January
Grandparents Lunch	Friday 15th February
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 18th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 25th February
Children return to school	Tuesday 26th February
Late Parents Evening	Weds 6th March
Early Parents Evening	Thursday 7th March
Year 3 Class Assemblies	Thursday 21st March
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 12th April

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 1 pm early finish on 21st December and 19th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

#### TBPS News



Thank you so much for all of your donations so far. Your generosity is very much appreciated and will really help us to host a fabulous Christmas Fair.

We have loved the jingle jars that have been coming in this week. If you have not already had chance to make yours yet, don't worry, we are still happy for you to bring them in next week too. We will be announcing the competition winners in assembly the week of the fair.

This week we are asking for donations of boxes of Christmas Crackers! I am sure you will enjoy the new game we will be playing with them on the night itself. We do need full sized crackers please, mini ones do not work I am afraid. As I mentioned, your generosity has been staggering but we really do need more chocolate so that we can play the much loved chocolate tombola. Please send in any chocolate donations you can.

Raffle tickets have been sent home this week, please return your counterfoils, payment and any unused tickets to school by Thursday 6th December. Extra books will be available during Santa Grotto ticket sales or you can email us at [tbps2619@welearn365.com](mailto:tbps2619@welearn365.com)

If you are able to help with any preparations for the fair, please do get in touch, we value any extra pairs of hands.



# Y4 Visit to Tamworth Castle

During our visit the children received lessons from the Lady, steward and servants of Tamworth Castle, to help them better understand the different roles within Tudor society. They prepared the lady's banqueting hall as servants, drilled as knights and got dressed as nobles. The children also explored the castle, hunting for further clues about what life was like in Tudor times.



## Parent Governor Vacancy



We are looking to recruit a Parent Governor to our Local Governing Body for Birchwood Primary School.

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.

The role of the governing body is a strategic one and its key functions are:

- to contribute to and fulfil the vision and ethos of the Community Academies Trust in so far as it relates to the school
- implement and review the strategic plan for the school
- to support and challenge the school's leadership as a critical friend
- to scrutinise and oversee the management of the schools finances
- to support the Headteacher in the development and review of an appropriate staffing structure for the school
- to develop links with the school's community
- to ensure that pupils and parents have a voice in the running and improvement of the school

If you are aged 18 or over and are able to commit around 10 to 15 hours per term to the role, we would love to hear from you. You would need to be a parent of a child 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 childrens' lives, please contact us for further information.

The closing date for current applications is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 9:30am. Application forms are available from the school office or by contacting Mrs Spies.

For an application form and further information please contact:

Mrs Hayley Spies, Clerk to the Governors

c/o Birchwood Primary School, Birchwood Avenue, Dordon, Tamworth, B78 1QU

Telephone: 01827 892913, [spies.h@welearn365.com](mailto:spies.h@welearn365.com)

## 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.

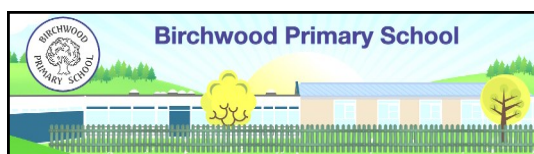


## Being Late for school

**'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. 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.

Apart from this, being late is NOT an authorised absence. Persistent lateness will often result in contact from Education Social Workers who inspect our registers and will prosecute for persistent cases.



### Birchwood Primary School Website

Want to know what's happening in school? Go to [www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com](http://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.

## Cameo Dance est. 2003

### Fun Children's Dance Classes held in Polesworth

**Little Dancers 2 ½ - 6yrs 4:30pm - 5:30pm**

Friday evenings in The Tithe Barn, Polesworth

**Tuesday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth**

**Juniors 6 ½ - 10yrs 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

Friday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

**NEW Juniors 6 ½ - 8yrs 5:15pm - 7:15pm**

(From 6th Feb 2018)

Tuesday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

[www.cameodance.co.uk](http://www.cameodance.co.uk) \* Call 07443421867

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo

First Trial Class FREE! Classes include many different dance styles!

## Online Safety: Weekly Tip!

"Explore with your child how they can report to their favourite site/app. It can be reassuring for both of you, and it's an opportunity to reiterate to your child that they can come to you if something online has made them feel worried or upset."

Marie Smith, Head of Education, CEOP, the child protection branch of the National Crime Agency.



## Children in Need



Last week we raised £182.71. A massive thank you on behalf of Children in Need.



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## App of the week

### Comic Life

Turn your images into a comic to create projects, flyers or story boards.

**NSPCC  
fundraising  
so far this  
year is  
£182.71**

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.

[www.ocado.jobs](http://www.ocado.jobs)

