

Letters home this week: ALL - Coronavirus Update, Long distance Learning, Work Packs, Key Workers

What's on in school next week.

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 :Regular hand washing is vital to help stop the spread of harmful germs.

Our Birchwood Community

My apologies, the last thing you probably want is to read anything else related to the coronavirus, but my intention is to try and take some positives from the current situation we are in. It is during difficult times like this that I am even more thankful for the excellent relationship Birchwood Primary School has with our local community. On a daily basis we have received thanks from parents and family members for our approach to communication and our plans to support children's learning. We are in an unprecedented situation and are often having to be very reactive to the ever changing situation. These kind messages of support and thanks mean a lot to staff and myself.

We have also been overwhelmed by the offers of support from stakeholders in our community. We have had offers to come in and support our admin team with photocopying and putting together learning packs to go home to children, offers to support our library so that children can take home new books and we have also been given donations of soap to ensure that we have plenty in school so that children, staff and visitors can continue to wash their hands regularly. It is lovely to see our community pulling together like this and we are very grateful for all your support. In the difficult times ahead, it is nice to think that the more vulnerable citizens in our community will also receive the help and care that they may need. Thank you.

We know how important schools are to our families. Birchwood does not just provide an education for the children in our area, but they are also an essential provider of child care, supporting parents to be able to go out to work. We now have no choice but to close the school to most of our children from today, but we will continue to support families as much as we can. We will be open to children of 'critical workers' and those with certain needs. For all other children we will be providing learning from a distance via the school website and other learning resources.

Our number one priority in school was to continue to provide a safe and purposeful learning environment for all our children and staff and aim to minimise any (cont)



Community Support!

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

Continued.....

disruption this could have on children's learning. Although the closure of schools will obviously bring a level of disruption, we have been very busy ensuring that our children have access to learning opportunities at home and that our teachers are able to direct learning and track children's progress. We have already had lots of positive reports from children in school that they are really enjoying some of the new resources available to them.

Finally, our staff at Birchwood over the last couple of weeks have demonstrated yet again what a fantastic team we are. We have had to make a number of adjustments to our school's normal provision and I could not be prouder of how staff have pulled together to support each other and myself. I often talk about our staff going above and beyond for the children in our school and again it is very clear that our children really do come first and that we are all determined to do the best for them.

A massive thank you to all. Stay safe, be kind and continue to follow our one school rule 'Consideration and Respect'.

Mr Coleman

Spotlight on Excellence this week is ...

Our supportive parents



At Birchwood we value immensely the fantastic support our children receive from both parents and their wider families. In these uncertain times, this partnership is more important than ever to minimise disruption to children's learning but also to minimize any anxiety they may be feeling.

Conversation is key to ensure that children understand that although there may be changes, many things remain the same. A nice resource to help the conversation if you want to explain specifically about COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/coronavirus-story-for-children/>

This is a great opportunity however for spending time together, playing board games, sharing a story or cooking together are all really fantastic fun as well as being chances to reinforce and learn key skills in a whole range of subjects. If schools do close, children could use this as a chance to undertake a project on something that really interests them that they have not had the chance to learn about yet, maybe a country from around the world or an animal they want to research, or an invention they have been desperate to make.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher

Hand Washing.

Good hand washing hygiene is essential in school to help stop nasty bugs spreading amongst the pupils and staff.

Washing your hands properly should take about as long as singing "Happy Birthday" twice (around 20 seconds). Use the following steps from the World Health Organization while you hum:

1. Wet your hands with water (warm or cold).
2. Apply enough soap to cover all over your hands. You can use alcohol-based handrub if you do not have immediate access to soap and water.
3. Rub hands palm to palm.
4. Rub the back of your left hand with your right palm with interlaced fingers. Repeat with the other hand.
5. Rub your palms together with fingers interlaced.
6. Rub the backs of your fingers against your palms with fingers interlocked.
7. Clasp your left thumb with your right hand and rub in rotation. Repeat with your left hand and right thumb.
8. Rub the tips of your fingers in the other palm in a circular motion, going backwards and forwards. Repeat with the other hand.
9. Rinse hands with water (warm or cold).
10. Dry thoroughly, ideally with a disposable towel.
11. Use the disposable towel to turn off the tap.



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.



CHILDREN
& FAMILY
SUPPORT



CHILDREN
& FAMILY
CENTRE

Important information regarding the Family Support Drop-in sessions:

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) we have taken the decision to cancel the Family Support drop-in service delivered by the Early Help and Targeted Support team until further notice.

Support will continue to be available through the Family Support duty phone line on 01926 412412 (Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm)

Information and advice can also be found on the Children and Families pages of the Warwickshire website: / www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies

For families, children and young people 0-19 years old, or 0-25 years with additional needs living in Warwickshire



Warwickshire
County Council



Important Information

Absence during term time

The Government brought in new guidance tightening taking time off in term-time.

Headteachers are no longer permitted to authorise absence for holidays taken during term time. They are permitted to grant leave only in exceptional circumstances.

If you think you have exceptional circumstances please talk to us without delay and before arrangements are entered into or money committed.

If exceptional circumstances are accepted the Headteacher will determine how much absence will be authorised.

We understand that holidays are generally less expensive during term time but this does NOT count as an exceptional circumstance.

Parents please note:

Leave which is taken for the following reasons **will not** be authorised:

- Availability of cheaper holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Poor weather experienced in school holidays
- Overlap with beginning or end of term

PARENTS EVENING

As always, our parents evenings had wonderful support from our parents and grown ups.

We wanted to share some of their lovely comments from their feedback.

Thank you for all you do for my son, you are an amazing school and amazing teachers.

My daughter is enjoying her learning at the moment and likes all the support she is getting towards her SATS. Thank you.

Thank you for making it such a smooth transition between class teachers. My son continues to love everyday at school.

We are very happy with our daughter's report and could not ask for more than you are doing already. She is always eager to come to school.

We are so pleased with our son's progress, his confidence has grown and he absolutely loves coming to school. Thank you.

I am extremely proud of my son and how far he has come. He's doing brilliantly and I can not thank his teachers enough for the effort they have put in with him. Thank you!

Very pleased, my daughter continues to do well and enjoy school.

A big thank you to all at the school who have helped my daughter to become the young lady she is today.

We are really happy with our daughter's progress and really appreciate the positive comments on parents evening.

We would like to say what an amazing school and teachers both our boy's have. Thank you for all you do.

My son has settled into his class extremely well. He enjoys attending school and sharing his experience and what he has been learning. He speaks highly of his teachers, how friendly and helpful they are.

A massive thank you for another great year.



ABSENCES—Important Reminder

Could we please remind you that if your child has been absent from school, a note is required when they return. Please include the following information:

- explain the reason for the absence.
- give the dates of absence.
- sign the note.
- provide medical evidence if applicable.



We require this note, even when you have phoned in. Once the note is received we are able to authorise the absence on our school system. Failure to supply a note may result in an unauthorised absence being recorded on your child's school record.



ALL BOOKS HALF PRICE

Our Spring book fair due to start on Tuesday 31st March is now cancelled.

We are hoping to reschedule this for after the Easter holidays.

Parking

Please may we remind parents/carers that parking is not permitted in the school's 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.

Thank you for your support and co-operation.



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

jobcentreplus

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

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.



**Our registered charity 2020
ZELLWEGER UK.
Amount raised so far: £862.51**

Academic Year 2019-2020

School Closes Until Further Notice

Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)

Friday 20th March

Friday 3rd April

Summer Term 2020

May Bank Holiday

Half Term (1 week)

Manor Adventure

Professional Development Day

Warwickshire Moving Up Day

Term Ends for Summer

Children planned return to school

If term time is back to normal

Friday 8th May

Monday 25th May

Fri 5th June–Mon 8th June

Friday 19th June

Wednesday 8th July

Friday 17th July

Wednesday 2nd Sept

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 Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

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



You can follow us on Twitter at:

**@BirchwoodPrim or
The Birchwood Website**



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LONG ST.
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