

Emails/Letters home this week: KS2 - Reading Plus Comprehension, Y6 - Health Assessment, ALL - Arrival and Collection, Final Week Arrangements

What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
R, Y1, Y2 - Puppet Show, Home Learning Stop Off.		Y6 - WW2 Visitor	Christmas Lunch	None school uniform and Christmas Jumper. Early finish.

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

REMINDER : Your next Home Learning stop off date in Monday 14th December.

Musical Opportunities at Birchwood

In the last couple of years, we have made huge strides in the music provision we are able to offer in school and I can now confidently say that music is a strength of our school curriculum, but it has not always been this way.

To be able to offer the quality of the curriculum we wanted to, it was important that we reviewed our staffing and subject specialism across school. Ensuring we had the expertise to lead and support the delivery of **ALL** subjects, would improve the quality of education for our children.

Music was an area we identified for improvement in school. We were offering lots of additional music experiences such as our choir, Playtastic Orchestra and peripatetic music instrument lessons, but the quality of our general music curriculum and lessons in school was not good enough.

As Primary school teachers, we are responsible for the delivery of all subjects within the framework of the national curriculum, with particular emphasis on the core subjects of literacy, numeracy and science. It is often said that Primary School teachers are 'Jack of all trades and master of none'. I look at this as a really positive way to describe the staff at Birchwood and the approach that we take to the curriculum we are able to offer. Our staff are great at many skills, have really good and broad subject knowledge and are always keen to expand their skill set and knowledge of all subjects and topics we cover.

But, as with music, having specialists in school really does support our curriculum offer. In the last few years we have secured other specialists to work at Birchwood to support P.E, games and dance and this has been very successful. Last year we approached Miss Slater, a teacher from Warwick County Music, to not only support additional music provision in school, but to lead our music curriculum lessons across all year groups.

We are reaching the end of our first term of the delivery of our new music curriculum and we are very pleased with how it has gone. Miss Slater will be working with each year group for two half terms each academic year, delivering a curriculum which progressively builds on the knowledge and skills children learn. As well as children enjoying their music learning, our teachers are also improving their own music subject knowledge.

We are fortunate to have a staff team with a fantastic wide range of skills and interests. With the continued support of subject specialists across school, we aim to deliver a full, exciting and comprehensive curriculum to all our children at Birchwood.

Mr Coleman - Headteacher



MUSIC MAESTRO!

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

Spotlight this week is on...



Keeping Everyone Safe at Collection Times

We are a large and busy school and with 442 children to get into and out of school every day we need everyone to play their part to make sure we all stay safe at these, our busiest times of the day.

We ask that, wherever possible, only one adult drops off and collects children from school, to minimise any congestion around our one way system. We encourage you to wear a face covering when on site and we also ask that, when on site, you maintain a 2m social distance at all times. This includes any time you have to wait for your child by their classroom doors.

If you do have to bring younger siblings, or indeed when you have collected them from pre school or classes lower down the school, please make sure they walk alongside you and stay close to you if you have to wait for a short while for any brothers or sisters. We do encourage you to collect at your latest collection window to avoid waiting, and are happy to keep younger children for longer to avoid you having to wait.

We want to make sure everyone is safe at Birchwood, please help us to do this by making sure that you and your family maintain social distance and stay in your family group at all times whilst on our site. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher

Who's Who this week ...

Mrs Atkins

Hi, I am Mrs Atkins and I am a Year 3 teacher, I have been at Birchwood since 2008 so have worked with many children in Key Stage two over that time. It is lovely to see people I have taught in the past on the playground bringing younger brothers and sisters to school.



In school, I also share the responsibility of PE subject leader with Mrs Brelsford. I enjoy taking teams from Birchwood to compete in different sporting events and my real passion is cross country. Any teams I take to represent the school are always a real credit to Birchwood.

At home, I have two children to keep me busy (Ethan who is 7 and Poppy who is 3). When I am not playing taxi for Ethan to football, cricket and swimming I enjoy spending time in my garden and meeting up with my friends and family.

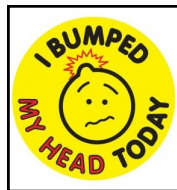
Being a farmer's daughter, I enjoy spending time in the countryside either visiting my dad to take my children to have a go on the combine harvester or helping my sister out on her farm of animals.

My dream is to one day own a Ford Mustang sports car, I have a driving experience in one soon, so that is a step closer to my goal!

Waiting for Children at the End of the School Day

We are aware that some parents have more than one child to collect from school and that this sometimes involves waiting outside for a little while.

We have seen an increase over the past week of younger siblings running around and playing whilst waiting. Of course, we do not want to stop the children having fun, but we do have a concern with regards to injuries.



We often have windows open for ventilation and little heads are in line with the bottoms of open windows, particularly around the area at the back of the school office. Only this week we witnessed a little one who ran directly into the air conditioning unit cage on the wall. Thankfully without injury on this occasion!

Please could we ask parents to supervise children and not let them run around. Thank you.

Early Finish Times

Children will be finishing early on Friday 18th December.

- For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, the collection window will be 12.50pm-1.00pm. The gates will not be open until 12.50pm.
- For children in Years 3-6, the collection window will be 1.00pm-1.10pm

Birchwood Best Practice

Sporting Competitions

As a school, Birchwood takes part in a number of sporting competitions over the year.

In the Autumn term we get involved in Year 5/6 cross country which we have done very well at including Birchwood children representing North Warwickshire in the Warwickshire Championships. Year 3/4 then compete in cross country in the Spring term.

Football is another sport that we get fully involved in with a number of competitions throughout the year and we have been known to bring back a trophy or two.

In the Summer, we take 40 Key Stage two children to compete in the North Warwickshire Athletics Competition, a great event where the children show excellent team spirit.

Other sporting competitions that we get involved in are: quad kids, Swimming gala, rounders, netball, dodgeball, sports hall athletics and infant agility.

At the end of the school year, we have an inter sporting competition in the form of our Key Stage Two sports day where children are in their house teams and compete for the sports day trophy.

We are always very proud of how well our children represent Birchwood, well done! - Mrs Atkins



Covid Related Absences

Procedures if your child is absent from school due to anything Covid related:

If your child is absent due to a Covid related situation, please phone the school between 8.00am and 4.30pm. Also email the dedicated parent email address birchwoodparents@welearn365.com as soon as possible, at any time, so the appropriate measures can be put in place.

Someone from the school office will call you back, in either instance, to obtain more details surrounding the Covid case and we will then provide you with details of home learning, if the child is well enough to do it. We will also confirm your child's return date.

If you receive a negative test result, either for your child or another contact, please email the above email address to confirm the negative result, before sending your child into school.

An absence 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. This keeps the school records accurate and up to date.

PLEASE NOTE: We ask that parents still inform school of any results of Covid tests over the Christmas Holiday period via email. The school can then determine if this affects any classes or staff, and can confirm when your child can return to school.

FESTIVE PERFORMANCES AT BIRCHWOOD



WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL WELFARE SCHEME

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme continues to support children and families who rely on free school meals.

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme has already provided over £450,000 of support to families through the Covid period, and will continue to support our most vulnerable residents.

It is through this Scheme that children who rely on free school meals will continue to receive financial support through the school holidays. It is recognised within the scheme that some families who are struggling financially, and are eligible for free school meals, have difficulty covering the period when their children are at home during the school holidays. This scheme will help those most in need by supporting eligible families with the cost of food for their children over the school holiday periods.

It will benefit those children eligible for free school meals as well as their younger non-school age siblings aged 2 or above. This support will be available over the school holidays. The only eligibility criterion for this offer is that parents are registered for free school meals.

Families wanting to apply for support through the Scheme should call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.

MY SCHOOL FUND

Birchwood Primary join the My School Fund initiative to help boost our budget!

We're pleased to announce that Birchwood Primary is part of 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 to register for free and link to 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



Academic Year 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

R, Y1, Y2 Puppet Show Monday 14th December
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 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.



Thinkrolls 2

An enlightening logic puzzler for children aged 3-9 years.



Our registered charity 2020
ZELLWEGER UK.
Amount raised so far: £1479.92



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



Registering for School

We are fast approaching the deadline when parents must apply for Primary school. The deadline for **Primary school applications** for reception places is **15th January 2021**.

It is essential that this deadline is met or your child may be at risk of losing a place at your referred school.

Warwickshire residents can make an on-line application for Primary places at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions. You can also apply by calling 01926 414143.



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

jobcentreplus

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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

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