

Letters home this week: ALL - Children Choice Meal, Y2 - Authors

## What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y1 - Outdoor Collage Art Y2 - Running Club Y3 - Dodgeball Y4 - Embroidery Dance Y5 - Cooking	R - Aston Villa Y3 - Rounders Y6 - Art/Drawing	Y2 Pirate Day Y5 - Top Score	Childrens Choice Meal R - Forest School Y2 - Retro Playground Games Y3 - Gardening Y4 - Drama Y6 - Top Score	Y4 - Top Score Y6 - Ukelele

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

**REMINDER : Please ensure your child has what they need in school each day to avoid unnecessary school visit.**

## Holidays during Term Time

The word 'holiday' for many of us must seem like a distant memory. One of the things I know that a lot of people are looking forward to doing, when restrictions allow, is spending some quality time with friends and family, and I know holidays are an important part of this. For us in school, one advantage of people not being able to go on holiday, is that for over a year we have not received a single request for leave of absence during school time. As restrictions across the country lift, I thought that this would be a timely reminder to share our school policy on holidays during term time.

Being in school every day is key to children making good progress. Children who have excellent attendance records get the maximum opportunity to take part in all the wonderful learning experiences we provide for them. They benefit from receiving a full curriculum entitlement, building their knowledge across all subjects and refining their skills in a wider context. Over the past 15 months, our children have missed out on far too much time in school and I am really keen to make sure that they make the most of each day they are able to attend.

**Birchwood do NOT support holidays being taken in term time.** As a school we want the best for all our children, if our children are not in school, then we can not teach them. Missing time in school is disruptive for children and staff. Our children experience individualised programmes of work each and every day, making it very difficult to reteach work missed, which has a significant impact on children's progress. It is a myth that 'my child will catch up' and/or 'it does not matter in primary schools'.

The Headteacher may only grant leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances where leave may be granted during term time are as follows:

- If a parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence of this would need to be provided by the G.P or consultant.
- The death or terminal illness of a close relative and the circumstances are exceptional.



**Run when you can, walk if you have to, crawl if you must; just never give up!**

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

- Out of school programmes such as music, the arts or sport, operating at a high standard of achievement. Documentary evidence of this event will be required.
- Religious observance – The Education Act 1996 S444(3) © states 'on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parent belongs'.
- To attend a wedding or funeral of a close relative if the Headteacher is satisfied that the circumstances are truly exceptional.

## Examples of circumstances NOT considered as exceptional

- Holidays taken in term time due to previously cancelled dates.
- Holidays taken in term time due to lower cost/parental work commitments.
- Holidays abroad for the purpose of visiting a sick relative.
- Holidays booked by other family members or friends during term time.

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success - both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades and develop healthy life habits. Please help us help your child by not taking holidays during term time. - **Mr Coleman - Headteacher**

## **Birchwood Best Practice**

### **Knowing your children**

At Birchwood we get to know your children before September begins!

We hold school visits to children joining us in Reception, enabling us and the children to meet and put names to faces! We read their individual records, talk to their previous teachers to learn all about your child; their personality, friendship groups, academic strengths and weaknesses, learning styles, individual needs and their social and emotional wellbeing. This means that we are able to fully support children from the moment that they enter school.

We also prepare for the year with "getting to know you" activities, which the children then share with the class.

All of these help us to forge strong and positive child - teacher/teaching assistant relationships, which we continue to build on throughout the year.

We also have an induction process for children who join us during the year. At the end of the first week we contact parents to check that their child is happy and settling in, and to answer any questions or concerns that they may have. This helps to reassure parents and to form positive relationships with them. Children are given a 'shadow'; another child to help them settle in for the first few weeks, along with an induction programme to introduce them to Birchwood!

- Mrs Short



## **Who's Who this week ...**

Hello everyone! I am Mrs Short, I am a teaching assistant and have been part of our Birchwood family for many years. I have really enjoyed working in Year 2 for the past few years. This year I am excited to be joining Year 1 again! I love teaching phonics, so I am very much looking forward to supporting the children with this in Year 1.



When I am not in school I enjoy spending time with my two daughters and close family. We like to be active and meet up to enjoy walks, outings and play games together. I also have a thirst for learning and like to learn new things. At the moment my dad is teaching me how to wood turn!

At Birchwood our learning is always rich, stimulating and accessible. I am proud that our children have the opportunity to enjoy new experiences and learn new skills in our Base Skills groups. We also learn new skills from the children too!

### **Punctuality**



Being on time is vital. At the start of the day, not only do we take registers but give out vital instructions for the school day. Children tell us that they really hate being late for school because

'Everyone looks at you' and 'You don't know what you are meant to be doing'.

Please help your child to be a HERO

'Here Everyday. Ready. On time'

**ATTENDANCE HERO**



### **Spotlight this week is ...**

#### **on Lunchtime Supervisors**

Our lunchtime supervisors are a vital part of the team at Birchwood. They support and help our children to have positive lunchtimes, enjoying their social times with their friends as well as ensuring they are safe while they eat and play.

Lunchtime supervisors organise games and activities for children outdoors, and indeed indoors when the British weather prevents outdoor play!

Have you ever considered becoming a lunchtime supervisor? We are currently looking for new members of our lunchtime supervisor team, so if you think you could be adaptable, patient and positive with children from across the school we would love to hear from you. Further details and application forms are available on our website [www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com](http://www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com)

**Mrs Day- Associate Headteacher**



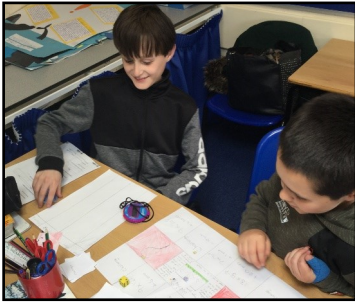
### **Going Green**

This week we have taken delivery of our new paper recycling boxes for our classrooms, offices and copier areas. Our Eco council have been promoting the use of these. Our large outdoor recycling bin arrived during half term and we are now able to recycle all of our waste paper and cardboard.

This gets collected every other Friday and taken to the recycling centre to be turned into new products. At Birchwood, we are always looking at new ways to help keep our environment safe for future generations.

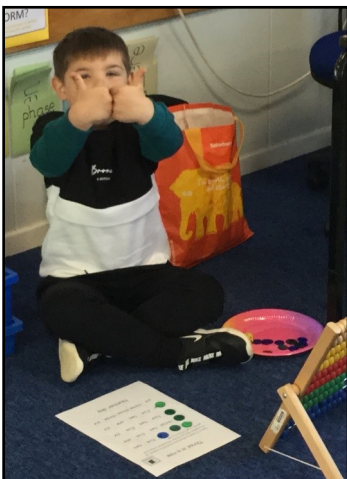
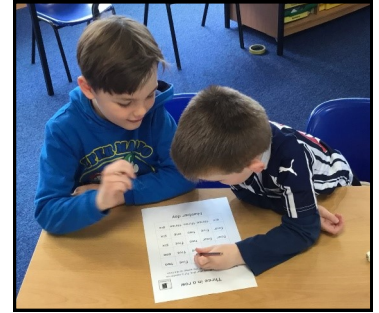






# Number Day

NSPCC





## Academic Year 2020-2021

### Spring Term 2021

<b>Year 2 Pirate Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 19th May</b>
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

## Academic Year 2021-2022

### Autumn Term 2021

<b>Professional Development Day</b>	<b>Thursday 2nd September</b>
<b>Professional Development Day</b>	<b>Friday 3rd September</b>
Children Return to School	Monday 6th September
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 25th October
<b>Professional Development Day</b>	<b>Monday 1st November</b>
Term Ends for Christmas	Friday 17th December

### Spring Term 2022

Staff Inset Day	Tuesday 4th January '22
Children Return to School	Wednesday 5th January
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 21st February
<b>Professional Development Day</b>	<b>Monday 28th February</b>
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 8th April

### Summer Term 2022

May Day	Monday 2nd May
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 30th May
<b>Professional Developments Day</b>	<b>Friday 24th June</b>
Term Ends for Summer	Friday 22nd 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 21st July 2021. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

### Information leaflets and adverts sent or published by Birchwood Primary School

Birchwood Primary does not endorse any of the services, or products advertised and does not give any representation or warranty about any of the organisations. Birchwood Primary School is not an agent for any of these organisations and any enquiry concerning their services and/or products should be referred directly to them.

## Birchwood Primary School Website



Want to know what is 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.

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

### Our registered charity 2020/21

**ZELLWEGER UK. Amount raised so far: £1750.14**



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



### Busy Things

Another great problem solver app for younger children from busy things.



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.

## CHILDRENS CHOICE MEAL

A form was emailed out to parents at the beginning of the week giving the meal

choices for Birchwood's Children's Choice Menu day on Thursday 20th May.

Please can we remind you to complete the form by the deadline on Monday 17th May. Thank you.



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**



**CAMEO DANCE** EST.2003

### FUN CHILDRENS DANCE CLASSES HELD IN POLESWORTH

**Little Dancers from age 2 ½, Tuesdays & Fridays**

**4:30 – 5:30pm The Memorial Hall, Polesworth**

**Juniors from age 7, 5:30 – 7:30pm**

**The Memorial Hall, Polesworth**

**Tuesdays & Fridays 5:30 – 7:30**

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, with no pressure

Cameodance.co.uk \* cameodance@rocketmail.com

Facebook Cameo Dance or search Cameo Dance Polesworth

**Covid-19 Secure \* See Facebook for up to date opening information**



BASED AT  
THE DORDON CLUB  
LONG ST.  
B78 1PZ

### DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES

BALLET / TAP / MODERN /  
COMMERCIAL JAZZ /  
NATIONAL FOLK /  
FLEXIBILITY /  
ZUMBA / PILATES /  
LBT / DANCE FIT /  
PERFORMING ARTS



GROUP & INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL TRAINING

**07880 714532**

[www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK](http://www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK)

## YOUTH CLUB

Wednesdays  
Under 12years  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Sports activities  
Dance classes

Pool Table

Xbox

Food and Drink

Milkshake Bar

**The Dordon Club**  
Long Street  
Dordon  
B78 1PZ

For More Information  
contact:

Richard: 07826516579

Toni: twellings@premier-education.com

**£4**  
PER SESSION