

Letters sent home this week— All—Grandparents Lunch, Y5—Black Country Museum Trip

## What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.05pm Playtastic Orchestra 3.05pm Embodiment Dance Club	Guitar Lessons 3.05pm Football Club Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Club Y4-6	Woodwind Lessons 3.05pm Football Club Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Club Y1-3	Violin & Keyboard Lessons 3.05pm Young Engineers Club Y3-6	Drum Lessons 3.05pm Musical Theatre Y3-6 3.05pm Multi Sports Y4-6

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

**REMINDER: CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ENTERING THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS BEFORE 8.30 AM**

## Road Safety – 'Think!'

We are very aware of how busy the roads outside Birchwood, Polesworth and Dordon School are, but we have very little control of what goes on outside of our own school gates. It is with sickening regularity that we hear of another child or family member having a 'close shave' on the way to or from school. Our schools do their very best to ensure children remain safe. We encourage children to wear bright and reflective coats, stop them running out of school, and tell them repeatedly not to cross between parked cars. We hold road safety quizzes, invite in road safety officers and in addition we run regular items in newsletters and conduct safety lessons and assemblies outlining how to keep safe. Our Junior Road Safety Officers also share a safety message to the children each week as part of our Celebration Assemblies.

We do however need 100% support from **ALL PARENTS AND VISITORS** to our schools. Despite our repeated requests in our weekly newsletter, on a daily basis we see parking and driving which places our children in danger. We ask parents **NOT** to park on double yellow lines or on yellow zig zags outside the school, even if this is for 'a second' to drop off. We also ask parents not to park on pavements, which forces children to squeeze through narrow gaps, or worse still, walk into the road to get by. Unfortunately, on a regular basis, we also receive complaints from neighbours complaining about parents parking over their driveways, blaming the school and demanding we take action. The school however has absolutely no jurisdiction over the public roads and can do very little.

Unfortunately the 'Traffic and Road Safety Education and Development Team' have not been able to find a replacement for a school crossing patrol, despite the site being re-assessed and clearly meeting the criteria required. There are plans to design new designated crossing points, place permanent barriers along the road side and re-mark and place new H markings outside the school gates. We are hoping that these works will go ahead over the February half term.

In the meantime we are asking parents to be extra vigilant when walking children to and from school and for drivers to slow down and drive responsibly. Our only interest is in keeping children safe, **PLEASE** help us to do so by driving carefully and parking responsibly. If driving is your only option, parking safely away from school and walking an extra 60 seconds, is worth it if it avoids a child being seriously injured.

Please support us by doing your bit. Thank you.

**Mr Coleman**  
Headteacher



**Children practising road safety messages using our new road safety playground markings.**

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

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2019 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 5th February 2019 with the theme 'Together For a Better Internet'.

Parents have expressed concerns about certain internet sites their children use.

The NSPCC has issued the following 'TEAM' guidelines for parents who may be concerned.

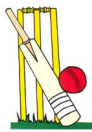
- **T**alk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they are feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen.
- **E**xplore your child's online activities with your child. Understand why they like using them and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.
- **A**gree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games.
- **M**anage your technology and use the settings available to keep your child safe.

More information and advice can be found at

**[www.catshill.com/parent](http://www.catshill.com/parent)**

## Junior Cricket Winter Academy 2019

Venue: Wilnecote Leisure Centre, Wilnecote School  
Times: Sunday mornings 10.15 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. (younger ages) and 11.15 to 12.15 (older players)  
Start: First session Sunday 20th January 2019 (10 sessions in total)  
Ages: 5—15 (other ages considered)



New players/beginners especially welcome.

Qualified coaches and all equipment provided including new 'Bowling Machine'.

Cost £4 per child per one hour session. First 'taster session' free for all players.

Contact Steve Hern on 07890 138062 for further details.

## Spotlight on Excellence this week is: Effective Communication in school



With so many exciting things happening in school all the time it can be a challenge keeping everyone up to date with what is going on. We have many different ways of keeping you informed here at Birchwood, so you can be confident you always know where to go for the latest information. You can check out twitter @birchwoodprim for updates on what the children in school have been doing, so make sure you are following us! We also regularly update our website, not only with what the children have been up to each half term but you can also find online copies of the Birchwood Bugle, our weekly newsletter (very handy if you have misplaced your paper copy!) and there is lots of useful information for parents on the curriculum, SEND, and term dates to name just a few.

However, we also value highly our face to face contact with parents. Mr Coleman and Mrs Day are on the gate each day and all class teachers are available to touch base with parents at the start and end of the day. In addition to our regular parents meetings, teachers often make phone calls or meet with parents to make sure information is shared at the right times so everyone is 'on the same page'.

We know how important it is to parents to try and have as much notice as possible about events happening in school, which is why our newsletter contains our calendar for the year which we update as we receive new information. We will wherever possible give two weeks notice of events in school, such as trips and visits.

Mrs Day—Associate Headteacher



## Birchwood Primary School Website

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

## School Attendance

It sounds obvious but children are more likely to succeed when they attend school consistently. It is not just about the lessons that are missed, children also find it difficult to engage in the lessons when they return because they have missed the important teaching points when they are off, to allow them to successfully access the next stage of learning.

Good attendance at school is vital for pupils to achieve their full educational potential. Pupils with good attendance records benefit in the following ways:-

**Continuity of learning which makes progress and retention easier**  
**Improved performance in coursework tasks**  
**Enhanced performance in examinations**  
**Continuity of relationships and friendships**  
**Good references for further education or employment**  
**Good habits are formed for later life**

Then there is the law! Children by law must attend school and all schools are required to record details of pupils' attendance and absence at school. We do so at the beginning of morning and afternoon sessions and within strict time limits. We are also required to report poor attendance.

We encourage children to be on time and attend by giving children lots of praise when they are 'being brave for carrying on' with minor ailments like a cold. We reward 'never lates' and 'good attendance' by giving children certificates on a termly basis, which the children are very proud of. We do however understand that children are sometimes unwell and certainly don't wish children to come into school unwell just to achieve an attendance reward, and for this reason we include children whose attendance is also slightly below 100%.

Our schools always achieve better rates of attendance than nationally. Our children love coming to school and hate missing anything. The Government has recently set an attendance target of 95% for all schools. We are delighted that our school attendance rate is significantly above this at 97.5%  
**Well done everyone!**

## Uniform Orders



### Q When can I order uniform?

A Anytime !! Simply log onto our Birchwood Primary School website at [www.birchwoodprimarieschool.com](http://www.birchwoodprimarieschool.com) and click on the "Parents" tab, then click "ParentPay" and finally click onto "Parentpay Uniform Shop"

### Q When will my uniform be ready for collection?

A Uniform is ready for collection on the following Tuesday after your order has been placed. Our uniform shop is open each Tuesday from 3.05pm until 3.30pm.

### Q Can I collect at any other time?

A If you are unable to collect on a Tuesday, between 3.05pm and 3.30pm, please contact our office and we will do our best to make alternative arrangements.

### Q Can my child bring a uniform order home?

A We prefer to avoid this option, as uniform can easily be lost this way. We would not be able to replace any orders that are lost.

### Q Is home delivery available?

A Unfortunately we do not have this option available. Orders are only available to collect.

CRAIG TRACEY MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Neil Coleman  
Birchwood Primary School  
Birchwood Avenue  
Dordon  
Tamworth  
Staffordshire  
B78 1QU

15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Mr Coleman .

I am writing to you to let you know that the Department of Education has recently contacted me to make me aware of your recent success in the latest Key Stage 2 results.

I would like to congratulate your teachers and pupils for all the hard work you have put in throughout the year and adjusting so well to the reformed KS2 tests. It is fantastic to see an increase from last year in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics, which undoubtedly gives your students a great foundation of learning, ready for secondary school.

Once again, congratulations on your superb results. If there is anything I can do to support your work and the children of North Warwickshire, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Craig Tracey MP

North Warwickshire and Bedworth

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & BEDWORTH

Constituency Office: 76 Station Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1BU  
Tel: 01827 715243 Email: [craig.tracey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:craig.tracey.mp@parliament.uk)  
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## CUT OUT AND KEEP SAFE

Please ensure you KEEP a copy of the schools procedures for school closure, in case of particularly poor weather.

### Procedure for entering school during poor weather conditions

Following poor weather, such as snow, it is almost impossible to clear all of the paved areas and playgrounds to make sure they are safe. Clearing all paths and playgrounds would take our Facilities Team, many hours of hard physical labour.

Should we experience poor weather, the following will happen:

1. A single path will be cleared from ONE pedestrian gate, all the way around to Pre-School and the Junior Entrance. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 should enter as normal via this path. The other pedestrian gate and path will be closed.
2. A crossing will be marked across the driveway for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who should enter school via the front door. By the end of the day we will have attempted to have cleared the path and part of the playground for children in Reception to Year 2.



### Lets do Mental Maths !!

Practise mental maths skills against the clock

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.

# NSPCC

**Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.**

NSPCC fundraising so far this year is :  
£1300.75

Thank you very much for all of your support.

## CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

FUN CHILDRENS 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

## Academic Year 2018-2019

### Spring Term 2019

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
Payment due for Manor Adventure	Friday 12th April

### Summer Term 2019

Manor Adventure Trip	Friday 7th June to Monday 10th June
Children return to school	Monday 29th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 27th May
Children return to school	Monday 3rd June
Professional Development Day	Friday 21st June
Term ends for Summer (Early)	Friday 19th 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 19th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.



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B78 1PZ**

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