

Reminders: Don't forget all uniform should be labelled with your child's name. Label order forms are available from the school office.

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 3.05 pm Elite Football Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Y1-3	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—Parents Evening, **Y4—** Tamworth Castle Trip, **TBPS—** Christmas Fair

Staying safe online – Parent support

At Birchwood our aim is to help all of our children to develop the life skills and knowledge they need to use the online world safely and with confidence. We are also very keen to help and guide you, as parents, to support you in strengthening your children's digital resilience, so that they are able to recognise when they are at risk online and know what to do.

On Friday 16th November, Martin Bailey, our long time I.T advisor and supporter, will be spending the day at Birchwood teaching online safety workshops to our children. Martin will be starting the day by hosting an online safety advice workshop to parents. This is a free workshop, which all parents are encouraged to attend. This has been very popular in the past and extremely well received. I urge you to attend if you are able and promise that it will be a very worthwhile session. This online presentation for parents is on for 30 minutes, from 8:50am till 9:20am. Please make your way to the main school reception area after you have dropped your children off, where you will be escorted down to the Upper School hall.

Our new digital leaders have met with Miss Mould for the first time and are very keen to support our pupils and parents to be able to thrive in the digital world. They are going to be sharing small pieces of advice and top tips for parents and children, from leading digital experts over the course of this academic year. These will be available every week in our newsletter and on our school website. The first top tip of the week is written below and comes from Will Gardner, CEO, Childnet International, and a Director of the UK Safer Internet Centre.

'Be curious and ask your children about, or better still, show you, the services they are using and why they love them. Starting the conversation is key, both to help ensure that children know how to stay safe and respect others online, but also so they turn to you if someone or something online is making them feel uncomfortable'.

We look forward to being able to support our parents and children to embrace the internet with confidence.

N Coleman – Headteacher



Learning ICT in Reception Classes

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

Spotlight on Excellence Our focus this week is: Inspiring the next generation of writers

This week we welcomed Amy Wilson, author of 'Snowglobe' and the CILIP Carnegie medal nominated 'A Girl Called Owl', to Birchwood. She spoke to our year 4, 5 and 6 children not only about her books, but about what it is like to be a writer, where she gets her ideas from and the process of writing a book. The children had the opportunity to ask her their own questions, not all of which were as easy to answer as Amy had anticipated, and one even brought her own story for Amy to give her feedback on. It was lovely to see so many children reading her book at lunchtime – it is clearly brilliant as they were engrossed!

This now annual author visit event, follows on from us welcoming Stewart Foster, author of 'All The Things That Could Go Wrong', last year. We are always looking for ways to encourage and inspire our children and we are thrilled that so many of them clearly were by Wednesday's visit.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher



Yellow Day for Pudsey!!



The School Council have decided to have 'A Yellow Day for Pudsey' on Friday 16th November to help raise money for both Children in Need and our chosen Charity, the NSPCC.

They are hoping everyone will join in by wearing something yellow for the day. Either one item such as a t-shirt, jumper, head band or Pudsey ears, to a whole yellow outfit. The choice is yours!! **No face painting or hair colouring though please.**

One donation towards the two charities would be brilliant and the total amount will be split in half and given to each charity.

Thank you!

TBPS News



Thank you for your donations so far this week. We would still appreciate more tombola, raffle and chocolate items. The collection box will remain in reception for the next week.

We are holding our next Christmas Fair meeting on Monday 12th November, starting at 6pm in the conference room at school. Everyone is welcome to come along, join in and share their ideas.

The Christmas card templates have been sent home this week. Please complete your order form and return this to school in a sealed and named envelope for the attention of TBPS by Thursday 22nd November. Orders received after this date cannot be guaranteed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Academic Year 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

TBPS Christmas Fair Meeting	Monday 12th November
Y1 Nasal Flu Immunisations	Weds 14th November
Late Parents Evening	Weds 14th November
Early Parents Evening	Thursday 15th November
Wear Yellow for Pudsey	Friday 16th November
Year 5 Class Assemblies	Thursday 29th November
TBPS Christmas Fair	Friday 7th December
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
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 18th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 25th February
Children return to school	Tuesday 26th February
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2019

Children return to school	Monday 29th April
May Day	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 1 pm early finish on 21st December and 19th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

Start of school day

An ordered and prompt start to the school day is extremely important for primary aged pupils. At Birchwood we encourage children to enter school 10 minutes before the official start of the school day to socialise with friends and be ready to go into school as soon as the bell goes.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are asked to be accompanied on the Lower School playground by their parents until they enter their classes at 8:40am. Until the school day starts **parents are responsible** for their children's behaviour and well-being. We ask parents to stand with their children and if possible hold their hands.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are able to make their own way onto the Upper School Playground. We ask that pupils do not arrive on the playground until 8:30am. Parents are welcome to accompany their children if they wish, but they do not have to. Children are asked not to play ball games in the morning or leave their school bags and coats unattended on the floor.

The start of our school day is a very calm and orderly affair, but a great deal goes on and every single minute is optimised. As soon as the bell goes children enter school, hang their coats and bags up and place lunch boxes into trolleys.

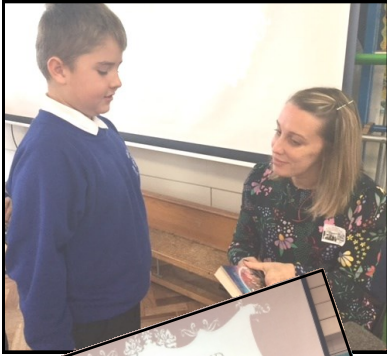
Children then enter the classroom and will often have a warm up activity on the whiteboard, or at their desk, which they start without further instruction from their teachers. These activities range from a mental maths puzzle, or a short piece of writing, or some reading and responding to feedback. Sometimes these activities consist of children improving a piece of work from the previous day or even answering a direct question from the teacher's marking. Whilst the children do this, we take an attendance register and find out their lunch choice for the day.

Before 9.00am office staff will have followed up most unexplained absences, hence the great importance of parents informing the school of any absence by 8.30am using the answer phone. In the classroom the teacher will have explained the work for the day, discussed groups and allocated children to teaching assistants.

Children's lateness is extremely rare, but when it occurs it makes life difficult for the school and for the child. Apart from the difficulty caused by needing to open up registers, re-explain the tasks for the day (all of which stops staff from working with other children), the 'late child' also starts the day feeling 'left out' and 'out of sorts'. Being late for school means children are disadvantaged for the remainder of the day.

Our school day starts at 8:40am. Children may enter the school site from 8:30am.

Author visit to Yrs 4,5 & 6

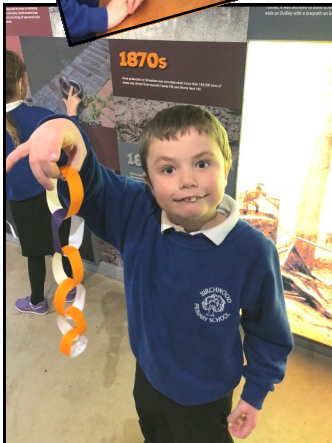


On Wednesday, our children were lucky enough to be visited by the incredible author Amy Wilson. Amy talked about her life as a published author, her inspirations and how to write fascinating stories where reality is merged with fantasy. We heard all about her first two books—"A Far Away Magic" and "A Girl Called Owl" - and we were treated to hearing extracts of her recently published book, "Snowglobe".

Many of the children were lucky enough to have a one to one chat with Amy, who then signed their books for them and answered all of our questions.



Y3 Visit Dudley Canal



Year 3 had a brilliant day at Dudley Canal and Limestone Museum. They got to explore what life was like for the miners as we took a boat trip into the limestone mines. It was very dark but luckily there was a light show, which was fun! We also got to create our own lace and ribbon plates using canal art.



ChatHealth Parent line

Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service and Warwickshire Young People Substance Misuse Service has launched a new way for parents and carers of school aged children to get confidential advice and support about child health related issues. ChatHealth is an award-winning school nurse messaging service and is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. There will be automatic bounce-back responses to incoming messages out of hours. Answering the text message will be a nurse who can assist with any queries about general health, child development, behaviour, toileting and emotional health and wellbeing issues. The text number is **07520 619376**.

The opportunity to discuss any health issues relating to your child is always available and The School Health and Wellbeing Service can be contacted on 03300 245 204.

Many thanks

Warwickshire School Health & Wellbeing Service

Next week **'I'**

PANTS

NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.

This week is **'N'**

No means no

Make sure your child understands that they have the right to say "no" to unwanted touch - even to a family member or someone they know or love.

This shows that they are in control of their body and their feelings should be respected. If a child feels confident to say no to their own family, they are more likely to say no to others.



Birchwood Primary School Website

Want to know what's happening in school? Go to 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.

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 * Call 07443421867

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo

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

A note from the office

Data collection sheets for Reception children were sent home on 25th October. If you have not already done so, could you please check, sign and return the form to the school office by Monday 12th November.

Year 6 data sheets have been sent home today. Please could these be checked and returned to school next week.

Just a little reminder that any notes sent into the school office must clearly state your child's name and class.

Uniform shop is open every Wednesday after school for collection of pre-ordered items. Thank you.



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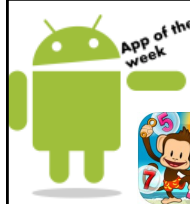
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www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK

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App of the week

Monkey Maths

Fundamental maths skills for children aged 3-6 years

**Our
chosen
charity for
2018/19 is
NSPCC**

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.

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