

Letters home this week: ALL - Sports Day, New Classes, Induction day Y6– Harmful Substances

What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.05pm Playtastic Orchestra 3.05 pm Embody Dance Club Y1-6	3.05pm Multi Skills Club Y1-3 Drum Lessons	3.05pm Football Club Y1-3	3.05pm Athletics Club Y 3-6 Guitar, Woodwind, Violin and Keyboard Lessons	Y 5 Cello 3.05pm Musical Theatre Y2-6 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: Do not forget to look on twitter for lots of updates throughout the school day.

Year 5 trip to our Partner School - Lanchester EP

Last Thursday and Friday our Year 5 pupils went up to Newcastle to visit our Partner School – Lanchester EP. This is the second time our school has travelled up to the North East and was the next part in establishing our very exciting and purposeful link with another primary school in a contrasting locality.

Lanchester EP Primary School is very similar to Birchwood in lots of ways, but also very different. It is a good school with outstanding features and serves the community of Lanchester village, of which it is centrally located. Lanchester EP is a Church of England school with a strong Christian ethos. It has a strong link with All Saints Parish, a beautiful medieval parish church that was founded in 1147.

This is the second year of our partnership. Staff and children from both schools have visited each other and our Digital Leaders from both schools have met up at the Bett Show in London in January. This was the first time our Year 5 pupils got to visit Lanchester and we hope to meet up with them again when the staff and children, who will be in Year 6 by then, come down to visit us in the Autumn term.

On the way up to Lanchester School we stopped off at Durham Cathedral. Here the children were split into 3 groups who each experienced a carousel of activities. The children completed a tour of the grounds of Durham Cathedral, took part in some role play in the Education Centre, had a guided visit in the open treasure museum and also got to spend some time inside the Cathedral, taking in its magnificence as well as walking around the beautiful City of Durham.

We then made our way to Lanchester EP School where we all enjoyed playing in the local park and taking a guided walk through the village of Lanchester. The rain held off for an hour, allowing the children to enjoy spending some quality time in each other's company and also getting to know some of the children from Lanchester, who joined us for the day. After a tour of the school, we all sat down to a lovely pizza or a fish and chips meal together, supplied by local businesses from Lanchester village. The children of Lanchester taught us a new version of dodgeball which was great fun. We ended the night by watching a film and played a few games of cards, before we settled in for the night in their two school halls. In the morning we were treated to a fabulous breakfast organised by Lanchester's Catering Manager.

We said our goodbyes to Lanchester before visiting the Angel of the North. We were treated to a wonderful rendition of a Georgie Poem about the Angel from Mr Bailey – this is now available on our school website and twitter page, plus many photos from the trip. Our wonderful trip was topped off with a visit to the Quayside in Newcastle. The children walked through the Sage Music venue and viewed the River Tyne and it is



Little Angels of the North!

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

Continued.....

collection of bridges from the Baltic Flour Mill viewing platform. The children all then got to experience a boat cruise down the river finding out all about its famous shipyard building past and the history behind the 7 bridges that cross the Tyne.

The children all had a brilliant two day trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. They were all fantastically behaved and were a real credit to our school and their parents. I really look forward to welcoming the staff and pupils of Lanchester to Birchwood in the Autumn term, where we can look to repay their kind hospitality and continue our exciting partnership link between our great schools.

Neil Coleman

Headteacher

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

We ask that parents avoid booking appointments for children during the school day, but we do understand that this is sometimes not possible.



To enable us to authorise such appointments we ask parents to let us know of any appointment dates **in advance**, wherever possible. Please send in your appointment card or letter so that we may take a copy for our records.

We also ask that children are in school before or after their appointment times to avoid unnecessary absence.

Holidays during Term Time

We now receive hardly any requests for holidays in term time. The school is no longer permitted by the government to authorise any holidays in term time unless under very 'exceptional circumstances'. These 'exceptional circumstances', are only for extremely rare or 'serious' issues and also only if requested by completion of an official form.

The local authority have also recently made further changes to how they deal with unauthorised absences and are now able to take legal action 'retrospectively' against parents who do not apply for a holiday or inform the school, but take a holiday anyway. Unfortunately, a very small number of holidays have been taken this year and large fines have been issued. This is the last thing we want to happen, however, our own policy is very clear and is repeated regularly in our newsletters and in our school prospectus:

The school does not support children being off during term time to take a holiday.

Taking holidays in term time is extremely disruptive for the school and causes many difficulties. We have to re-organise complete class groups, re-plan work and staffing. More importantly it impacts badly on children who miss 10 hours of Maths and English lessons, a daily phonics and/or grammar session, as well as 10 hours of foundation subjects in one week. Children who miss school return confused, behind and unsure in the areas they have missed. We do not and cannot re-teach missed lessons.

The local authority has stated '*There are 180 days a year when the children are not at school. Holidays for children should be taken during the school holidays!*'

Uniform Orders

If you are planning to purchase uniform for next year, orders need to be in before the 29th June to guarantee delivery before the end of term.

We will continue to hold the uniform shop from the conference room on Tuesdays from 2.55pm until 3.15pm, where you can collect your pre-ordered uniform.

For the remaining weeks of this term there will also be an extra uniform shop on Wednesday mornings from 8.30am until 8.50am also from the conference room.



Absence Notes

Can we please remind parents that following your child's absence, an absence note should be sent into school on the **first day** your child returns. The note should include your child's name, class, the reason for absence, dates of absence and signed by a parent/guardian. Please **do not** write absence messages on the From Me to You. Thank you.



Improve your wellbeing by developing your resilience

At Birchwood, we recognise that personal attributes are equally as important as academic achievement. We know that resilience is a fundamental life skill that helps children to thrive and can help them endure and overcome difficult circumstances outside of their control. We hope you found last week's article on competence useful and are ready for our second instalment which will focus on confidence.

Confidence: *this is derived from competence and is the belief in their own abilities.*

Build confidence by:

- Recognise what the child has done well. Make time and look out for opportunities to tell your child what they are doing well. This will help to encourage the behaviour through positive reinforcement.
- Praise honestly and precisely. Be sure to highlight specifically what has been done well rather than giving general praise such as 'well done'. General praise can quickly lose its value whereas specific praise such as 'I'm so proud you persevered until you learned how to tie your laces,' sounds authentic and is useful for identifying what action is generating the praise.
- Focus on the best qualities such as fairness, integrity, persistence and kindness. These are qualities that instil pride and are respected around the world. These are the qualities that people are drawn to when looking for friendship,
- Identify regularly the child's strengths so that they can see this too. Find something daily to compliment a child on the way they approached or handled a situation. These compliments are vital for a child to be able to accept critical feedback. If a child is not confident in their own strengths, they are likely to receive critical feedback more negatively.

Next week we will be looking at Connection and how important positive relationships are for developing resilience. If you have any questions or would like more information on developing health and wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact us either through class teachers or the main office.

Spotlight on Excellence this week is: Artsmark Platinum

Since we achieved Arts Mark Gold in 2018, we have been continuing to improve how we deliver the Arts across school to children here at Birchwood as part of our journey to strive to achieve Artsmark Platinum.

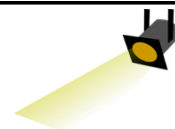
Drama and role play form an integral part of the writing process across school, and children regularly use these as a part of the build up to their final writing pieces, as well as being used across the curriculum in subjects such as history to bring characters to life. There are numerous opportunities for children to get involved in creative arts activities outside of their work in class too. Our Playtastic Orchestra have been involved in concerts with children from across the county at Bedworth Civic Hall. We also have Embody Dance who run both after school clubs and curriculum dance lessons for children.

Our Singing Playgrounds ambassadors who run singing activities on the playgrounds each day, also participated in a festival of singing at the Warwick Arts Centre. Over the last year we have also seen the successful introduction of our Musical Theatre group, who have performed Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits to both the school and parents.

We have also worked with two artists in residence, Darryl Wakelam and Barbara Booth. Both have worked with children and staff using their chosen media of collage and watercolours respectively.

We firmly believe that the arts are vitally important within our broad and balanced curriculum here at Birchwood.

Mrs M Day
Associate Headteacher



If you are someone who enjoys growing plants or baking or creating your own products and would like to be involved, please contact Mrs Webb via the school office. We hope over time to involve more members of the community and create an experience to inspire many and to be enjoyed by all.



Team Birchwood News

Thank you for supporting our Father's Day sale. We hope you were all happy with your gifts. We are extremely proud to announce that the Father's Day sale raised £324 giving us a whopping total of £4624 so far this year.

Do not forget raffle tickets are on sale on Monday for the Slime Workshop for just 20p a ticket. Winning tickets will be drawn during Monday's assembly and workshop tickets for the winners will be sent home with the children during the week.

The next Team Birchwood Meeting is on Wednesday 3rd July at 6pm in the conference room. If you would like to get involved please come along.

School Meals

We want to inform you that there will be a slight increase in the cost of school meals when the children return in September. The new cost will be £2.25 per day which is £11.25 per week.

Can we please remind you that children are required to choose either schools dinners or packed lunch at the beginning of the week and remain with that choice for the full week. Unfortunately catering staff need to place orders for food on a weekly basis so changing lunch option is not possible unless it is an exceptional circumstance.



Could we please ask that any current outstanding payments be paid promptly.



Thinkrolls 2

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



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 fundraising so far this year is :
£1958.33

Thank you very much for all of your support.

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

Academic Year 2018-2019

Summer Term 2019

Warwickshire Moving Up Day	Thursday 27th June
Sports Day	Monday 1st July
Reserve Sports Day	Tuesday 2nd July
Show and Share Evening	Thursday 11th July
Y6 Leavers Performance	Monday 15th July
Y6 Disco and BBQ	Thursday 18th July
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.

School Crossing Patrol Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a School Crossing Patrol Operative outside of Birchwood School. Times are to be confirmed, but the position will require morning and afternoon cover, at the busiest times of the school day. Usually shifts are around 30 minutes each.

The position is for Monday to Friday term time only (38 weeks per year spread across 12 monthly payments.) Pay for this position is £8.61 per hour plus holiday enhancements. A uniform and full training will be provided.



If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact the School Crossing Patrol Service for more details, on 01926 412661 or email scp@warwickshire.gov.uk. Application packs can be downloaded at

<https://warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolcrossingpatrols> or collected from the school office.

www.ocado.jobs



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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

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