

Letters home this week via email:

## What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

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

## REMINDER : Please

### Wider School Opening

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the government issued their latest guidance on further school opening. Primary schools are now able to welcome back additional children **IF** they have the capacity to do so under the current conditions. Provision will continue to be made in school for our priority children and for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

At Birchwood the safety of our staff and children are at the heart of all of our decisions. We strongly believe that it is in the best interests of our children's learning and wellbeing that we are able to give as many of our children the opportunity to spend some time back in school before the summer holidays. Therefore, this week we have been considering practical steps we can take to open our school wider.

We originally set our school up to reopen on the 1<sup>st</sup> June by splitting each of our classes into two class groups (A and B). This was to ensure that in each classroom we only had a maximum of 15 children in each group. As not all of the places that were offered to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 have been taken up, we have capacity to be able to invite each of our other year groups back into school for a week each.

From Monday our four Reception class groups will stay the same. Our four Year 1 groups have been reduced to three groups and our four Year 6 groups have also been reduced to three groups. These groups have not been mixed, we have just added the children from one group into the other three. This has created the capacity required in terms of staffing and classrooms to be able to welcome back our other year groups for a week before we break up for summer.

The proposed dates for year group returns are:

Year 2: 22.06.20 - 26.06.20

Year 3: 29.06.20 - 03.07.20

Year 4: 06.07.20 - 10.07.20

Year 5: 13.07.20 - 17.07.20

We have tried to ensure that the majority of children will get to spend the week with their current class teachers and TAs, however numbers may require us to put the Year classes into three groups and therefore this may not always be possible.

To ensure the safety of all of our children and staff, we have always followed and will continue to follow all the guidelines issued by the government, to the letter.

Organising the return of our other year groups into school has been a huge administrative task. I would like to thank all the staff at Birchwood for their efforts in this and for being so flexible and accommodating. The children who have already returned to school have been really happy to be back. Our staff should take great credit for making their return so enjoyable. We are very much looking forward to being able to welcome back more of our children, even if this is just for a short period.

**Mr Coleman - Headteacher**



### Lots More Bubbles at Birchwood!

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

### Spotlight on Excellence this week is ...

#### Transition

This week has seen our year 6's, both those in school and those at home, taking part in a 'zoom' call with Mr Rosten from The Polesworth School as part of their transition work preparing them for moving on to secondary school in September. Children were able to find out about what school life will be like when they join Polesworth and have also had the opportunity to ask Mr Rosten their own questions.

Although usually we welcome Mr Rosten into school in person to talk to the children, it was great to be able to have him speak to all the children via Zoom and the feedback was that they really enjoyed it.

Despite children not having been able to undertake our usual transition activities this year, we have been working to adapt as ever to make sure that children will be well prepared for their next stage in education, beyond Birchwood.

**Mrs Day**

**Associate Headteacher**



## Who's Who this week ...

### **Mrs Grinham**

As well as working in the school office I am also a busy mum of four children. This means I also have another job as a taxi driver to their various activities.

Saturday mornings are spent watching my daughters play football, which is more fun in the sunshine than the rain. I also have a season ticket for Aston Villa Ladies and am trying hard to learn the Offside rule.

Walking is one of my favourite activities and luckily the rest of the family, including our dog Beau, enjoy it too which means lots of days out on family walks with a picnic often included. Derbyshire and the Lake District are two of my favourite places.

I also enjoy pottering in the garden and when all the work is done sitting in the sunshine enjoying it. This allows me to do another of my hobbies...reading.

I enjoy a wide variety of books and have loved being able to read my favourite childhood books again with my own children. If you haven't read "The Wishing Chair" or "The Magic Faraway Tree" by Enid Blyton I recommend you do. Let me know if you enjoy them.



## Birchwood Best Practice

### **ParentPay**

ParentPay is a secure online payment system that is used by school. It has enabled Birchwood to become a cashless school as it allows parents and carers to make payments online for school dinners, trips and clubs.

It also means that it is not always necessary for permission slips to be completed and returned to school as consent can be provided online along with any medical information for pupils and emergency contact details for parents or carers.

Not everyone likes to make payments online. If you would prefer not to please ask the school office for a barcoded letter for your payment item and this will allow you to make payment via any shop that has the Paypoint facility. School will then be notified of your payment.

ParentPay also allows Birchwood to have its own online shop, accessed via the Birchwood School website, where you can buy school jumpers or cardigans, book bags and water bottles throughout the year. Just pop your purchases in the basket and make your payment. These orders can then be collected from our After School Uniform Shop, normally the following week. - Mrs Grinham



## Improve Your Wellbeing by Developing Your Resilience

Being self-aware and knowing strategies to help ourselves is vital for both adults and children if they are to become effective practitioners in successfully managing their own well-being. It is for this reason, that we not only share these with the children in lessons but also with the wider school community through our newsletters and on-line links. We hope you found last week's article on **competence** useful and are ready for our second instalment which will focus on **connection**.

**Connection:** *Developing close ties with family, friends and the community to help develop a sense of security. This helps prevent children seeking alternative destructive paths when reaching out for love and attention.*

Help children connect with others by:

- ☺ Building a sense of emotional safety. Being mindful of the words we choose and our tone of voice is critical when communicating with others. Sarcasm and jokes can often cause emotional harm rather than disperse worries. Phrases such as 'man up' can often make people feel inadequate and do not offer practical suggestions on how to manage a situation.
- ☺ Building a sense of physical safety. When someone believes they are at risk of harm, such as lack of food, shelter or protection from physical danger, then their brain will not be able to access their higher order thinking skills in order to assess a situation logically or identify solutions. For this reason, sharing concerns over these matters with children without any answers as to solutions may negatively affect their well-being. Giving children precise information when they ask about the set up at a new club or venue can often alleviate worries. If you do have worries of your own about any of these issues, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. We are able to sign post people to support services and can offer a range of support through the school.
- ☺ Allowing children to express their emotions to different people in different circumstances. This helps the child feel more comfortable in reaching out during difficult times. It also provides opportunities to address conflict openly and resolve problems.
- ☺ Fostering healthy relationships helps to reinforce positive messages and values. Children will look to both other children and adults as examples of how to behave and manage a variety of situations. Integrity is quickly lost if a child is given advice by someone who does not follow that advice themselves. Spending time together, communicating and taking part in shared activities helps children build up trust.

## REQUEST

With a lot of correspondence currently being by email, could we please ask that you always put your child's full name and class on your emails. This makes it much easier to either find the relevant information being requested, or to add information to their data. Thank you for help with this request.



## RECEPTION ART

Reception children have enjoyed completing some transient art linked to The Very Hungry Caterpillar this week. They spent some time on Monday collecting a range of natural materials. We then worked hard to create our own art work linked to the story. We enjoyed making caterpillars, butterflies and flowers.



## ZOOM!!



To support their transition to The Polesworth School, year 6 pupils from both the Birchwood site and those completing their learning at home, took part in a Zoom meeting with Mr Rosten to ask any questions they still had about their new school. This followed on from a letter they had received from him at the beginning of the month answering their first set of questions and will be followed up with short videos by Polesworth staff.



## Top tips to stay active

Children need to do at least 60 minutes of activity a day to help them stay happy and healthy. But it does not have to be sport – running around and having fun outside count too.

- ☺ Explore your local area with a daily walk and discover new places and spot the local wildlife.
- ☺ Clock up 60 minute's worth of active play each day after school and at weekends - this includes running around, kid's outdoor games. And it's all free!
- ☺ Get them splashing about. Pop on your wellies and go puddle jumping!
- ☺ Use your technology in a different way and do an on line work out. For example try Joe Wicks on You Tube. Or Embody Dance with our very own Mr and Mrs Bright. Search for @EmbodyDanceCompany on Facebook.

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 Option 3.







You can follow us on Twitter at:

@BirchwoodPrim or

The Birchwood Website:

www.birchwoodprimary.com



## Academic Year 2019-2020

Term Ends for Summer Friday 17th July

## Academic Year 2020-2021

(If term time back to normal)

### Autumn Term 2020

Professional Development Day Tuesday 1st Sept  
Children Return to School Wednesday 2nd Sept  
Half Term (1 week) Monday 26th October  
Professional Development Day Monday 2nd November  
Children Return to School Tuesday 3rd November  
Term Ends for Christmas Friday 18th December

### Spring Term 2021

Professional Development Day Monday 4th January  
Children Return to School Tuesday 5th January  
Half Term (1 week) 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  
Children return to school Tuesday 8th 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 1pm early finish on 17th July and 18th December. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

Children will return to school on Thursday 2nd September 2021



Let's do Mental Maths !

Practise mental maths skills against the clock



## CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

FUN CHILDREN'S 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

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.

**actfor  
autism**

educate · empower · embrace

Sign up for 2 **FREE** interactive workshop for parents lead by the **actforautism** Trainers.

Register via the **Entrust Care Partnership** email address below and you will be invited to join the Zoom session.

### Workshop 1

**Understanding your child's sensory challenges and how to help**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1pm – 2pm

**FREE  
Events**

### Workshop 2

**Transition and change – how to support your child in this changing environment**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 7 – 8pm

These sessions are ideally suited for parents and carers of school aged kids with or without a diagnosis.

Places limited to 25 so register early.

lynnebarton@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk



www.actforautism.co.uk

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

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www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK

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