

Emails/Letters home this week: Y6 - WW2 letter, V E Day Celebrations Y2 - Food Tasting

What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y6 - Health Needs Assessment				

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

REMINDER : Our new dedicated email address for communication with parents is birchwoodparents@welearn365.com

A Window into Life at Birchwood

This academic year has presented many challenges and has required much of our standard, tried and tested practice to change. The knock on implications of Covid 19 restrictions have been far reaching and have forced us to rethink all that we do. On a weekly basis, our systems and structures in school require adaptation. Some of these are small adjustments in our approach and others are whole scale.

Last Friday, Birchwood welcomed into school 'Zero Media' to support us in producing our school promotional video. This is the first time we have produced such a video, but with us not able to invite parents into school currently, we wanted to provide a window into life at Birchwood for us to share with our friends and family.

Having just one day to try and share our school curriculum and give an insight into all that we do was very difficult, but our staff and children were brilliant and we managed to capture over 2 hours of film material. We now have the difficult job of trying to cut and edit all of this to fit into a 4 minute video. Luckily that is not my task to complete, so I wanted to take the opportunity to thank Luke Wilson from Zero Media for all his time and expertise on Friday. With the support of Mrs Ferris, Luke worked non-stop from 7:30am till 6:00pm to ensure that we captured as much of our school as we could. Luke was very complimentary about Birchwood and was brilliant with all the children and staff. We look forward to being able to share our video with you all when it is complete.

Having a 'window' of our school available on our school website is even more important for new parents who are currently in the process of choosing their child's first school for September. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our usual school tours for prospective parents, so being able to provide them with a snap shot of our school, I hope will help support them in making this very important decision. The application period is open and the deadline for applications for new starters is the 15th January 2021. To make your application, please contact www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions

At times like these our reputation within our local community is crucial for ensuring that our school is full and that our local families take up the allocation of school places in reception next year. We thank all our parents and supporters of our school for the constant messages of thanks and we really do appreciate you talking up our school to all who will listen.

Mr Coleman - Headteacher



Life Through a Lens!

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

Spotlight this week is on...

Christmas comes to Birchwood

This week has seen the arrival of Christmas here at school. On Monday, the children in school were treated to a pantomime performance of 'The Night Before Christmas' which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Our website is already starting to look festive with the arrival of lots of Christmas cards and wishes from across school. We would love to have lots of these from every class so please make sure you send in any card designs by emailing them to Mrs Williams directly at williams.y@welearn365.com

Our Christmas nativity launches on our website on Monday 7th December, visit www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com to see the Christmas story unfold each day, as told by our children, alongside some traditional carols. We can't wait to share all the children's hard work with you and we hope you will enjoy sharing this with your friends and family at home.

Mrs Day

Associate Headteacher



Who's Who this week ...

Mrs Hill

Hello. I have been teaching for about 15 years now and have been fortunate to teach a range of year groups at Birchwood Primary School over the last 7 years.

I live with my family: my husband, two children and a rather fat tabby cat. I love being outside and enjoy sports such as horse riding, cycling and walking. I also enjoy music and can play the flute and piano (a little bit). My daughter has recently taken up flute lessons so it has been fun refreshing my skills!

Another passion is travelling and I was fortunate enough to travel the world with my husband before settling down into teaching. One of my favourite countries was New Zealand— lots of open space and incredible scenery. Unlike other countries, there did not seem to be as many spiders and dangerous creepy crawlies, which was a huge bonus! I am a bit of a wimp when it comes to them. Hopefully I will get the chance to visit lots more places in the future!



Birchwood Best Practice

School Council

I am lucky to be involved with the school council. Every year, each child, from Year 1 to Year 6, has the opportunity to nominate themselves to be a school councillor for their class. They get to say a few words about why they want to do the job and what they hope to achieve, before their class members vote.

Once elected, the school councillors attend a meeting every 2 weeks during one of their lunch breaks. It is at these meetings that they get the opportunity to carry out important roles such as choosing the chosen charity for the year, organising fund raising activities, meeting guests from outside of school, and having their say about choices within school.

It has been brilliant to work with each of the school councils over my time at Birchwood. The enthusiasm and creativeness of each team never fails to amaze me. Birchwood school councillors genuinely want to make their school a better place. They listen to each other, support each other and show what the power of children can really achieve. - Mrs Hill



PARK IT RIGHT!!

Warwickshire Road Safety Education Team are supporting Warwickshire Fire and Rescues *Park It Right!* campaign. This campaign encourages drivers to park safely and legally, ensuring Fire Engines and other emergency response vehicles can pass.

Please park safely and considerately at drop off and collection. Obstructing roads and double parking your vehicle could simply mean the difference between firefighters saving or not saving a life.

Follow these five easy steps to help you park it right:

1. **Park close to the kerb** - a little distance makes a big difference.
2. **Mirrors in** - moving your mirrors in can create even more space for a fire engine to get through.
3. **Park straight** - it might be easier for you to get out, but if our engines can not get by, someone else may suffer the consequences.
4. **Straighten your wheels** - every little helps.
5. **Junctions and bends**—a fire engine needs more space than you think. Parking on a junction or a bend may stop us getting to where we need to.



Myths and Legends.....

'The school are very strict about holidays in term time'

In actual fact THE LAW is very strict about holidays in term time and the school has no choice!! The school is inspected by OFSTED to make sure it follows the rules properly and the Attendance Compliance and Enforcement Service (ACE) has a legal responsibility to monitor school attendance on behalf of the Local Authority, ACE will inspect registers and if unhappy will prosecute parents.

Parents often think it is the school that make up the rules, this is very wrong; the school must simply follow the rules laid down by others. We hate upsetting parents who we have a great relationship with, but we often feel at the sharp end of apparently being responsible for the law.

Registering for School

We are fast approaching the deadline when parents must apply for Primary school. The deadline for **Primary school applications** for reception places is **15th January 2021**.

It is essential that this deadline is met or your child may be at risk of losing a place at your preferred school. Warwickshire residents can make an on-line application for Primary places at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions. You can also apply by calling 01926 414143.



WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL WELFARE SCHEME

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme continues to support children and families who rely on free school meals.

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme which has already provided over £450,000 of support to families through the Covid period, and will continue to support our most vulnerable residents.

It is through this Scheme that children who rely on free school meals will continue to receive financial support through the school holidays. It is recognised within the Scheme that some families who are struggling financially, and are eligible for free school meals, have difficulty covering the period when their children are at home during the school holidays. This Scheme will help those most in need by supporting eligible families with the cost of food for their children over the school holiday periods.

It will benefit those children eligible for free school meals as well as their younger non-school age siblings aged 2 or above. This support will be available over the school holidays. The only eligibility criterion for this offer is that parents are registered for free school meals.

Families wanting to apply for support through the Scheme should call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.



BIRCHWOOD NEW LITTLE ACORNS AND CHESTNUTS

We love to welcome our new reception classes each September and especially love to hear how well they have settled in to their new classes. It is also nice to start building new relationships with them and their families. Here are just a few comments from our recent parent survey.....

A welcoming school with excellent communication!

Our daughter loves being at school and has quickly gained confidence in all of her teachers involved in her school day. Thank you for such a fab start to her school journey.

Our son has learnt so much already being at Birchwood and it is a pleasure to watch him grow and be more confident.

Our son has settled in really well. Staff are brilliant with the children, the online learning is first class. We are looking forward to seeing how he develops further in reception.

A great start to school, couldn't imagine her being at any other. Really happy with Birchwood.

Fantastic staff, fantastic school!!

Very happy, brilliant first report and parents evening phone call.

Birchwood is a fabulous school! Keep up the good work!



Academic Year 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

R, Y1, Y2 Puppet Show Monday 14th December
Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks) Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2021

Professional Development Day Monday 4th January
Children Return to School Tuesday 5th January
Half Term 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
Professional Development Day Friday 18th 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 18th December & 21st July.
If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

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.



Jolly Phonic Letter Sounds

Helping children to read.



Our registered charity 2020
ZELLWEGER UK.
Amount raised so far: £1479.92



Birchwood Primary School Website



Want to know what is happening in school? Go to 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



PANTS

NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.



This week is 'S'

Speak up, someone can help

Tell your child that if they ever feel sad, anxious or frightened they should talk to an adult they trust.

This does not have to be a family member. It can also be a teacher or a friend's parent - or even ChildLine. Remind them that whatever the problem, it is not their fault and they will never get into trouble for speaking up.

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

jobcentreplus

CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

FUN CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES HELD IN POLESWORTH

Little Dancers from age 2 1/2

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

Information leaflets and adverts sent or published by Birchwood Primary School

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