

Letters home this week: ALL- Reports

## What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y6 Leavers Performances 1.45 and 5.00 pm.	Drum Lessons		Guitar, Woodwind, Violin and Keyboard Lessons	Early Finish—Children to be collected at 1.00pm

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

**REMINDER: Remember to bring a 'bag for life' on Tuesday and Wednesday to help take books home.**

## Fantastic end of year achievements at Birchwood

We approach the end of another fantastic year at Birchwood. As well as beginning to look forward to our summer and making plans for our return to school in September, it is a good time to look back at all that we have achieved in school.

Our 'Show and Share' evening on Thursday was a great success. We were really pleased with the vast numbers of parents, grandparents and children who took the opportunity to come back into school to celebrate all the learning and progress made by our wonderful children over the course of the year. It was really nice to be able to share all the huge amounts of work that our children have completed and to discuss the progress they have made. Staff were also very pleased to receive lots of thanks and gratitude from parents and children.

This week we received our school end of year attainment data. We have had another brilliant year across the whole school and have achieved very pleasing results.

### Early Years Foundation Stage

73% of pupils at Birchwood made a good level of development, National Average last year was 72%.

### Year 1 Phonics

93% of pupils at Birchwood passed the phonic screening check, National Average, last year was 83%.

### Year 2 – KS1.

**Reading – 85% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard at Birchwood**, last year's National average was 75%.

**Writing – 77% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard at Birchwood**, last year's National average was 70%.

**Maths – 83% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard at Birchwood**, last year's National average was 76%.

**Science – 85% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard at Birchwood**, last year's National average was 83%.

### Year 6 – KS2.

**Reading – 69% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard**, this is lower than National Average this year which was 73%.

**Writing – 89% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard**, this is higher than National Average this year which was 78%.

**VGPS – 88% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard**, this is higher than National Average this year which was 78%.

**Maths – 86% of Pupils reached the Expected Standard**, this is higher than National Average this year which was 79%.

**The number of pupils achieving the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined was 67%. This is 2% higher than this year's National Average of 65% of pupils reaching the Expected Standard in all 3 subjects.**

I am delighted with our results across the whole school and I am really pleased for everyone involved.

My thanks go out to all staff for their effort, commitment and hard work in supporting our children to achieve their very best. I would also like to thank our parents for the contribution they make to their children's learning, and last but not least I would really like to thank every single one of our children for their fantastic efforts this year. All we ever ask is for our pupils to do their very best and together we will achieve our 'Birchwood Best'.

**Mr N Coleman**  
Headteacher



## Well done Birchwood!

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

## Community Governor Vacancy

**Birchwood Primary School is looking to recruit high quality community governors to join the Local Governing Body.**

We are looking for members of the local community who have the skill to act as a 'critical friend' and ask challenging questions about performance and use their skills and experience to support the school in addressing its aims. You will be involved in creating and developing a strategic plan for the school, setting and agreeing objectives, and monitoring and evaluating the schools' success by focusing on progress and outcomes. Your role will also include collectively allocating and controlling the school budget as well as being influential in the appointment of staff.

If you are over 18, able to commit approximately 10-15 hours per term to the role we would be delighted to hear from you. You do not need to be a parent of a student at the school. No prior knowledge is needed – training and support is offered and available to all new and existing governors.

This is an extremely rewarding role, one which holds great importance within our school and trust. If you feel that you have skills which could be transferred to help make a real difference to children's' lives, please contact us for further information.

### **For further information please contact:**

Mrs Sara Ferris,  
Clerk to the Governors  
Birchwood Primary School  
Birchwood Avenue  
Dordon  
Tamworth  
B781QU  
Telephone: 01827 892913 or ferris.s@welearn365.com

## Improve your wellbeing by developing your resilience

Many people are often perplexed as to why a group of people can have a similar negative experience and yet some of them appear to cope well with it while others become overwhelmed. Like many things in life, it's about knowing what your options are and choosing ones that have the best outcomes. If children do not know what the options are, how can they choose? How can they know what their options are if no one ever models and discusses them? While we include many lessons and activities in school to cover a wide variety of situations, there is nothing like using real life opportunities as they arise to give learning a purpose as well as making it personal and valuable to the child. We hope you found last week's article on **Character and Contribution** useful and are ready for our fifth instalment which will focus on **Coping**.

**Coping:** *Learning to cope effectively with sources of worry or difficulty will help a child be better prepared to overcome life's challenges.*

Positive coping lessons include:

- Model positive coping strategies on a consistent basis such as: ensure they are calm, identify the source of adversity, generate ideas for overcoming it, evaluate which one is the best choice, try it out, reach out for help. Encourage children to use deep, slow breaths to relax them and ensure they are able to think clearly before discussing anything.
- Reminding and encouraging children to use these approaches as daily situations arise. Use the language of calming down, identifying the difficulty, problem solving and evaluating to help them identify the skills they are using.
- Knowing that simply telling a child to stop negative behaviours will not be effective on its own. The human brain only retains information it considers valuable. By explaining the reasons behind expectations, children are able to identify how they and others benefit from more positive choices.
- Understanding that many risky behaviours are attempts to alleviate worry and uncertainty in a child's daily life. Some behaviours are attempts at avoiding certain situations because of worries. The body will often activate a fight, flight or freeze response if it feels threatened. At this point, the body is reacting and incapable of thinking clearly until it has returned to a calm state. Sometimes the mind can overreact to a supposed 'threat / worry'. It is vital to talk about how this can be overcome because ignoring this type of response will often lead to future overreactions and become an unhelpful learned coping strategy. Encourage children to talk regularly about their choices and what is on their mind. Model this by using your own (child appropriate) examples.
- Focus on developing positive strategies rather than condemning a child's behaviour. Pointing out why these are better alternatives.

Next week we will be looking at the final element of resilience; **Control**, and how feeling in control is linked to feeling more positive about being able to overcome diversity. 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:

### Opportunities to perform

At Birchwood we love giving children opportunities to show the skills they have been developing, and this is especially true with their skills in the arts. Over the last few weeks our year 5 pupils and our Playtastic orchestra had the fantastic opportunity to perform at the Bedworth Civic Hall as part of the Summer Spectacular with Warwickshire Music. Although the year 5 pupils only picked up a cello for the first time 10 months ago, they took to the stage in front of a sell-out audience of parents and friends to perform pieces they have been learning in their 'upbeat' music lessons each week here in school. The quality of their playing has impressed us all each week, and hearing them improve so rapidly has been a real joy. I cannot believe that they were non musicians this time last year after hearing how confidently they played last night. We were so proud of them and it was great to hear so many of them say they had really enjoyed the experience too!

Later the same night our Playtastic Orchestra, joined with other playtastic groups from across North Warwickshire for a performance of the pieces they had been practising this term, including an arrangement of Trepak. Learning to follow a conductor is a real skill, and the children have been a really enthusiastic group this year who have taken on every challenge we have set them with a smile and determination. They sounded amazing on the night and were a pleasure to listen to.

Our Year 2 pupils have also visited Dordon Primary School this week to show their dance skills off as part of the Embody Festival of Dance. There was not a dry eye in the house as they performed their 'Million Dreams' dance competing against other schools, and although they were not the winners on this occasion, we were very proud of their amazing performance.

Continued...

We are also looking forward to seeing the Year 6 performance of The Greatest Showman this week and celebrating more of our super talented young performer's skills as they entertain us all in what I am sure will be another fabulous show.

**Mrs M Day**  
**Associate Headteacher**

*Judy Brulo*  
CHILDREN'S AUTHOR



## **Reading – Music – Action**

BE PREPARED FOR MORE THAN A STORY

for ages 6 - 12 at  
WHSmith Ventura Park Tamworth  
Three dates for your summer holiday:

THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST  
2 - 3PM

SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST  
2 - 3PM

THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST  
2 - 3PM



Sign up in-store or just come along on the day  
Adults must remain with their children throughout the session



# COOKING CLUB

This term's cooking club has gone with a 'banger', with the families cooking a toad in the hole tea. Everyone has enjoyed the club and would like to thank Mrs Wright for taking the time to run such a lovely experience.

**Miss Bainton-Ball**, "I like the opportunity we get to cook together as a family."

**Riley**, "It's great for learning new skills."

**Tayla**, "Cooking the Yorkshire puddings was really fun."

**Mitchell**, "It was really useful because before, I only knew how to put a pizza in the oven but this club has taught me how to cook other food".

**Mr Haywood**, "It's made me want to do more cooking at home with the children."



## Holidays in Term Time

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 Warwickshire Attendance Service (WAS) have a legal responsibility to monitor school attendance on behalf of the Local Authority. WAS will inspect registers and if unhappy will prosecute parents.

Parents often think it is the school that make up the rules, this is 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.

## **NSPCC** Wednesday 17th June **'Birchwood Arts Day'**



The school council would like to hold 'Birchwood Arts Day' on the last Wednesday of term. It will be a chance for each year group to finish their theme and learning for the year with activities such as mask making, dance, creating music, writing poetry and drama.

In addition to working towards our next Artsmark award, we would also like to raise money for the NSPCC and are asking if each child could bring in a small donation, which will be split between the charity and the resources for Art Day.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a fantastic day of the Arts.

The School Council.

## Farmers market

A huge thank you to every one who supported our 2nd annual farmer's market. As well the children developing their skills and having memorable new experiences, the market has made a profit of £307.65 which will help support our future cooking and growing activities. We would like to extend our thanks to Authentic Soaps, Smiths butchers and Team Birchwood who also had stalls at the event. We would also like to thank any parents and children who made cakes for the NSPCC stall. We raised just over £70 to add to our total. We are all very excited for next year and have a couple of new stalls in mind already!



The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



Summer Reading Challenge 2019

at

## POLESWORTH LIBRARY

Visit us 3 times and read 6 library books of your choice during the summer holiday and receive gifts along the way.

If you complete all 6 you will be invited to a special presentation to receive a medal and a certificate.

Sign up from Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

FREE TO ALL and suitable for 4-12 year olds

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries)

Illustrations © Adam Stower for The Reading Agency



### Library Books



Please could we remind you to return all library books before the end of term. Could you also please check your ParentPay account and pay for any outstanding lost library book fines. Thank you.

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.

## Academic Year 2018-2019

### Summer Term 2019

Y6 Leavers Performance	Monday 15th July
Y6 Disco and BBQ	Thursday 18th July
Term ends for Summer (Early)	Friday 19th July

### Academic Year 2019/2020

#### Autumn Term 2019

Professional Development Day	Monday 2nd September
Children Return to School	Tuesday 3rd September
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 28th October
Professional Development Day	Monday 4th November
Children Return to School	Tuesday 5th November
Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks)	Friday 20th December

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, if this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.



### Team Birchwood News

The children had great fun at the Slime Workshop, we hope we will be able to run more of these events next year.

Don't forget End of Year Disco on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. Please log on to ParentPay by 4pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July to pay the entrance and give your consent.

If you can help out at the event please get in touch with us on 07919431220 or email [tbps2619@welearn365.com](mailto:tbps2619@welearn365.com).

NSPCC fundraising so far this year is :

**£2015.73**

Thank you very much for all of your support.

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



### WORD MANIA

Make as many words as you can before the time runs out !!!



## 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](http://Cameodance.co.uk) [cameodance@rocketmail.com](mailto:cameodance@rocketmail.com)

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo



BASED AT  
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LONG ST.  
B78 1PZ

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