

Letters sent home this week— All—Changemakers

## What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.05pm Playtastic Orchestra 3.05pm Embody Dance Club	Guitar Lessons 3.05pm Football Club Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Club Y4-6	Woodwind Lessons 3.05pm Football Club Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Club Y1-3	Violin & Keyboard Lessons 3.05pm Young Engineers Club Y3-6	Drum Lessons 3.05pm Musical Theatre Y3-6 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: CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ENTERING THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS BEFORE 8.30 AM**

## Teaching a broad and rich curriculum at Birchwood

We are very proud of our outstanding reputation and work very hard to ensure we maintain the highest standards for all our children. We continually look for ways to improve practice in school and use current educational research to innovate and lead curriculum developments that reflect the future of teaching and learning. We are a reflective school that recognise that although we achieve high standards we must continue to reflect on emerging trends and issues to ensure that we maintain a forward looking approach.

The 2014 National Curriculum significantly raised the standards expected of all pupils, but as the DFE states – 'The national curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year to range beyond the national curriculum specifications. The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum'.

At Birchwood we have a themed based curriculum that is knowledge engaged. Each Year Group's half term is linked to a creative theme that is driven by at least one quality linked key text. Themes begin with a provocation, a 'hook' to rouse and promote interest and excitement within the children. Children will then go on a learning journey through theme related instructions that link to all curriculum subject areas, these are guided by essential questions along the way. Our curriculum approach enables children to learn both knowledge and content and then develop and apply skills in context. Curriculum themes conclude with a 'take home product' linked to the learning experienced over the course of the half term theme.

A key reason for our success is that our staff are empowered to take ownership and control of our curriculum, encouraging them to be creative and innovative. We have embedded the principles of effective teaching and learning in English, Maths and across other subject areas, providing children with the necessary knowledge to ensure the practice of key skills. Providing a broad and rich curriculum ensures that our children have a wide range of learning experiences that cater for all types of learners. Learning outside the classroom provides enriching experiences and promotes further interest in our curriculum themes.

Teaching and learning at Birchwood is excellent and ensures that our children make good progress and achieve well. We are always keen to learn from others and to share and develop outstanding practice across our schools. Through our theme based, knowledge engaged curriculum we will continue to strive to provide all of our children with 'Rich opportunities and memorable experiences'.

**Neil Coleman—Headteacher**



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

## Spotlight on Excellence this week is: STEM in School



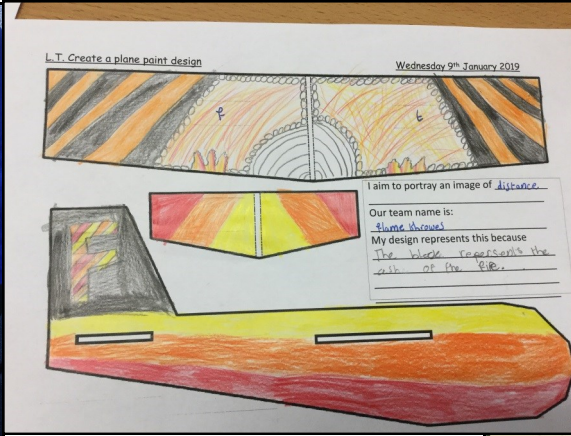
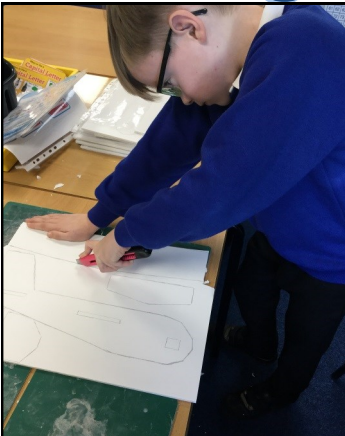
The start of this term has seen a number of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects and lessons popping up across school. It has been inspiring to see children applying their learning, thinking and skills to a range of new problems and situations, from amazing home learning projects about building castles, to working out how to classify animals and justify their reasons. Year 4, who have been taking part in the exciting 'Fly to the line' project, have been working in teams to design and build their own gliders which have been whizzing across the hall during the testing phase. They have been explaining their findings using their new technical vocabulary and deciding why some designs worked better than others. The winning teams from each class will be off to compete at the regional finals next month.

Our Young Inventors visits last term have also resulted in some exciting news. Several children have impressed the panel so much that their brilliant designs are going to be made into models, with the opportunity for children in the winning classes to hear from the inventors on the panel via skype on why the designs impressed them so much.

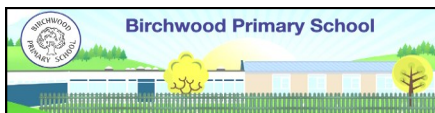
Our curriculum is full of opportunities for children to use and extend their STEM learning and skills, encouraging the next generation of designers, scientists and engineers in all fields, and as always we are so proud of their achievements. They never cease to amaze us with their creativity and learning.

**Mrs Day—Associate Headteacher**

# Gliding their way to success



Year 4 had an exciting return to school last week after finding out they had been entered into a national glider designing competition. Teams in each class are vying for the top spot in order to win the chance to take their designs to the regional finals. They have been challenged to learn about the mechanics of flying and then design, test and improve a glider model that will fly the greatest distance.



## **Birchwood Primary School Website**

Want to know what's happening in school? Go to [www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com](http://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



## **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](mailto:scp@warwickshire.gov.uk). Application packs can be downloaded at <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolcrossingpatrols>





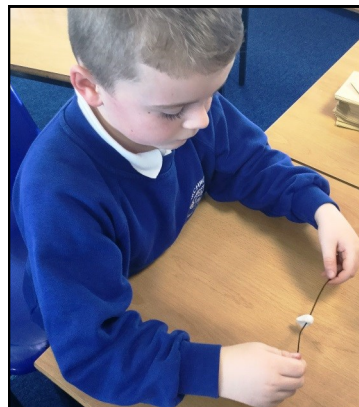
# Snow Way! Fun at the Snowdome



Reception children had 'snow' much fun on their trip to the Snowdome last week. The children took Boris the Polar Bear, who is visiting us from London Zoo, on their way to see his mum (Mrs Bear) in the Arctic. Boris wanted to know all about the weather in the Arctic so we thought it was a good idea to take him to the snowdome.



# Stone Age learning



Year 3 experienced life in the Stone Age on their return to school. The day involved excavating real life artefacts, creating a museum, making bronze age jewellery, making stone age pottery, grinding their own flour, making their own stone age weapons and weaving material. Lots was learned about how Stone Age people lived and we all had great fun!







### CUT OUT AND KEEP SAFE

Please ensure you KEEP a copy of the schools procedures for school closure, in case of particularly poor weather.

#### Procedure for entering school during poor weather conditions

Following poor weather, such as snow, it is almost impossible to clear all of the paved areas and playgrounds to make sure they are safe. Clearing all paths and playgrounds would take our Facilities Team, many hours of hard physical labour.

Should we experience poor weather, the following will happen:

1. A single path will be cleared from ONE pedestrian gate, all the way around to Pre-School and the Junior Entrance. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 should enter as normal via this path. The other pedestrian gate and path will be closed.
2. A crossing will be marked across the driveway for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who should enter school via the front door. By the end of the day we will have attempted to have cleared the path and part of the playground for children in Reception to Year 2.

### Holidays in Term Time

Government legislation has tightened up very significantly in this area and it is now highly unlikely that holidays will be approved in term times. Apart from the fact that Government legislation is very strong in this area the school also does not support parents taking children out for holidays and missing vital lessons.



**10 Minutes a Day Times Table**  
Practise for 10 minutes a day and become a Maths Star!

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

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

NSPCC fundraising so far this year is :  
**£1300.75**

Thank you very much for all of your support.

### **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](http://www.cameodance.co.uk) \* Call 07443421867

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo

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

### Academic Year 2018-2019

#### Spring Term 2019

Young Voices - Genting Arena	Friday 25th January
Year 4 Class Assemblies	Thursday 31st January
Grandparents Lunch	Friday 15th February
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 18th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 25th February
Children return to school	Tuesday 26th February
Late Parents Evening	Weds 6th March
Early Parents Evening	Thursday 7th March
Year 3 Class Assemblies	Thursday 21st March
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 12th April
Payment due for Manor Adventure	Friday 12th April

#### Summer Term 2019

Manor Adventure Trip	Friday 7th June to Monday 10th June
Children return to school	Monday 29th April
May Day Bank Holiday	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 1pm early finish on 19th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.



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THE DORDON CLUB  
LONG ST.  
B78 1PZ**

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