

Letters home this week: ALL—School Photographs, Covid Absence, Arrival and Collection

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 : The deadline for secondary school applications is 31st October 2020!!

Welcoming our New Reception Children into our Birchwood Family

Our new Reception children have made a great start to their time at Birchwood. They have very quickly got into excellent routines and have had a very positive impact in school. It is lovely to see all the children so happy to be at Birchwood.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage Leader Mrs Willis and the rest of her team, Miss Lowe, Miss Johal, Mrs Spong, Mrs Tweed and Mrs Day have all been hugely impressed with the children. They have commented on their outstanding learning behaviours, their excellent listening skills, their co-operation and sharing skills and their overall positive attitudes.

Our induction process for our new Reception has had to be adapted slightly this year. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our story time sessions in school before the summer. We also had to hold our welcome meeting for parents virtually, missing out on the opportunity to meet in person and show parents around our school and Reception classes.

Our start of year and induction arrangements have also had to change. Our 'home visits' have had to be replaced with a 'school visit'. Staff used this meeting to share key information about our school and processes. It also provided our parents an opportunity to have some quality one to one time to discuss any queries or concerns they may have had.

The children have now all spent 3 days in school learning all about our routines and how our school works. Having only half the children in at a time enables our Early Years team to really get to know the children well and gives them an opportunity to show them in detail all the fantastic learning that they will be doing. The routines that are established in the first few weeks are followed by children all the way through their time at Birchwood.

Monday will be the first full day in school with all 60 of our Reception children. It will be lovely to see them learning altogether and I am sure that they will all have a brilliant first year at Birchwood. The children and their parents will all be arriving in school in their window between 8:30am and 8:40am. Please help and support them by keeping to your own family windows. Many thanks.

Mr Coleman - Headteacher



New Members of Our Birchwood Family!

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

Spotlight this week is ...

Positive Relationships

This week I have been delighted to see so many of our children re-establishing their friendships, and very quickly our classrooms and playgrounds were filled with the happy sounds of children getting along. Although things might be a little different, it is amazing how fast children adapt to new routines, and lunchtimes are already times of fun conversations and new and interesting variations of games.

I have also been pleased to see so many children returning to school with a great attitude to learning and showing consideration and respect for others. Like all of us, Birchwood's children have been keen to get back into as normal a pattern as possible and being back with friends and teachers is a big part of that. Forming a positive relationship between children and all adults in school right from the start is vital in helping children be successful and achieving as much as they can in their time with us, something which is very important now more than ever.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher



Who's Who this week ...

Mrs Tucker

Hello! I have been a teaching assistant at Birchwood for over 10 years. For most of this time I have been in year 1, which I have loved, but this year I have an exciting new challenge and I am a teaching assistant in Year 6!



When I am not at school I like to read and watch a good film. I particularly like Marvel films, especially Iron Man! I really love to eat chocolate and cake so I have to try and keep fit by going running and to boot camp! I have also recently started playing rugby for Tamworth Ladies Team (if there are any ladies who fancy playing please come too!).

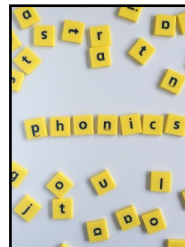
I have 3 daughters who all play rugby too and a husband who coaches rugby, so this is something we can all help each other with and do as a family!

It is wonderful coming to school everyday, seeing the children's happy faces and knowing that they will grow to become the next generation of amazing people.

Birchwood Best Practice

The importance of phonics

Phonics helps your child to read and spell. Phonics is using the sounds letters make to break down and read words. Without this ability your child cannot be fully literate. Words are like codes and phonics teaches the children how to crack the reading code.



At Birchwood we believe phonics is paramount. It is amazing how quickly the children go from not being able to read at all, to blending simple words and then sentences together. We start teaching phonics daily in Reception and build on this every year.

I find teaching phonics very rewarding. Some children find it more challenging than others but they all progress, at different rates and some in smaller steps than others. The progress they all make is amazing and we are proud of them all.

To ensure that phonics is embedded it is really important that children read regularly, both at home and at school. Please help your child by sharing books with them. - **Mrs Tucker**

Reminder for Parents

Leave of Absence during Term Time

As you will be aware, current attendance regulations stipulate a Head teacher may not grant a leave of absence during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion, if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. If the leave is granted, the Head teacher is able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for Leave of Absence can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s). Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is issued and not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.

Parents are asked to respect the new regulations under which the school must work and if there is a need to take a child out of school during term-time, an application or request must be made in advance and make clear how the circumstances are exceptional.

ATTENDANCE

- Can we please ask parents that they no longer send paper copies of any absence notes or medical appointment letters and cards into school via Me to You's wherever possible. Could they please be emailed into school using the following email address:
- admin2619@welearn365.com
- Please include your child's full name and class details and any other information you wish to share.

Applying for a Secondary School Place

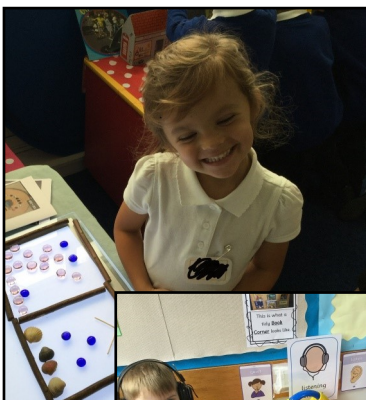
Children born between **01/09/2009** and **31/08/2010** are due to start Secondary School in September 2021. **The deadline for on-time applications is 31st October 2020.**

Warwickshire residents can make an on-line application for Primary and Secondary places at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool. You can also apply by calling 01926 742037 or 01926 742047.



New Birchwood

Reception



Academic Year 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

School Photographs	Friday 2nd October
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 26th October
Professional Development day	Monday 2nd November
Children Return to School	Tuesday 3rd November
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

Our registered charity 2020
ZELLWEGER UK.
Amount raised so far: £812.67



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.

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



Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. Let us keep this service flying.

Are you planning on having a clear out of your wardrobe? If so, we have a collection point on site for any clothing, bedding, paired shoes, belts and bags if you would like to support our local air ambulance service. Look for the big yellow collection box to the right of the main school drive. This is emptied on a regular basis and the Air Ambulance Service appreciate all of the donations made. Thank you.



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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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