

Letters home this week: All - Art Project

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 ensure children remain packed lunch or school dinners for the whole week.

Communication and information sharing

Birchwood is a very busy and vibrant school with lots of interesting and exciting things going on. Ensuring we keep everyone informed and up to date with 'All Things Birchwood' is a constant challenge, which is made even more difficult under the current restrictions.

To help support our school to stay in touch with our families and community we have devised many methods of communicating and use these in different ways depending upon what information we are trying to share and whom we are sharing it with.

Face to face communication with parents is still very important to us but probably the most difficult for us to achieve at the moment. Although time is very limited before and after school, our staff are trying to make themselves as available as possible for parents to share brief messages. As I am sure you can appreciate, this is difficult to do whilst maintaining social distance and keeping our one way system flowing. If you do have any 'longer' messages that need to be passed onto class teachers please use our new parent email address birchwoodparents@welearn365.com or alternatively please phone the school office on 01827 892913. We also encourage regular communication between home and school via 'Me to You', school letters, school text messages, reading diaries and medical forms.

Throughout the year we timetable regular opportunities to report to parents regarding progress children are making in school. We send out interim report slips in the Autumn and Spring terms and follow these up with Parents Evening appointments. This week we have had to hold our parents evening remotely by telephone. Although these have been well received by parents, we have missed having the opportunity to invite you all into school and to share with you first hand your children's learning and achievements so far this year.

At the end of the school year we send out a full report detailing children's attainment and progress and celebrating their achievements. This is normally followed up with an invite to parents to come into school for our 'Show and Share' event, to celebrate all our children's learning. We are very much hoping that we will be able to have our parents and families back into school by then.

Our school newsletter 'The Birchwood Bugle' continues to be the main way we keep families and our community up to date with school life. We think that it is very important for this to go home in the form of a paper copy still, so that parents can refer back to it and keep sections for future reference. A colour digital copy is also available each week on our school website. The Bugle provides up to date information about school events that are running, as well as showcasing some of the excellent work completed in school. To support our newsletter, each year



It's Good to Talk!

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

Continued....group also sends out regular tweets using our Twitter page giving us the opportunity to share some of our 'Rich Opportunities and Memorable Experiences' instantly. We are currently in the process of updating our school prospectus which provides information to new parents and staff who take an interest in our school. Unfortunately this year we are unable to hold tours of our school for perspective new parents and new starters for next year. As an alternative we have planned to create a school video to help showcase all the brilliant things we do at Birchwood. This will be completed in the next few weeks and will be made available to all via our school website. Our Parent Information Directory which contains information about your child's year in school and the curriculum themes they will be following, should also be finished soon and be available to parents in the coming weeks. During these difficult and challenging times we will continue to try our best to communicate effectively with all stakeholders and to share all the exciting things that we get up to at Birchwood. Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Mr Coleman - Headteacher

PANTS

NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.



This week is 'A'

Always remember your body belongs to you.

Let your child know their body belongs to them, and no one else. No one has the right to make them do anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. And if anyone tries, tell your child they have the right to say no.

Remind your child that they can always talk to you about anything which worries or upsets them.

Next week 'N'

Who's Who this week ...

Mrs Shaw

Hello. My name is Mrs Shaw and I am a teaching assistant at Birchwood. I currently work in year 4, although over my past twenty years at the school I have worked in most year groups in a variety of roles.



The lovely thing about being at the same school for so long is the wonderful relationships that build up over those years with staff, parents and children. I love being a part of the school community and feel so privileged to be a part of the children's learning and development. I am always excited about the learning taking place and no two days are the same.

In my spare time, I am an avid reader and book collector. I love travelling, especially to Cornwall in my campervan and walking the coastal paths. I relax at home by watching my favourite Jurassic Park movies!

Birchwood Best Practice

Joining Birchwood

Starting a new school can be a daunting prospect for many children and joining a school during term time can be especially so.



At Birchwood we appoint a 'shadow' to a new pupil. This is a child in their new class who will support them to settle in. The children sit together in class and the 'shadow' gradually introduces the new pupil to the school's routines, staff and school procedures. Spending break times and lunchtimes together also supports a new pupil's confidence in making new friendships.

We find the 'shadow' really helps new pupils settle in quickly and successfully and that children who are chosen to be 'shadows' really appreciate the opportunity to show Birchwood at its best and that they take their new responsibilities very seriously! - Mrs Shaw

Myths and Legends ...

'The school won't let me take my child on holiday in term time!'

Wrong! In actual fact the law will not let you, and the school has no option but to follow the law or it can also get in trouble. The Department for Education say:

*'The current law **does not** give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave.'*

Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school; indeed **parents at our school have already received large fines for doing so.**

- It is important that children attend school regularly if they are to benefit from the learning opportunities provided.
- Children who are absent from school due to a holiday in term time will miss out on important learning.
- The time teachers have to help all the children in a class is reduced if they spend time helping a child to catch up after a holiday.
- Educational experiences in school missed as a result of a family holiday cannot be re-captured later.
- If your child does not attend school regularly, he/she will not be able to keep up with the work. This will have a serious impact on opportunities later in life.

We find it very embarrassing being put in the position of refusing holiday absences when these are requested, especially when we regularly remind parents that holidays should **NOT** be taken during the term time.

Parking

Bearing in mind our one school rule of 'Consideration and Respect' please may we remind parents/carers to park courteously on the roads surrounding school.

It is important to ensure that driveways and pavements are not obstructed as this can prove dangerous for other road users, pedestrians and can be frustrating for our neighbours. Thank you for your support and co-operation.



Spotlight this week is on...

Using Technology to Support Learning.

Technology plays an important part in all our lives, even more so now than ever before. At Birchwood, we weave technology into the curriculum to support and add to children's learning experiences, to build their knowledge and add to their skills across a whole range of subjects.

This week in school for example, Year 3 have been using Kahoot on the iPads to help them work with a partner to solve maths questions together. The buzz and enthusiasm from the children in the room and the amount of maths discussion it was creating was fantastic to see.

Technology can also support learning at home, and children across years 3 to 6 have been keen to tell me all about the books they have been reading on 'Reading Plus' this week. Having a huge digital library of books and questions to support their understanding of what they are reading at their fingertips both in school and at home is not only generating excitement about reading, but also helping boost their reading skills.

Although technology can play a big part in supporting learning, children will also need encouragement and engagement with adults to help guide them. Your support with reading at home, practising spellings and 10 for 10's and home learning continues to be vital.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher

Aston Villa - Live Skills Session

Pre booking details for this engaging live session are below:

Name: Virtual Skills Session

Date: Sunday 15th November 2020

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Price: £2.50

Location: Microsoft TEAMS (LIVE); email with TEAMS link will be sent on Saturday 14th November (each participant can practice the skills indoors or outdoors in a small space as long it is safe to do so)

Requirements: One football (any ball), appropriate footwear & clothing, drinks bottle

Link: <https://tickets.avfc.co.uk/en-GB/categories/football-in-the-community-courses>



READING - Winter Wish List

*Snow is falling
and books are
calling...*

At Birchwood, we have been working extremely hard to promote the power and enjoyment of reading for our children, as we know that being a successful reader is one of the key indicators to future success in life.

We pride ourselves on nurturing skilful and enthusiastic readers within school, providing children with memorable experiences such as exciting activities on World Book Day, reading competitions and the introduction of Reading Plus, while also promoting a love of reading on a daily basis through reading for pleasure time and celebrating our 'readers of the week'. Although we work diligently to promote reading

within school, we value your support greatly in creating a positive reading culture at home; it is vital that children are encouraged to read high quality texts - from newspapers to novels and recipes!

At the moment, we know that many of us are spending more time indoors than we normally would, providing our children with even more opportunities to read for pleasure in the comfort of their own home. For this reason, we have compiled a list of inspiring, excellent books for both you and your child to enjoy – both independently and as a shared reading book. On this list you will find some children's classics, as well as some new bestselling books, and some award winning texts which have been celebrated widely within the reading community. We have selected these books to cater for a variety of reading tastes, and we have included books ranging from wild adventure stories, spooky ghost tales, books which celebrate diversity and difference, and those which promote kindness and emotional wellbeing.



Please visit your child's class page on eSchools or visit our school website to view your child's Winter Wish List. We hope that this list will provide you with some new inspiration when selecting memorable gifts this winter.

SCIENCE CAPITAL - Exciting Science Experiences

We need your help

As part of our commitment to offer our pupils rich opportunities and memorable experiences, we would like to continue to make links between their learning and our community as much as we can. This personal approach helps make learning relevant and therefore more engaging for pupils. As part of this term's science day activities, we would like to build up the



children's science capital by asking parents, friends and family to send into school a 60 second video recording or brief written outline of what their job or hobby is and the role science plays. For example: a fire fighter could use their knowledge of properties of materials to explain why different types of fire extinguishers are used in different places or why certain materials are used as part of their uniform; a chef may explain how knowing that baking powder reacts to create a gas and this makes cakes rise (chemical reactions and irreversible changes); nurses and carers could give examples about

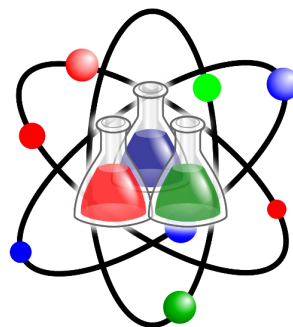
hygiene, vaccines or specialist equipment; someone who enjoys fishing may share their knowledge of habitats and life cycles.

How this helps our pupils

The concept of science capital can be imagined like a 'holdall', or bag, containing all the science-related knowledge, attitudes experiences and resources that you acquire through life. It includes what science you know, how you think about science (your attitudes and dispositions), who you know (e.g. if your parents are very interested in science) and what sort of everyday engagement you have with science. Our hope is that building science capital will have a positive effect on young people's lives – not just in terms of encouraging more young people to continue into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) jobs, but more importantly, we hope that building science capital is a tool for social justice, to help improve people's lives and life chances.

Please send all written or recorded accounts into school either via your child's me-to-you or through the Birchwood Parents email.

Thanking you in advance for your support.



Academic Year 2020-2021

AutumnTerm 2020

Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks) Friday 18th December

SpringTerm 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.

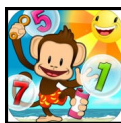
Please note the 1pm early finish on 18th December & 21st July.
If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

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.



Monkey Maths

Fundamental maths skills for children
aged 3-6 years



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



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FUN CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES HELD IN
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Little Dancers from age 2 ½

Tuesdays 4:30 – 5:30pm, The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

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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

Birchwood Primary does not endorse any of the services, or products advertised and does not give any representation or warranty about any of the organisations. Birchwood Primary School is not an agent for any of these organisations and any enquiry concerning their services and/or products should be referred directly to them.

Our registered charity 2020

ZELLWEGER UK.

Amount raised so far: £1479.92



NO IFS ... NO BUTS ... NO EXCUSE

KEEP THE ZIG-ZAGS CLEAR !!!

The zig –zags are there for a purpose.

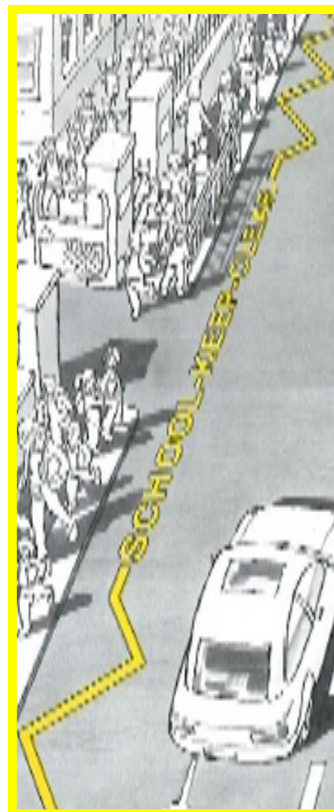
To provide a clear area in which children can cross MORE safely.

Because of their size, children cannot see if the road is clear from behind parked cars

Drivers cannot see small children hidden by parked cars.

When children go to and from school, there is usually a lot of traffic.

Put all these problems together and you have the perfect setting for an accident to happen.



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