

Letters home this week: R - Reading books, ALL - Children's Choice School Meal

What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Children's Choice School Meal	School Photographs

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

REMINDER : The first home learning stop off date is Monday 28th September.

Celebrating and Rewarding Positive Behaviour

To ensure that our school is as safe as it can be for all children, parents and staff to attend, there are many safety measures that we have had to put in place. Unfortunately, the guidance that we have to follow also restricts us delivering some of the excellent practice we have established over the last few years.

We invest a great deal of time trying to support and encourage our children to take on extra responsibilities and roles in school. These include House Captains, School Council, Eco Council, Digital Leaders, Road Safety Team, Tuck Trolley Monitors, Play Leaders and Librarians. As Year Group Families are not permitted to mix, we are currently unable to support these roles and groups in school.

It is also frustrating that we are not always able to teach the way we would prefer or to share the same 'rich opportunities and memorable experiences'. We know how our children learn best, but it is difficult to support this when children are having to sit in rows, all facing the same way and where staff have to be mindful of their social distance and contact with children. We are also desperately missing our wonderful trips out of school, our after school activities and being able to welcome in all of our visitors into school. We are, however, really pleased that we are still able to hold celebration assemblies and our BASE skills academy, even if they have had to be slightly adapted under the current conditions.

At Birchwood we are very keen to celebrate children who are considerate and respectful all of the time. To reward them for always trying their very best, children earn the right to take part in 'Skills Academy' to support our BASE (Birchwood Additional School Experience) programme. If children have followed our one school rule and shown consideration and respect all week and have tried their best in all their learning, they will be entitled to thirty minutes of BASE skills academy time on a Friday afternoon. During BASE Skills time, pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of enjoyable skills based activities of their choice, run by our fabulous teachers and teaching assistants. Children get to choose from a range of different skills activities including Lego, football, music, art, dance, cooking and many more. They will spend the half term practicing and refining these skills during their BASE time. Each half term there will be a new set of skills activities for the children to choose.



BIRCHWOOD ADDITIONAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

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

Continued.....

We are also pleased to be able to continue to hold our celebration assemblies. Again, these have had to be adapted and are now held just once a week in year groups. Each week either one of the class teachers or I take it in turns to deliver an assembly which covers an important message for the week and also gives us an opportunity to celebrate children's achievements inside and outside school. We find out who have been our Stars and Readers of the week, promote any children who have progressed onto their next presentation pens and find out all about the successes our children have achieved outside school. We love to see children with their certificates, medals and trophies and so would encourage children to bring them into school on the day of their assembly so they can share them with the rest of us.

Mr Coleman - Headteacher

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.



Who's Who this week ...

Mr A Hammersley

Hello Birchwood community! I am Mr Hammersley. I am a teacher in year 5 and I also lead our History curriculum and help to organise our house competitions at Birchwood.

I have been a teacher for 6 years, but before training, I worked on a farm with my family. When I am not teaching, I can usually be found either tinkering with tractors, or helping look after our 400 sheep with our dogs Martha and Meg. My daughter loves helping out too—even though the animals are a lot bigger than she is!

I am also completely obsessed with old things. Castles, museums, cathedrals and battlefields are often on the agenda during my weekends—the older and more crumbling, the better!

The things I like the most are coffee, camping and really, really cold weather. My biggest dislikes are dance crazes, litter and avocado!



Birchwood Best Practice

History

History is a subject which lends itself perfectly to the way that we teach at Birchwood. It helps give us a backdrop to plan many cross-curricular lessons, whilst also teaching the children about the periods, people and events that have shaped the world around us.



At Birchwood, history is taught first as a set of skills. Our children learn to identify differences between then and now, to be able to put events in chronological order, and to express their own thoughts and ideas about the past.

In key stage 2, the children begin to learn about the different periods in British history: from the Stone age in year 3, to World War Two in year 6. These are taught in chronological order, and the children love to identify links between these time periods and discuss the changes that have occurred over time.

We also look in detail at World history. Children at Birchwood have the opportunity to explore ancient civilizations such as the Mayans, Egyptians and Greeks and develop their understanding of how these cultures rose and fell, and how their impact can still be seen on the world today. Mr Hammersley



Myths and Legends....

'It doesn't matter if my child is late for school'

Not what the children would say! They absolutely hate being late. They arrive after all their friends are already sat down in school and enter a classroom of 30 others looking at them.

We now have a 10 minute window for children to arrive:

Reception & Year 1 – 8.30am-8.40am

Year 2 & Year 3 – 8.40am -8.50am

Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 – 8.50am- 9.00am

At the start of the day teachers take registers, explain to the children what they will be doing for the day and all sorts of other important instructions about what will be happening around school.

Healthy Lunchboxes

Top Tips.....

- Keep children fuller for longer - Base the lunchbox on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.
- Always add veg - Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A DAY.
- Swap the sweets - Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for malt loaf, fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).
- Get them involved - Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes into their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



Spotlight this week is ...

Social distancing and face coverings

Our one school rule 'Consideration and Respect' has always been focused on the importance of **everyone** playing their part in keeping our school both a happy and safe place. Our staff model these **values** to our children, then our children to each other. They do this both in school and beyond our school gates and its importance cannot be underestimated.

In these unprecedented times, these values of personal responsibility for helping to make our school and wider community a pleasant and safer place are more important than ever. In school we have reinforced, with all children, the key hygiene messages of regular handwashing, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and through the idea of our personal bubbles and year group families and also in social distancing.

Our parents and other adults have a really important role to play in supporting these messages both at home and in the community, but also when dropping off and collecting children. It is so easy to forget and slip back into 'normal' routines.

This week Warwickshire County Council have encouraged, via their social media platforms, parents to wear face coverings, if you are able to, when dropping off and collecting your children from school. They have also highlighted the importance of maintaining the 2m social distance from other parents and children during this time.

There are vulnerable children and parents within our school community, and we all need to work together to remember to protect all of our 'bubbles' to do all we can to stay safe. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher



National Eye Health Week 21 - 27 September 2020

Top tips for good eye health:

- ☺ Get an eye test every 2 years, or more frequently if advised by an optometrist.
- ☺ Eat well including fruit, veg, fish, eggs and wholegrain- nutrition plays an important role in eye health.
- ☺ Be sun safety aware - slip on your shades in sunny weather.
- ☺ Stay fit and healthy - regular exercise helps maintain good eye health.
- ☺ Take a break from the screen - every 20 minutes gaze around the room and blink frequently for 20 seconds to stop dry eye and computer strain.

Your child could try an activity using the following link:

<http://www.visionmatters.org.uk/downloads/ispy-kids-activity-sheet-nehw-2020.pdf>



Support from Warwickshire Schools Health and Wellbeing Service

Parents/carers can use our confidential text messaging service: 07520 619376

Or you can get more information by visiting

<http://www.compass-uk.org/services/wshwbs>



Did you know...

1 in 4

school-age children

have an **undiagnosed vision problem** that **interferes with learning.**

Academic Year 2020-2021

AutumnTerm 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

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.

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



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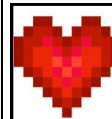


Please note that although we check the suitability of Applications, they can be changed without notice. Parents should therefore check the Application BEFORE children go on to them.



Sandbox

Colour by numbers. Teach your children number recognition and work on fine motor skills.



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



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Fridays 5:30 – 7:30, The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

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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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