

Letters home this week: ALL - Winter Wish List, Nasal Flu Immunisations, Festive Lunch, Parent Handbook.

## What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.05 Embody Dance Y1-6	3.05 Aston Villa Multi Skills Y1-3 Drum and Guitar Lessons	3.05 Elite Football Skills Y4-6	Clarinet Lessons 3.05 Boogie Bounce Y 4-6	3.05 Top Score Football Y1-3 Swimming Lessons - Oak 3 Cello Lessons 3.05 Musical Theatre Y2-6

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 sign your child's reading diary - lets get that tea party!!

## School Attendance

At Birchwood we want the very best for all our children. We know that children only get one chance at a decent education, which is why it is so important for children to attend school regularly. We are extremely proud of the excellent attendance record our children at Birchwood have. Our children love coming to school to learn and I often hear of children who hate missing even one day through illness. Many of our children come to school even if they are not feeling 100%. As a result we have made a really good start to this academic year and our average attendance across school is over 97%. There are also currently 291 in school with 100% attendance!! This is fantastic, thank you for your continued support with getting children to school on time.

It sounds obvious but children are more likely to succeed when they attend school consistently. It is not just about the lessons that are missed when children are absent, children also find it very difficult to engage in lessons when they return back to school. Often they will have missed key and important teaching points that would have allowed them to access the next stage of learning.

Good attendance at school is vital for children to achieve their full educational potential. Children with good attendance records benefit in the following ways:-

- *Continuity of learning which makes progress and retention easier*
- *Enhanced performance in lessons and examinations*
- *Continuity of relationships and friendships with adults and peers*
- *Good habits that are formed for later life*

Our focus is however very much on reward. We encourage children to be on time and attend by giving children lots of praise when they are 'being brave for carrying on' with minor ailments like a cold. So far this year we have 377 who have never been late for school. We reward 'never lates' and 'good attendance' by giving children certificates on a termly basis, which the children are very proud of. We do however understand that children are sometimes unwell and certainly do not wish children to come into school ill just to achieve an attendance reward, and for this reason we also include children whose attendance is also very slightly below 100%. We also give out Attendance of the Week trophies to the 2 classes with the highest percentage.

I am also very grateful to the wonderful staff at Birchwood, whose attendance rates are excellent. It is very rare for our staff to have a day off school unless they are on a training event or visiting another school.

Our staff are well aware of the importance of consistency and they all want the very best for all of our children. They all work extremely hard and are very tired by the end of the week. Even when they are not feeling 100% themselves, they still manage to smile when in school. Thank you all for your continued support.

**Mr N Coleman - Headteacher**



## Lessons Learned at Birchwood

All photographs can be purchased for £3 per A4 colour copy.

## Spotlight on Excellence this week is 'Skills Academy'

Last Friday saw the start of our second set of choices for 'Skills Academy' this year. Our 'Skills Academy' sees children learning new skills and making new friends on a Friday afternoon.

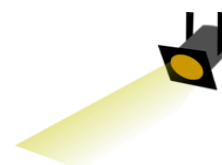
Already this year it has been lovely to see both children and staff enjoying a wide range of experiences to end their week, from Forest Schools and bug hunting, to the creativity of the wide range of craft and cooking based activities and design skills of the Lego group. It has been inspiring to see everyone getting involved in something different.

It is always clear how enthusiastic everyone is about their Skills Academy activities by the sheer speed at which they can sensibly get themselves to the right place. This is impressive given there are almost 30 different activities for almost 370 children going on in different places around school at the same time!

As always, each half term children will get the chance to choose a new Skills Academy activity. This means that by the end of the year, they will have experienced, enjoyed and developed 6 new sets of skills and made 6 new groups of friends.

**Mrs M Day**

**Associate Headteacher**





### Community Governor Vacancy

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



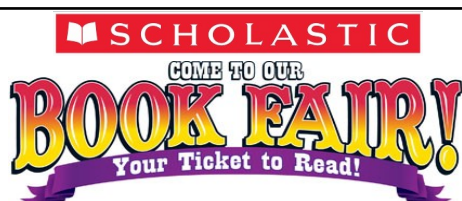
We are looking for members of the local community who have the skill to act as a 'critical friend' and ask challenging questions about performance and use their skills and experience to support the school in addressing its aims. You will be involved in creating and developing a strategic plan for the 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



## **ALL BOOKS HALF PRICE**

Our Christmas book fair will be open on Thursday 5th December after school in the library.

The book fair will also be open during our Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December and again after school on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December.

### **TEAM BIRCHWOOD**



Thank you for all of your donations so far, please keep them coming - the fair would not run without them.

Next week is Jingle Jars! Please take them into the classrooms so teachers can record how many have been handed in. The class with the most Jingle Jars will win a festive teaparty.

We are still looking for raffle prizes and would be grateful for any business owners who could donate a prize, or please ask your employer.

If you would like to get involved with the preparation or can run a stall on the evening, please contact [tbps2619@welearn365.com](mailto:tbps2619@welearn365.com). Thank you again.

## **PANTS**

**NSPCC Initiative to keep children safe.**



**This week is 'S'**

### **Speak up, someone can help**

Tell your child that if they ever feel sad, anxious or frightened they should talk to an adult they trust.

This does not have to be a family member. It can also be a teacher or a friend's parent - or even ChildLine. Remind them that whatever the problem, it is not their fault and they will never get into trouble for speaking up.

### **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 termtime 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.

### **Nasal Flu Immunisations**

On **Tuesday 10th December**, the NHS team will be in school to administer Nasal Flu Immunisations.

Nasal Flu consent and information packs have been sent home this week. Please complete and return the form to the school office via your child's 'From Me to You' by Friday 22nd November, even if you do not wish your child to be vaccinated.

Thank you.





### INFANT AGILITY COMPETITION

The Year 2 Infant Agility Team took part in Heat 3 of the Infant Agility competition run by NWSPP. All the children performed brilliantly. Birchwood won the heat! They have now made it through to the Infant Agility Finals.



### SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

A School Council meeting with Michael Osbourne and Dave Parsons from the Polesworth Council was held on Monday. They discussed ways in which money, from the new developments, could be used to improve Abbey Green Park. The School Councillors are going to compile a list of suggestions, with the help of their classes, and give it to the Polesworth Councillors in two weeks.



### YEAR 4 -VIKING DAY

Gregolf the Viking showed us some important artefacts that belonged to the Vikings. These included: weapons (spears and battle axes); armour (including helmets, chainmail and shields) and other useful implements, such as the ear scraper and the piece of cotton wool for wiping their bottoms with after a visit to the toilet!

We became real life traders for a session, looking at different artefacts that would have been sold during Viking times, adding prices together and seeing if we had enough coins.

Year 4 got to play some traditional Viking games. At the end of the day, Gregolf told us a Viking myth all about Thor the Mighty, Loki and Freyja the Goddess of Beauty working together to trick Thrym the Giant.



*"I liked making the brooches the best." - Ella*

*"I have loved every part of the day, but the best part for me was definitely learning about all of the armour." - Daniel*

*"I have learnt that spears weren't thrown, they were thrust." - Louie*

### YEAR 5 - RNLI VISIT

The RNLI dropped into visit year 5 on Tuesday to help them understand the role they play in the UK and also how to stay safe around water.



## CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

### FUN CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES HELD IN POLESWORTH

#### **Little Dancers from age 2 1/2**

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 cameodance@rocketmail.com

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo



**ZELLWEGER UK.**

**Amount raised so far: £467.96**



**Jolly Phonic Letter Sounds**

Helping children to read.



## Academic Year 2018-2019

### Academic Year 2019/2020

#### Autumn Term 2019

Y5 Class Assemblies	Thursday 28th November
New Intake Morning	Monday 2nd December
KS2 Pantomime trip	Weds 4th December
TBPS Christmas Fair	Friday 6th December
Nasal Flu Immunisations	Tuesday 10th December
Y1 Polesworth Abbey Trip	Weds 11th December
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Monday 16th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Tuesday 17th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Weds 18th December
Christmas Dinner	Thursday 19th December
Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks)	Friday 20th December

#### Spring Term 2020

Professional Development Day	Monday 6th January
Children Return to School	Tuesday 7th January
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 17th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 24th February
Children Return to School	Tuesday 25th February
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 3rd April

#### Summer Term 2020

May Bank Holiday	Friday 8th May
Half Term (1 week)	Monday 25th May
Children return to School	Monday 1st June
Professional Development Day	Friday 19th June
Warwickshire Moving Up Day	Wednesday 8th July
Term Ends for Summer	Friday 17th 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 May Day 2020 is on a Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Please note the 1pm early finish on 20th December and 17th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

## WELLBEING

Check out our new wellbeing tab on the school website for useful web links, county services information, referral documents, resources and more. Please ask to speak to Mrs Day, Mrs Webb or Mrs Spies if you would like more information.

# Family Hub

## Drop In

### Tuesday 19th

### November 2:30-3:30pm

### Pre-School Buds building

SEND
Anxiety

Challenging Home circumstances
Behaviour concerns

Social skills
Bed wetting

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

**jobcentreplus**

**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.

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.