

Letters home this week: ALL - Online Safety, Y6 - SATS Prep, Y1-6 - Times Tables, Y1-5 - Workbooks, Y3 - Waterhorse

What's on in school next week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Keyboard and Violin Lessons 3.05 Embody Dance Y1-6 3.10 After School Library	Drum and Guitar Lessons 3.05 Bake Off Club Y5-6 3.05 Aston Villa Club Y1-3	3.05 Circus Skills Club Y3-4 5-8 Late Parents Evening	Clarinet Lessons 3.10 After School Library 3.10 Y6 SATS Boosters 3.30-6 Early Parents Evening	Cello Lessons Swimming Lessons- Maple 3 3.05 Top Score Club Y4-6 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 : Our newsletter is always uploaded to the front page of our website: www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com

Just be kinder to each other!

At the time of writing this, the awful news regarding Caroline Flack, is still very fresh and raw. This clearly vulnerable lady was subjected to months of negative media coverage, abuse and online trolling, much through the use of social media.

Whilst advances in online technology have brought many significant advantages, social media seems to have encouraged a concerning trend where people feel they have a right to make comments about other people. Unfortunately, far too many of these are often negative. It seems it is far too easy to make comments about other people when you are not face to face with them.

At Birchwood I am very proud of the fact that we have 440 children and 50 adults, who for the vast majority of the time, are just kind to each other. There are occasions when children may say or do something to someone else that they do not like. At these times we encourage our children to say 'Stop It Please'. When this does not work, adults in school are available to offer further support.

We also have just one school rule which is 'Consideration and Respect'. Our whole school ethos and culture is built around this and is one of the main reasons why our children enjoy coming to school to learn and why our teachers choose to teach here. Birchwood feels like an extended family. Daily I see lots of examples of where staff and children support each other, are nice, helpful and caring. Occasionally, as with all families, there are disagreements and fallings out, but these are usually sorted quickly.

As well as 'Consideration and Respect' being our rule at school, I also ask our children to follow this when outside of school, particularly when they are online. Being online is an integral part of children and young people's lives. Social media, online games, websites and apps can be accessed through mobile phones, computers, laptops and tablets – all of which form a part of children and young people's online world.

The internet and online technology provides new opportunities for children to learn and grow, but it can also expose them to new types of risks. Cyberbullying incidents often occur at home, but the problems can spill over to the classroom, which is why we actively look to support and to teach our children about how to stay safe. Most of the time following our one school rule supports positive relationships in the online world too.

In a time where there is a definitely a need for people to just be kinder to each other, they could do a lot worse than follow the excellent example set by our Birchwood children and staff!

Mr Coleman - Headteacher



Kindness and Friendship!

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

Spotlight on Excellence this week is ...

Reading

Sharing a good book is a fun and enjoyable way to spend time with a friend or family member. Our school reading target, for all children, which is 4 times each week, is a great way to do this. It is also a fantastic opportunity to have a chat about the book, which builds children's social skills, as well as their understanding of what they have been reading.

In school we are always adding to our range of books for children to read. Last half term the books from our Birchwood Book Advent Calendar were added into the library, although I do not think they stayed on the shelves for long as they have been very much in demand! This half term we have purchased some exciting new reading books for our younger children to read at home. They even include ideas to talk about after reading in the back cover!

We look forward to hearing about all the reading the children have been doing at home, potentially earning their classes tea parties with Mr Coleman or myself as a result of everyone achieving their reading targets each week. These are one of my favourite things to do in school because it means I get to share one of my favourite books with a class. Happy reading!

Mrs Day

Associate Headteacher

Cross Country

On Tuesday 25th February 5 children were selected to represent North Warwickshire in the Inter District Primary Cross Country Race at The Pingles Athletics Stadium. The course was long but the children ran really well and did their very best, which we are very proud of. Luckily we finished just in time before the snow and hail came down! Overall North Warwickshire Girls team came first and the North Warwickshire Boys team came second. Well done to all the children that ran! Four Birchwood children have been selected to run in the district trials next week at The Queen Elizabeth Academy. We look forward to hearing how they get on, good luck.



Heights and Weights

In line with government guidelines, all children in reception and year 6 in Warwickshire are offered a height and weight measurement (National Child Measurement Programme). The School Health and Wellbeing Service will be coming into school to complete these programmes with your child and you may be contacted about the results. It is recommended that the outcome of your child's weight is not shared with your child as it is for parent's information only. If you have any concerns about your child's health or you would like to opt your child out of the height and weight measurements you can contact The School Health and Wellbeing Service on 03300 245 204. Good health is linked to educational attainment, therefore the healthier children are, the more likely they are to attend school regularly, focus and participate in lessons, and achieve their potential.



Coronavirus

As I am sure we are all aware, the coronavirus is a highly contagious virus. It causes flu like symptoms including fever, cough and difficulty breathing but is not serious for most people, including children. You can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus and the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the U.K.

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?



**Our registered charity 2020
ZELLWEGER UK.
Amount raised so far:
£862.51**

Holidays during Term Time

Ensuring children do not miss out

In September 2013 there were significant changes to the law with regards to holidays being taken during term time. In effect Headteachers were no longer permitted to grant an 'authorised holiday' in term time unless under 'exceptional circumstances' and following completion of a 'Leave of Absence Application form'.

'Exceptional circumstances' are considered to be only those which are 'rare and serious issues' and not because of parents 'work commitments' or the availability of 'cheap holidays'.

Our parents are incredibly supportive and it is now very rare indeed for any of them to request holidays during the school term. Parents understand the impact of children being away from school even for a short time and the impact on their child missing carefully planned programmes of work.

We occasionally hear 'my child will catch up'. Unfortunately, this is wrong. We do not have the opportunity to reteach planned lessons and our clear evidence is that missing school causes problems which ripple through a child's education career. Our policy, which matches the law exactly, is repeated regularly in our newsletters. The school does NOT approve of any holidays being taken during the term time. The simple reason for this is that we wish the best for the children and understand with complete certainty that missing school impacts significantly on progress.

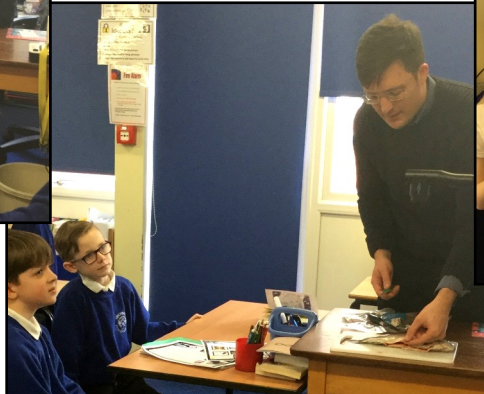
There is a common myth that 'I will not be caught'. The large fines levied at those deciding to ignore the rules would suggest otherwise! Unfortunately, a child returning tanned, talking about the wonderful time they have had, as well as the ability of the schools 'attendance software' to recognise unusual attendance patterns, often results in an unwelcome letter from the Local Authority 'Enforcement Service' and a 'fixed penalty notice'. Last year the local authority introduced an initiative which allows them to take 'retrospective action' when it comes to light that absences have been for holidays. This has unfortunately resulted in action against a very small minority who have been less than honest about school absence.

The local authority state: '**there are 180 days a year when children are NOT at school**'. Holidays for children should be taken during the school holidays.

NEW THEMES!

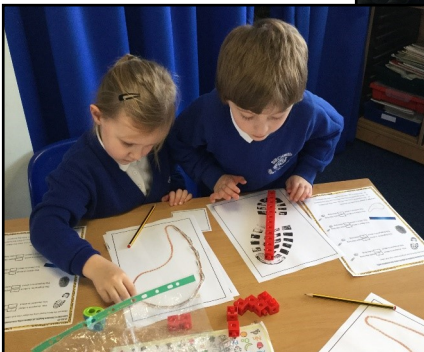


Year 5 learned where fish and meat came from and discussed ethical farming and fishing. They then gutted and prepared a Sea Bass.



Year 4's new topic is 'Windows into the Past', where they will be learning all about The Tudors. During their 'hook day', year 4 created stunning Tudor Rose stained glass windows using laminated pouches and paint. They look great next to the windows and reflect the very little sunlight we are getting, beautifully.

Reception came back to school to discover dinosaur footprints and an egg in our outside area. They are practicing their observation skills as they wait for it to hatch. They are so excited to see what is inside.



Year 1 were amazed by the crime scene that they found in their classroom on Tuesday morning. Mr Coleman had let the three bears stay over in school during half term and someone had broken in and stolen Baby Bear's porridge! With instructions from Sergeant F.Tale, we used our detective skills and started our investigation.

TBPS News



Tickets for The TBPS 'Family Cream Tea' are on sale now!

Choose from Monday 16th or Wednesday 18th March to come and join us where we will be serving a hot drink and a scone for adults and squash and a cupcake for children. There will also be some fun family activities to take part in.

Adult tickets are £3.50 per person and Child tickets are £2.50 per person. Places are restricted and we will be selling tickets on a first come first served basis.

To streamline our process with ticket sales, making it easier for parents and to reduce the workload for PTA volunteers and the school office, we will be selling tickets online via www.tickettailor.com/events/teambirchwoodprimaryschool1, code CT2020. This website is secure and GDPR compliant. Please see the flyer for more details.



Can you help at either of these events?

From 2:30pm until around 4:30pm?

Please email tbps2619@welearn365.com

Dordon Community Café

Dordon Community Café is a new venture, primarily for Dordon residents. The café is run by volunteers and is supported by the Borough Council and the Dordon Activities Group.

The café serves free nutritious meals for everyone, but donations are gratefully accepted. The café is at the Dordon Village Hall one Friday per month as follows:

- ☺ Friday 6th March
- ☺ Friday 3rd April
- ☺ Friday 1st May



More dates will be added later and it is hoped they will be more frequent.

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



CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

FUN CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES HELD IN POLESWORTH

Little Dancers from age 2 ½

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

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.

Academic Year 2019-2020

Late Parents Evening
Early Parents Evening
Y6 & R Heights and Weights
Rec Vision Screening
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)
Children Return to School

Wednesday 4th March
Thursday 5th March
Monday 9th March
Wednesday 18th March
Friday 3rd April
Monday 20th April

Summer Term 2020

May Bank Holiday
Half Term (1 week)
Children return to School
Manor Adventure
Professional Development Day
Warwickshire Moving Up Day
Term Ends for Summer
Children return to school

Friday 8th May
Monday 25th May
Monday 1st June
Fri 5th June–Mon 8th June
Friday 19th June
Wednesday 8th July
Friday 17th July
Wednesday 2nd Sept

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 17th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.



Free until Friday 28th February:

Teach Your Monster to Read



LIPSIL

Can we please remind parents that Lipsil's are not permitted in school. Only prescribed medication is allowed and must be handed in at the school office by an adult and signed for by the child's parent or guardian.



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