

Reminders: Y5 & Y6 Data sheets should be completed and returned to school immediately. Thank you.

What's on in school next week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Violin & Keyboard Lessons 3.05 pm Embody Dance Playtastic Orchestra	Drum & Guitar Lessons 3.05 pm Multi Skills Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Y4-6	Y1—Coventry Cathedral Trip Woodwind Lessons 3.05 pm Elite Football Y1-3 3.05pm Nerf Wars Y1-3	3.05 pm Football Club Y4-6 3.05 pm Young Engineers Club Y3-6	Cello Lessons 3.05 pm Top Score Multi Sports Y 4-6 3.05 pm Musical Theatre

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

Letters sent home this week— Y4 & Y5—Data Sheets, Reception—Protective Behaviours, Y5—Cello Lessons

Our Brilliant Birchwood Team

At Birchwood we are extremely fortunate to have such a professional, dedicated and hardworking collection of staff. This is not down to luck, but down to a drive to ensure that the children at Birchwood get the best there is to offer. All staff across our school are high performing and want the very best outcomes for our children. Our strategy, over the last 3 years, has been to ensure that every new appointment made adds something more than the one replaced and that every existing member of staff continually improves and refines their practice, as a result of quality professional development.

We have a very rigorous recruitment process that ensures that we are continually looking to attract the best new teachers available. 5 years ago we were invited to be part of the Warwick University steering group, set up to lead and deliver the 'School Direct' programme. This programme has been key in bringing in the next generation of teachers into the profession and we have successfully recruited a number of excellent teachers through this route. We also have a programme for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) that has been described as a 'model of best practice' by Warwickshire Local Authority. This has ensured that we are able to attract the very best new teachers available, but also, more importantly, ensure that they are fully supported and have very successful first years in their new teaching roles.

We also believe in 'growing our own' new leaders in school. Our school is built on 'Trust' at all levels. We are always looking to find opportunities for our teachers to grow professionally and to provide them with new experiences to develop their leadership skills. As an outstanding school and a National Teaching School our staff not only get to improve the education outcomes for our own children, but also make an impact on a large number of other schools in our Academy and Local Authority, through the support they provide.

As well as fantastic teachers, we also have brilliant Teaching Assistants who support teaching and learning at Birchwood. This highly skilled, caring and dedicated group of staff play a huge part in the success of our school. They all work extremely hard and often go above and beyond their roles and job descriptions to ensure that all of our children and teachers are fully supported. Our children would simply not make the excellent progress levels they do without them.



Using Robot Arms To Learn Phonics in EYFS

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

The success of our school is more than just a result of what goes on in the classroom. We have an important number of staff who look after the wellbeing and needs of children outside of their learning. Protecting and safeguarding our children, looking after their emotional wellbeing and supporting their special educational needs is really important in ensuring that we have happy safe children who are in the best place to learn and achieve.

To be able to provide our children with a full educational experience requires other systems, structures and procedures to be in place. Our Mid-Day Supervisors and Catering Team work tirelessly to ensure that every lunchtime counts. Our Facilities Team ensure that our school is always looking it's best and that it is a safe, clean and inviting environment that facilitates outstanding learning opportunities. Our Office and Administration Team provide a welcoming communication network and play a vital role in supporting our home school link.

The final piece to our jigsaw is the hugely important role our parents play in our school and children's success. The positive relationships established between home and school are fundamental to children achieving their best. With the whole Birchwood community supporting and working together, our children will continue to thrive and enjoy their time in school.

Many thanks to all of you for the role that you play in helping our children to learn and achieve.

Neil Coleman - Headteacher

Dive

into your school lunchbox

Make yourself a balanced tasty lunch

Dairy and alternatives

For healthy bones aim for a portion with lunch.

Cheddar or other hard cheese

Cottage cheese

Cream cheese or cheese spread

Yoghurt

Fromage frais

Small rice pudding

Custard

Cup of milk

Milk substitutes fortified with calcium



Can you help?



Do you know a small local business who make, rear or grow their own food products? Are you someone who grows or makes your own food from scratch? We are looking for people to come into school for one afternoon in the year to help develop our children's understanding of where food comes from and the process involved in preparing it for our plates. We would ask you to explain to the children the process you go through before giving the children an opportunity to ask questions. If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please contact Mrs Webb either via the main office or at admin2619@welearn365.com

Uniform Orders

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR COLLECTION DAY HAS CHANGED FROM A WEDNESDAY TO A TUESDAY, DUE TO STAFFING IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

Any uniform orders placed from Tuesday to Monday will be available to collect the following week on a Tuesday. Thank you.



A note from the School Council

At this year's Christmas Fair, we are holding a book stall to raise money for the NSPCC. If you have any unwanted books you would like to donate, please could you bring them into school on Thursday 6th December 2018. We will be selling good quality books for £1 each and small books for 50p each. Thank you for supporting us.



The School Council.

Academic Year 2018-2019

Autumn Term 2018

Open Morning for Sept Intake	Monday 3rd December
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 3rd to Friday 7th December
Year 1 Trip - Coventry Cathedral	Weds 5th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 7th December
TBPS Christmas Fair	Friday 7th December
Sparkle Day	Friday 14th December
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Monday 17th December
Lower School Christmas Perf.	Tuesday 18th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Weds 19th December
Upper School Christmas Perf.	Thursday 20th December
Term Ends for Christmas (Early)	Friday 21st December

Spring Term 2019

Professional Development Day	Monday 7th January
Reception Trip - Snowdome	Thursday 10th January
Year 6 & R Heights & Weights	Tuesday 15th January
Young Voices - Genting Arena	Friday 25th January
Year 4 Class Assemblies	Thursday 31st January
Grandparents Lunch	Friday 15th February
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 18th February
Professional Development Day	Monday 25th February
Children return to school	Tuesday 26th February
Late Parents Evening	Weds 6th March
Early Parents Evening	Thursday 7th March
Year 3 Class Assemblies	Thursday 21st March
Term Ends for Easter (2 weeks)	Friday 12th April

These dates may be subject to change if necessary.

New and amended dates shown in bold.

Spotlight on Excellence **Our focus this week is: Our fantastic phonics provision**



This week we were delighted to receive a letter from Nick Gibb, the Minister of State for School Standards, congratulating us on our results in the Phonics Screening check that our children, who are now our Year 2 pupils, took last June when they were in year 1. Every year, children in Year 1 nationally undertake a phonics check and we were thrilled that we had 97% of our children achieve the required standard, making Birchwood one of the top 6% of schools anywhere in the country. This is the fourth year in succession that we have been recognised for our fantastic achievements in the phonics screening check.

This does not just happen by accident, it is a result of excellent practice and hard work by teachers, TA's and children across Reception and Year 1, where children learn to read, recognise and write their sounds and are constantly being encouraged and shown how to use them correctly in their reading and writing across their lessons in school. Our children also work in smaller groups for their phonics sessions, and our teachers and TA's use Phonics Tracker to check where children are up to in their learning, meaning they are working on the exact sounds they need to learn next so they are always being challenged at just the right level.

Well done everyone, we are all really proud!

Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mr Neil Coleman
Birchwood Primary School
Birchwood Avenue
Tamworth
B78 1QU

8 November 2018

Dear Mr Coleman

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check.

Achieving early fluency in decoding is a necessary first step in acquiring the key skill of reading.

There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates that systematic phonics is the most effective method for teaching early reading. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 97 per cent of pupils at Birchwood Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 6 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Myths and Legends.....

'The school are very strict about holidays in term time'

In actual fact THE LAW is very strict about holidays in term time and the school has no choice!! The school is inspected by OFSTED to make sure it follows the rules properly and the Attendance Compliance and Enforcement Service (ACE) has a legal responsibility to monitor school attendance on behalf of the Local Authority. ACE will inspect registers and if unhappy will prosecute parents.

Parents often think it is the school that make up the rules, this is very wrong; the school must simply follow the rules laid down by others. We hate upsetting parents who we have a great relationship with, but we often feel at the sharp end of apparently being responsible for the law.

Out of Uniform Days

The School Council have arranged the following non-uniform days during December and have written a piece for our newsletter to tell you all about them.

Christmas Jumper Day

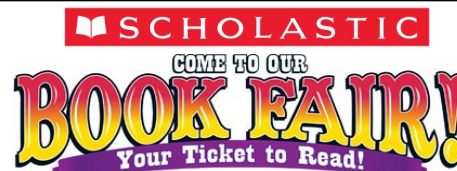
On 7th December, children are invited to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper, instead of their school jumper. There is no need to go out and buy one, Christmas coloured jumpers will be fine too (red, green or white).

Sparkle Day

On 14th December, we are proud to say that we are holding a sponsorship day to raise funds for our registered charity the NSPCC. The charity have suggested a 'Sparkle Day', where pupils may wear sparkly items. Don't worry if you don't have anything sparkly to wear, because tinsel around your hair or wrist are just fine too.



Both of the above fundraisers are for a small donation.



ALL BOOKS HALF PRICE

Our book fair will be open next week from Monday to Thursday after school in the library and at the Christmas Fair on Friday. Children who would like to visit our book fair must be accompanied by their adult. It is a great opportunity to buy a wonderful Christmas gift.

NB. Our school library will NOT be open next week after school but will re-open the following week.

Online Safety: Weekly Tip!

"From time to time, sit down with your children, gather in all their devices and ask them to take you through every app explaining what they do, who they speak to or connect with and which websites they visit. If your parental antennae start to tingle, delve deeper."



John Carr, internet safety and security expert,

and member of the executive board of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety.

STJH
dance&fitness
BASED AT
THE DORDON CLUB
LONG ST.
B78 1PZ

DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES

BALLET / TAP / MODERN /

COMMERCIAL JAZZ /

NATIONAL FOLK /

FLEXIBILITY /

ZUMBA / PILATES /

LBT / DANCE FIT /

PERFORMING ARTS

+ GROUP & INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL TRAINING

07880 714532

www.TJHDANCEANDFITNESS.CO.UK

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.

Attendance Update

Our current overall school attendance is 97.5%

271 pupils have full attendance since

September (63%)

386 pupils have never been late (90%)

Cameo Dance est. 2003

Fun Children's Dance Classes held in Polesworth

Little Dancers 2 ½ - 6yrs 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Friday evenings in The Tithe Barn, Polesworth

Tuesday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

Juniors 6 ½ - 10yrs 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

NEW Juniors 6 ½ - 8yrs 5:15pm - 7:15pm

(From 6th Feb 2018)

Tuesday evenings in The Memorial Hall, Polesworth

www.cameodance.co.uk * Call 07443421867

Facebook Charlotte Kate Cameo

First Trial Class FREE! Classes include many different dance styles!

www.ocado.jobs



ocado.com
The online supermarket