



Emails/Letters home this week: Y6 - Boosters

**What's on in school after the school holidays.**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Monday 4th - Inset Day	Tues 5th - Children Return to School			

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

**REMINDER : Keep Safe Over the Festive Period!**

**A Year of Thanks**

Normally Christmas is a very busy time for those who are involved in schools. This year has been slightly different as many of the usual school activities that run right up until the last day, have been unable to be conducted in the same way as normal. This does not mean however that we have been coasting through to the holidays with our feet up, as unfortunately dealing with changes as a result of Covid 19 have kept us all very busy. If I had the choice as to which of the big 'Cs' I would rather be spending my time working on, I know there would only be one clear winner!

Luckily we are breaking up relatively early this year and I hope that this will take away some of the pressure of all the last minute shopping and preparations. I do hope that you have all made your plans and arrangements this year to spend time with family and friends where you can. Christmas can be a very lonely time for some and I am sure that the current restrictions that we are all living under are not going to help that situation. If you do know of someone who maybe on their own over Christmas, please try and make contact, even if this cannot be done in person. A phone call, text message, video chat, letter or card through the post can make all the difference.

In school our staff and children have been continuing to work hard trying to make the most of everyday we can spend in school together. Our children continue to make us proud, they have excellent learning behaviours and are always so enthusiastic and happy to be in school.

This year our Nativity was different to our normal performances. Due to keeping our Year Group Families of children apart, we made the decision to split up the Nativity and give each year group a small part and a related carol to sing. The children's singing was delightful and it has been lovely to see our children enjoying watching each other's videos in class. For a school who really encourage our children to mix and learn together with other children across school, it is sad that we have to spend so much time apart. It has also been great to hear how many of our parents have enjoyed going onto our school website each day to watch the next part of our Nativity. We have really missed being able to invite you all into school this year, but do hope you have had a .....



**Festivities at Birchwood!**

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

Continued.....

chance to view our Nativity online. If not, you can now see the whole Nativity under the Birchwood Christmas tab, including a special trailer to introduce the performance.

My thanks go to Mrs Willis for putting the Nativity and songs together, to Miss Slater for her musical support and to Mr Bright for filming and editing our Nativity for our website.

Our teachers, teaching assistants, office and site staff, Governors, PTA and volunteers deserve special recognition and thanks this year. 2020 has been a very challenging year for all, but it has also certainly highlighted what a fantastic school community and spirit we have. Relationships between home and school have never been stronger and I want to thank all our parents, families and children for your continued support, your positivity, your resilience and your messages of thanks. In our last newsletter of the calendar year, may I take the opportunity to wish you all, on behalf of all the children, staff and Governors of Birchwood Primary School, a very Merry Christmas and a relaxing and prosperous New Year.

**Mr Coleman - Headteacher**

## Who's Who this week ...

### **Mrs Davis**

Hello everyone.

My name is Mrs Davis and I have been teaching at Birchwood for eight years, having previously taught for four years at a school in Solihull. So far, I have had great experiences teaching in years 6, 5, 4 and I now currently teach Year 3, alongside Mrs Atkins, which I really enjoy!



Outside of school, I am kept very busy with my three children. My youngest is only 9 months old and she keeps me very busy indeed! I love spending time with my family, particularly going on walks and enjoying the countryside around my local area. I am also a keen runner. I am a member of my local running club and enjoy keeping fit and socialising with those in the club. When I get chance I do enjoy visiting new places and seeing family in my home town of Stratford-upon-Avon. I also like to catch up with my friends and enjoy a good natter over tea and cake!

## Spotlight this week is on...

### **Time to Read.**

This week all children and staff across school have been given a 'Winter Book Gift' as a thank you for all their hard work in school. We hope that they enjoy spending some of their time over the holidays enjoying their new books, using their time to relax and unwind while reading for pleasure. Thank you to Team Birchwood for funding the purchase of these books in school.

Children in years 3 to 6 also have our fantastic 'combo competition' on Reading Plus to get involved with. Children have been set the challenge to earn combo's on Reading Plus, recording this on their own reading tree by colouring in a leaf. Combo's are earned by reading 2 texts and scoring 80% or more on the quiz for both within a 24 hour period. These combo's enable children to 'level up' unlocking new texts, as well as improving their reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills at the same time.

We will be offering rewards to children and classes who have the most combo's after the holidays, as well as undertaking activities around our winter books. So this holiday really is the time to get comfy and enjoy some time getting lost in a good book.

Happy holidays everyone!

**Mrs Day - Associate Headteacher**

## Teacher Emails

If you need to email teachers, please do so via [birchwoodparents@welearn365.com](mailto:birchwoodparents@welearn365.com). Their personal emails are only to be used in the case of the whole class having to isolate, to support remote learning at home. Thank you.

## Birchwood Best Practice

### **Eco-Council & the Kitchen Garden**

At Birchwood, we see our Eco-Council as an important part of involving pupils in how we look after our school environment and our school grounds. Each year, eco-councillors are elected from



each class, having made a presentation/speech to their classes about why they think they would be the best candidate to help look after our school. One member from each class is voted for and elected. Eco-councillors then work alongside myself and Mrs Bayliss, to come up with new initiatives to help keep our school environmentally friendly and maintain the kitchen garden.

The kitchen garden plays an important part in educating the eco-councillors in how to grow, nurture and harvest food produce such as strawberries and potatoes. In the last few years we have had our very own 'Farmers Market' where each class has produced something to sell. Our strawberries have always gone down well in the smoothies we sell! Our children love nothing more than getting stuck in, helping out in our kitchen garden, as it always needs weeding and maintaining. We look forward to growing more produce again this year!

Mrs Davis

## Covid During the Christmas Break

### **Procedures if a child or member of your household tests positive over the Christmas break:**

If you or any member of your household develops symptoms and tests positive for Covid 19 over the Christmas break, we need you to email our Birchwood Parents address at your earliest convenience. The email address is [birchwoodparents@welearn365.com](mailto:birchwoodparents@welearn365.com). Information provided will enable us to make decisions in relation to children's return to school on Tuesday 5th January. The school office will be available on Monday 4th January from 8:30am – 3:30pm should you need to speak to staff before returning to school.

## Registering for School

We are fast approaching the deadline when parents must apply for Primary school. The deadline for **Primary school applications** for reception places is **15th January 2021**.

It is essential that this deadline is met or your child may be at risk of losing a place at your preferred school.

Warwickshire residents can make an on-line application for Primary places at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions). You can also apply by calling 01926 414143.





# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL THE TEACHING STAFF AT BIRCHWOOD



## ROBLOX

At Birchwood, we are committed to ensuring our pupils are kept safe online. For those of you who are unfamiliar with 'Roblox', it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. It has an age restriction of 13+. Recently, it has become increasingly popular, therefore we would like to offer some 'top tips' to ensure we all do our bit to keep our pupils safe:

- Unlist social media accounts: ensure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information.
- Check shared information: check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile.
- Restrict payment methods: ensure your debit/credit card is not associated with their account if you do not wish for your child to make additional in-game purchases.
- Disable in-game chat.
- Tell your child to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There are a lot of phishing scams that advertise 'free roblox' etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

Unfortunately, there are many videos on YouTube showing children how to change their age on Roblox. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats altered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.

## Academic Year 2020-2021

### 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 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: £1479.92



## Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme

*The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme continues to support children and families who rely on free school meals.*

Through this Scheme, children who rely on free school meals will continue to receive financial support through the school holidays. This scheme will help those most in need by supporting eligible families with the cost of food for their children over the school holiday periods.

It will benefit those children eligible for free school meals as well as their younger non-school age siblings aged 2 or above. This support will be available over the school holidays. The only eligibility criterion for this offer is that parents are registered for free school meals.

**Families wanting to apply for support through the Scheme should call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182.**

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



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.



**Thinkrolls 2**  
An enlightening logic puzzler for children aged 3-9 years.



## Birchwood Primary School Website



Want to know what is happening in school? Go to **www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com**. There is so much information for you from: school policies, newsletters, copies of letters sent home, curriculum pages, photos and much more.

Click on the parent tab to open the ParentPay shop, where you can order school uniform, book bags and water bottles.

You can also follow us on twitter: @BirchwoodPrim

## 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

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