

**Letters sent home this week: ALL-Football Shirt Friday, YR4-Science Experiment YR6– Manor Adventure**

**What's on in school next week**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3.05pm Playtastic Orchestra 3.05 pm Embody Dance Club Y1-6	3.05pm Multi Skills Club Y1-3	8.20am Cross Country Y 3,4 3.05pm Football Club Y1-3	8.20am Cross Country Y 3,4 3.05pm Athletics Club Y 3-6	Y 5 Cello 3.05pm Musical Theatre Y2-6 3.05pm Multi Sports Y4-6

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

**REMINDER: Do not forget to look on twitter for lots of updates throughout the school day.**

## Holidays during Term Time

Being in school every day is key to children making good progress in school. Children who have excellent attendance records get the maximum opportunity to take part in all the wonderful experiences we provide for them. They benefit from completing a full curriculum coverage of skills and have time to practice, refine and use and apply their learning in a wider context.

Over the past few weeks, I have received an increasing number of requests for holidays in term time. Many of these application for leave of absence have also been requested with very little notice, making processing these requests extremely difficult. **Birchwood do NOT support holidays being taken in term time.** As a school we want the best for all our children, if our children are not in school, then we can't teach them. Missing time in school is disruptive for children and staff. Our children experience individualised programmes of work each and every day, making it very difficult to reteach work missed, which has a significant impact on children's progress. It is a myth that 'my child will catch up' and/or 'it doesn't matter in primary schools'.

The Headteacher may only grant leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances where leave may be granted during term time are as follows:

- If a parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue. Evidence of this would need to be provided by the G.P or consultant.
- The death or terminal illness of a close relative and the circumstances are exceptional.
- Out of school programmes such as music, the arts or sport, operating at a high standard of achievement. Documentary evidence of this event will be required.
- Religious observance – The Education Act 1996 S444(3) © states 'on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parent belongs'.



## **Education- The building blocks for life!**

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

Continued.....

- To attend a wedding or funeral of a close relative if the Headteacher is satisfied that the circumstances are truly exceptional.

### **Examples of circumstances NOT considered as exceptional:**

- Holidays taken in term time due to lower cost/ parental work commitments.
- Holidays abroad for the purpose of visiting a sick relative.
- Holidays booked by other family members or friends during term time.

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success - both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades and develop healthy life habits. Please help us help your child by not taking holidays during term time.

**Mr N Coleman  
Headteacher**

## Spotlight on Excellence

### Engaging learning

At Birchwood we aim to make learning as engaging and interesting as we can. We believe when it is, that is when we learn best. This means that we have lots of hands on learning, and experiences to help children understand better. Visiting chicks and animals in Reception class have been helping the children to learn all about egg laying animals for example, and our year 1 children have visited them to share their stories of The Smartest Giant in Town with their younger peers, so their writing had a real life audience.

We also encourage children to get out and about in the environment and work collaboratively. Recently Year 4 have been using maps to navigate their way round the school and the playground. Year 2 have had clues from the Queen so decided to work outside together to see if they could solve her tricky reasoning problems.

A wide range of learning, in a wide range of places makes for resilient, successful and happy learners. Birchwood at it's best!

**Mrs Day**

**Associate Headteacher**

### Learning to measure weight and capacity

This week, Year 4's used their understanding of how to measure weight and capacity to help them follow a recipe for making pea and mint soup. Unfortunately, the pea plants they started growing in spring, did not survive the Easter holidays so they had to use frozen ones instead. However, this did not stop them enjoying tasting their creation at the end of the lesson. Yummy!!



## Academic Year 2018-2019

### Summer Term 2019

Manor Adventure Meeting	Monday 20th May
New Intake Parents Meeting	Monday 20th May
Football Shirt Friday	Friday 24th May
Y4 Quad Kids	Friday 24th May
Half Term (1 Week)	Monday 27th May
Children return to school	Monday 3rd June
Y3 Cadbury World Trip	Tuesday 4th June
Loudmouth Theatre	Tuesday 4th June
Y6 Rounders Tournament	Thursday 6th June
Eco Council Southfields Farm	Thursday 6th June
Y6 Manor Adventure Trip	Friday 7th June to Monday 10th June
Y5 Lanchester Trip	Thursday 13th to Friday 14th June
Class Photographs	Tuesday 18th June
Y2 Class Assemblies	Thursday 20th June
Professional Development Day	Friday 21st June
Warwickshire Moving Up Day	Thursday 27th June
Sports Day	Monday 1st July
Reserve Sports Day	Tuesday 2nd July
Show and Share Evening	Thursday 11th July
Y6 Leavers Performance	Monday 15th July
Y6 Disco and BBQ	Thursday 18th July
Term ends for Summer (Early)	Friday 19th 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 19th July. If this will cause you any problems, please speak to a member of staff.

### Reminder- Absence Notification

Parents are reminded that a telephone call to school is required for absence BY 8.30am letting us know the child's name, class and reason for absence. A call is then required for EACH day of absence thereafter.

Can we please remind parents that on the child's return to school we still require a signed letter confirming the reason to enable us to authorise the absence.

Failure to adhere to the above policy may result in an "unauthorised absence" being recorded on official school registers.



### Birchwood Primary School Website

Want to know what's happening in school? Go to **[www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com](http://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

### Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance—let's keep this service flying



Are you planning on having a clear out this spring? If so, we have a collection point on site for any clothing, bedding, paired shoes, belts and bags if you would like to support our local air ambulance service. Look for the big yellow collection box to the right of the main school drive. This is emptied on a regular basis and the Air Ambulance Service appreciate all of the donations made.





# Spring Has Arrived In Reception




Last week the children in Reception had a lovely treat. Not only did they witness the little spring chicks emerging from their eggs and then being able to hold them, but our local farmer's wife also came along and brought a 4 week old lamb called Elsie for them to pet. Elsie loved all of the attention and was happy to meet the children.






*Judy Brulo*  
CHILDREN'S AUTHOR



# BOOK SIGNING


## WHSmith TAMWORTH

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE FROM 10AM ONWARDS



### Sponsored Read

A huge well done to all who took part in our recent sponsored read which raised over £700 towards new books for our school reading corners. If you still have any sponsorship money outstanding it is not too late to bring it in to school. Well done everyone!!



**www.phantom-knights.com**

Phantom Knights are an American Style Youth Marching Band based in Atherstone, with members from the surrounding areas.



Members aged between 8 and 25 years.

**We are currently recruiting for our CADET SECTION**

Are you interested in:-

- Learning to play an instrument: trumpets, drums & keyboards
- Dancing with equipment such as flags, rifles and sabres

Tuition, Instruments, equipment and uniforms all provided. No Experience necessary.

**COME AND VISIT US & TRY SOMETHING NEW**  
Tuesday Evenings 6.30pm-8pm at Racemeadow School, Atherstone  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**


**4 WEEKS OF FREE REHEARSALS WITH THIS ADVERT**  
Normal monthly subs are exceptional value at £15 (or £12 via Standing Order)

For further information please feel free to contact:  
Carl on 01827 713919 or 07970 886828 or carl.h@phantom-knights.org.uk

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App of the week

**10 Minutes a Day Times Table**  
Practise for 10 minutes a day and become a Maths Star



**NSPCC**

Cruelty to children must stop. **FULL STOP.**

NSPCC fundraising so far this year is :  
**£1644.38**  
Thank you very much for all of your support.

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.

## CAMEO DANCE EST.2003

**FUN CHILDRENS 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

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