

Letters home this week: None

What's on in school next week.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|----------------------------------|--|--------|
| | | Parents Evening Calls 4pm-7pm | Parents Evening Calls 4.30pm-7.30pm | |

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

REMINDER : Please put your child's name in all items of their school uniform.

Reading at home and in school.

At Birchwood we are always looking to improve our practice and are constantly looking for ways to give children more choice and independence in their learning in school and at home.

Reading is at the heart of our school curriculum. We recognise the importance of immersing our children in high quality varied texts that simultaneously promote the power and enjoyment of reading for our children, whilst also teaching and nurturing specific skills for reading. We know that being a successful reader is one of the key indicators to future success in life.

We have invested heavily in school on new whole class texts that drive our curriculum themes, group texts to support effective guided reading sessions and individual reading books to support our children's love of reading. We also have a very well-resourced library that our children are able to spend time in during the school day. We really hope that we will very soon be able to allow our children to borrow library books again for use at home and also invite our parents back into our library to help their children choose suitable books to read together.

In Key Stage 2 we have recently introduced 'Reading Plus', a web-based program that builds upon the foundational skills of phonics to develop silent reading fluency and comprehension (deeper understanding), while re-engaging reluctant readers in reading for pleasure.

Children in Years 3 to 6 have been given login details so that they are able to choose from a variety of age appropriate texts (fiction, non-fiction and informational) on a variety of topics, from animals to fashion! These texts are exciting and fun to read, but they are also closely matched to children's specific reading level. After selecting and reading a high quality text, children can then practice applying their knowledge and understanding by answering 10 comprehension questions, targeting some of the key skills for reading, such as inference and use of language. After reading and answering questions based on a text, Reading Plus automatically adapts the selection of texts which are available based on the children's ability, providing individualised support and facilitating progress.

Children are motivated and encouraged to read frequently on Reading Plus, as the more they read, the more 'avatars' they are able to collect, allowing them to personalise their Reading Plus profile. Children are also motivated to read more accurately, as the more accurately they read, the more 'combos' (pairs of activities scoring 80% or above) they are able to collect, helping them to progress onto the



Precious Reading Time!

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

Continued.....

next level. Once children progress to a new level, their achievements are rewarded with a certificate – these will be presented to children in our weekly celebration assemblies within school.

In school, we will continue to work diligently to promote reading, however we recognise and value the support of our parents in creating a positive reading culture at home; it is vital that children are encouraged to read frequently, and we therefore ask that children spend a minimum of two 30 minutes sessions on Reading Plus at home. These sessions will, of course, count towards your child's weekly reading target.

Teachers will be celebrating Reading Plus successes within school, whilst also using the data to carefully plan future lessons and intervention, something which will allow us to support the progress of your child.

We will be introducing some of our more fluent Year 2 readers to Reading Plus in the summer term. Our younger children will also be able to use this fantastic resource as they move further through our school.

Mr Coleman - Headteacher

Who's Who this week ...

Miss Parkes

My name is Miss Parkes. I have just started my teaching journey at Birchwood and I am currently teaching in Year 4. I am very lucky to be working with such a fantastic staff team and wonderful children.



Outside of school, I love swimming, trampolining and being outdoors! I aim to swim ten miles in total each month, trampoline twice per week and go for lots of walks at the weekend. I do not like to sit still for too long!

At home, I have a cat called Merlin. He is a very special cat because he is polydactyl which means he has thumbs! Merlin loves cuddles and eating lots of food!

Spotlight this week is on...

Winter Clothing



As November has arrived, it would appear, so has the colder winter weather. Very suddenly the temperatures have dropped and we are all finding it far chillier, despite some lovely winter sunshine. Children often need reminding that even if the sun is shining in the winter months, they will still need to wear a warm coat. At breaktimes and lunchtimes we will be encouraging children to wear coats when the weather is cold and it is important that they come to school suitably dressed for the colder weather.

Inevitably, many children in the class will have similar or indeed identical, coats, hats, scarves and gloves.

Please, please, please can you ensure that your child, no matter what age they are, has their name in all their belongings. Naming belongings makes it so much more likely that we can return an item to you if it gets mislaid.

It is also really helpful if you have a routine with your child for where they put their gloves, scarf and hat when they take them off. For example, gloves always going in a coat pocket, or putting the hat and scarf down your coat sleeve. This way children will always know where to look for their own things rather than them ending up on the floor which makes it less likely they will get lost.

Mrs Day-Associate Headteacher

Birchwood Best Practice

Drama



Before joining Birchwood, I spent many years training in Performing Arts and teaching dance and drama.

Drama is important in developing children's confidence and creativity as well as encouraging empathy and building social skills. Team work, leadership and acceptance of other people's ideas are all crucial personal qualities that can be developed through drama.

Through incorporating drama into subjects such as English, children can explore characters and perspectives from the text they are reading or the piece of writing they are working towards in more depth. This allows them to clarify their own ideas in a practical way before they write anything down. Verbalising their ideas and putting them into sentences aloud often significantly increases the quality of the writing children produce.

Miss Parkes

The Start of the School Day

An ordered and prompt start to the school day is surprisingly important for primary aged pupils. The start of our school day is a very calm and orderly affair, but a great deal goes on and every single minute is optimised. Children enter school, hang their coats and bags up and place lunch boxes into trolleys.

Children will often have a warm up activity on the whiteboard, or at their desk, which they start without further instruction from their teachers. These activities range from a mental maths puzzle, or a short piece of writing, or some reading and responding to feedback. Sometimes these activities consist of children improving a piece of work from the previous day or even answering a direct question from the teacher's marking. Whilst the children do this, we take an attendance register and find out their lunch choice for the day.

Before 9.00am office staff will have followed up most unexplained absences, hence the great importance of parents informing the school of any absence by 8.30am using the answer phone. In the classroom the teacher will have explained the work for the day, discussed groups and allocated children to teaching assistants.

Children's lateness is extremely rare, but when it occurs it makes life difficult for the school and for the child. Apart from the difficulty caused by needing to open up registers, re-explain the tasks for the day (all of which stops staff from working with other children), the 'late child' also starts the day feeling 'left out' and 'out of sorts'. Being late for school means children are disadvantaged for the remainder of the day.

Our school day starts times are as follows:

Reception Year 1 and Year 2 - 8.30 to 8.40am

Years 3, 4, 5, 6 - 8.40 to 8.50

Glow Day

We would like to thank you all for your kind donations towards our Glow Day which supports encouraging road safety for our children. We are happy to report that you raised **£404. 63** for our chosen charity, Zellweger UK.

POPPY APPEAL

We are happy to say that we will still be selling poppies in school again this year. Each class will have a small selection of items in their classroom for children to purchase from Monday 9th November to Wednesday 11th November.

If your child would like to purchase an item please see the prices below:

- ♦ **Poppy or reflector** please send in a small donation(we suggest no less than **50p**)
- ♦ **Wristbands - £1.**
- ♦ **Various stationary items - 50p**
- ♦ **Zip pulls - 50p**
- ♦ **Enamel poppy bracelet - £1.50**



Items will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Unfortunately, once items have sold out, we are unable to order any more. Thank you in advance for your support.

Year 4 Roman Day

On Wednesday, Year 4 were visited by a Roman soldier! They learnt about how they could join the Roman army, tried on some armour and even had a go at fighting in the Roman battle formations!



FEEL GOOD FRIDAY FOR



It is that time of year again, when Pudsey has appeared and we are getting ready to raise money for BBC Children in Need. In support of Children In Need this year, on Friday 13th November, we are holding 'Feel Good Friday'.

We are asking children to come to school wearing their sports gear; jogging bottoms, trainers, tacksuits etc, and then take part in the Joe Wicks session that morning. Of course children can also wear their Pudsey ears if they have them.

This will be for a small donation which will all go to Children In Need. Please pay your donation via ParentPay where possible, alternatively, please bring money into school. Thank you.



Pants



Privates are private

Be clear with your child that the parts of their body covered by underwear are private. Explain to your child that no one should ask to see or touch their private parts or ask them to look at or touch anyone else's.

Sometimes doctors, nurses or family members might have to. Explain that this is OK, but that those people should always explain why, and ask your child if it is OK first.

Next week 'A'

Academic Year 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Parents Evening Calls | Wed 11th November |
| Parents Evening Calls | Thursday 12th November |
| Children In Need, Feel Good Friday | Friday 13th November |
| Term Ends for Christmas (2 weeks) | Friday 18th December |

Spring Term 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 1pm early finish on 18th December & 21st July.

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



Thinkrolls 2

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



<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

Information leaflets and adverts sent or published by Birchwood Primary School

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Our registered charity 2020

ZELLWEGER UK.

Amount raised so far: £1479.92



Covid 19 Safety Measures

We ask parents to support us with safety measures introduced to reduce the risk of transmitting Covid 19.

- ◆ Please use the 2 metre markers when using our one way system to help maintain social distance. Please also spread out in our class zones when collecting children at the end of the day.
- ◆ We ask that families limit the number of adults and siblings coming onto site to drop off and collect children where possible.
- ◆ We encourage parents to wear face masks or face coverings when on our school site.



Thank you for your continued support.

Parents Evening

We are happy to still be able to conduct our parents evenings this term, albeit a little differently. Staff are looking forward to being able to share highlights of the children's learning and discuss this with their adults via individual prearranged telephone calls. This term's parents evenings are on Wednesday 11th November 4pm until 7pm and Thursday 12th November 4.30pm until 7.30pm

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.



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