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27th March 2020

Birchwood continues to be closed next week apart from providing child care service for vulnerable children and children of key workers				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

The Bugle is only available online this week due to school closure.

**REMINDER : Stay safe, Stay well and Stay home!**

## Birchwood Community - Staying Connected

This has been the quietest and strangest week I have ever had at Birchwood. Opening school, when it is closed, to do our public duty and help in a national crisis has been very rewarding, but also very sad. We are very much missing all the children and staff in school. Birchwood is usually a vibrant and exciting place to be, particularly when the sun is shining. But without you all it just feels a bit empty!

The children and staff who have been in school have been working hard. They have taken part in the online dance session with our friends at Embody Dance every day, as have many of you at home. They have also completed their home learning tasks on Purple MASH and Skoolbo, as well as completing a host of other practical activities. They have also been making the most of the lovely weather we have had this week, playing in the Lower School Playground and Trim Trail. We do hope that you have all managed to get outside for some fresh air and exercise.

It has been amazing seeing so many of you completing your online learning and staying in touch with us. Staff are interacting with their classes and providing continuity and support. The priority for this time is to keep practising the key skills at home. There is no new learning, just practising of age related skills. We want the children to keep things ticking along. It looks like this will be for the foreseeable future so we now need to settle into the new normal. Working out what works best for us all. We are not expecting learning at home to replicate learning at school. Keep doing the essentials - reading, times tables and spelling. Then anything you can complete online, from your home learning pack and your class teachers' weekly planned tasks, will all support your continued learning and progress. At no point do we want learning at home to create additional pressures at an already stressful time.

As always if you have any problems, contact school and we will do our utmost to help you. We do hope that we are all back together very soon. In the mean time, stay safe!

Mr Coleman - Headteacher



It was lovely to see so many children from Birchwood in the video from the community of Dordon. All of our staff are really proud of you. Thank you for all those who showed 'Consideration and Respect' for the NHS in such a brilliant way on Thursday night.



## **Clap for the NHS on 26.03.20.**

### Easter Activities

During the Easter break, there won't be weekly activities set by teachers on the class pages of our website, as they will be taking their holiday on the days they are not in school with key worker children.

We will endeavour to have some Easter ideas available to the children to keep them occupied during this time and we will also be sharing some new learning websites for children to access. These will all be shared in next week's newsletter.

### Wellbeing Calls home

Throughout the time Birchwood is closed we will be making regular phone contact with you all to ensure that the children are well and to see if there is anything we can help with.

The school office staff will make sure that you all receive a wellbeing call every two weeks.

This week it has been lovely to check in with almost all of you and to hear how you are all getting on. Your kind words of support are much appreciated and it is comforting to know that you are all safe.

Just a reminder that the school office is open for calls on 01827 892913 from 11:00am—1:00pm everyday. Please call us if you think we can help or support you in any way.