

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Life continues to be strange for all of us. However, I am sure we are all finding ways to adjust to the restrictions life is currently giving us.

For me it feels very strange being in school and not seeing the children each day.

I am immensely proud of all of the children that have been engaging with the daily learning set by class teachers. We know it is not an easy task, especially if you have more than one child so any time given to school set learning is appreciated. Although do not forget to squeeze in some fun learning too.

Keeping in Touch

As a school, we feel it is immensely important that we keep in touch with all of our families and children.

I will be phoning all of you over the next week to personally check how all of our families are doing at such a difficult time.

Our IT department are busy exploring how we can safely set up a school YouTube channel so that our staff can upload videos to share with their children.

If you do have any questions or queries please do get in touch with us. However, be mindful that there may not always be someone in the school office. Don't forget you can always contact us via the school website using the contact tab.

Easter Learning

Even during such extraordinary times such as this all of our children need a bit of a break from formal learning. Therefore, class teachers will not be setting formal tasks. But do check our website, as eggcsiting challenges will be posted to encourage all the family to participate. There are even prizes available.

Daily learning will appear back on class web pages from Monday 20th April.

Opening for Key Worker

Birklands will continue throughout the Easter break to provide provision and support for our key workers.

Week commencing 6th April we will still be basing ourselves at Church Vale Primary. Same as this week provision will be available between 8.30am and 3.30pm.

However, week commencing 13th April we will be basing ourselves back at Birklands. Provision will be available between 8.15am and 4.00pm.

There are no catering staff on site so all children will also need to bring a drink, snack and a packed lunch.

Free School Meals

We have had further clarification from the Government about Free School Meal vouchers. These are only available to children who qualify for benefits based Free School Meals (FSM) **not** Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception to Year 2). Any child who qualifies for FSM will be sent a voucher to help cover the cost of a meal every day. These have already been sent out to cover weeks commencing 30th March and 20th April and will continue until advised otherwise by the Government.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Smith', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Smith
Head of School