

12th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well.

Update

As I'm sure many of you are aware, it was announced on Sunday 10th May that schools should begin preparations for **possibly** opening to children in Reception, year 1 and year 6 from Monday 1st June. All school leaders found this information out at the same time it was announced to the rest of the country.

As I'm sure you can appreciate the work behind this is complex in order to be in line with Covid-19 protective measures. The safety of all pupils, staff and parents is at the core of all measures that will be taken. Please be mindful that, although every school leader will take every precaution, they cannot wholeheartedly guarantee the safety of all their stakeholders. Once I have the opportunity to source all the necessary equipment and implement changes as outlined by the Covid-19 protective measures document I will provide further updates. Please be mindful that all identified year groups will not be returning to school on Monday 1st June.

In the meantime, in order for me to gauge pupil number I would appreciate it if you would complete the survey once the link has been sent to you.

School Video

A huge thank you for your positive responses to our staff video. Video number 2 is in production – we'll let you know when it's available to view.

#Thankourchildren

A big thank you to the families that nominated their child/ren for the #thankourchildren Certificate of Achievement from the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottingham, police and Fire service. A little reminder that it would be wonderful if all of our children received this certificate. So please keep emailing us to tell us why your child should receive one. For example not only are they doing what has been asked of them during this lockdown but are showing great resilience and determination with it too- still adhering to our mantra 'Work hard. Be Kind.'
I promise to get one out to them as quickly as possible.

Home Learning

I thought I would share a message that some of you may have seen on various social media platforms:

Dear parents

Don't stress about schoolwork. In September, or when schools open again I will get your children back on track. I am a teacher and that's my superpower. What I can't fix is social-emotional trauma that prevents the brain from learning. So right now, I just need you to share your calm, share your strength and share your laughter with your children. No children are ahead. No children are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be- safe at home.

With love

All teachers on planet Earth.

To me this reiterates our message to you;

Please do not get stressed over the home learning. I know some of you are juggling working from home, home-learning more than one child. Whatever learning (of any form) you do is appreciated and will help keep the children focused.

We will of course continue to put daily work on class pages via our school website and send out paper-packs to those that have requested them.

Keeping in Touch

While school continues to remain closed for educational purposes we will maintain contact with you through phone calls. So please do not be alarmed when a member of staff gives you a call. This is a great opportunity for the children to have a catch-up with their class teacher, as we are missing the children as much as they are missing us.

Please remember we are here to support you in whatever way we can, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. All staff emails are on the school website and are being monitored regularly.

Opening for Key Workers

Birklands continues to provide provision for our keyworkers. Provision is available between 8.15am and 3.45pm, each working day.

Please remember this provision is for the children of those workers classed as essential, who have no other childcare, other than a relative who is over 70 or is categorised as vulnerable.

All children will also need to bring a drink, snack and a packed lunch with them, as there are no catering staff on-site.

Well-being

Staying positive, calm and relaxed through this situation is important. What is also important is not letting children over-hear adult based conversations about the current health situation, as this can cause them further anxiety.

Miss Watson's well-being tip: Read a book. I love to curl up on the sofa and lose myself in a good book.

If you do have a go at this please send us some photos or a book review.

Update – the scones were very successful and several batches were made and doorstep delivered!

Stay safe and positive.



Mrs C. Smith
Head of School