

26th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, a massive thank you to all of those parents who are key workers in helping our community through this national crisis. We appreciate how much you are doing. I would also like to thank the parent/carers that are fully embracing the daily home-learning tasks that teachers are setting. We understand this can be challenging when you have your own work to do and more than one child to care for.

As I am sure you can appreciate, that as we try to get through these difficult times, we are finding that situations, guidance and expectations on schools are changing on a regular basis. We would therefore like to make you aware of the following changes.

Warsop Hub

All schools have now be asked to create hubs, where possible. This means schools joining together and sharing space as they stay open to support the children of identified key workers. Birklands will be joining the hub based at Church Vale Primary School, in Church Warsop. Don't worry our children will still be supported and cared for by our staff and away from other school's children.

Therefore, from Monday 30th March, any parents who are Key Workers, who have no other childcare arrangements will need to take their child/ren to Church Vale. Opening times will be 8.30am to 3.30pm. Unfortunately, this means there will be no breakfast club. 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 £10 voucher per week to help cover the cost of a meal every day. These will be sent out from school at the end of the week to cover w/c 30th March. As we do not normally provide a meal during the school holidays the next voucher will be sent out to be used w/c 20th April. These will continue until advised otherwise by the Government.

Home-School Distance Learning

A huge thank you to all of those pupils who have been accessing the daily learning activities that have been posted on every class's page on our website. A little reminder that it is crucial that all parents/carers ensure that their child/ren complete the daily tasks set. Staff will continue to update this, however, please be mindful that during the Easter break this will not be daily (w/c 6th April & 13th April).

As we mentioned previously situations and guidance is changing daily and we will endeavour to keep you up to date as much as possible.

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. But don't forget you can always contact us via the school website using the contact tab.