



Dear Parent/Carers

This week has been filled with happiness and sadness.

Happiness because Birklands is starting to come alive again. It is lovely to be around school and hear children talking, laughing and learning, as we welcome more children back.

Sadness because the Government have confirmed that it is not possible for schools to welcome back all year groups, under current guidelines. This does leave us with a heavy heart because we would love nothing more than having the opportunity to welcome back all of our children. However, based on current guidelines for schools (no more than 15 in class) we know this would have been impossible. But don't worry the staff are planning on marking the end of term with ....

Well you will just have to wait and see. (We love a surprise)

### **Reports**

As you know you would normally receive an end of year report for your child. This is not possible this year, as the school has been closed to the majority of pupils since 20<sup>th</sup> March. Instead the teachers have written a mid-year report based on point of learning up to mid-March.

You will receive this within the next two weeks.

### **Transition to Year 7**

All of those children who will be transferring to Meden Academy from September will be receiving a letter from them. The letter outlines the transition programme and useful information. I have been reassured by Mr Smith (not my husband), the Head of Meden, that everything is accessible via phones and tablets/laptops.

They are also planning a live family event via Microsoft Teams. In order to access this you must complete the forms required. The link will be on the letter from Meden.

If any Y6 parent/carers have any questions you can contact Meden directly or via us.

### **Key-worker Provision**

This provision will continue. Two class bases have been allocated for this provision- allowing a maximum of twenty children to access this.

However, if more key workers require this provision this will delay or reshape the phased re-opening to different year groups. I would therefore like to remind all key-workers that access to this provision should be a last resort, if there is no-one else to have your child/ren.

If you require your child/ren to access this provision please complete a booking request via our school website: it's the education provision register tab on our home page, that you need.

## Phased Return

This phased approach will be under constant review. The success of it will rely on the following:

- Protocols and procedures in place being implemented correctly
- The school having sufficient staff to provide key-worker provision and teach identified year groups in school
- Parents working with us by adhering to strict protocols for drop off/pick up times
- All stakeholders understanding that 'normal' school hours will not apply and adhering to the times each year group will be given.

**Week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June** school will be welcoming our **Year 6 and Year 5** back. Our Year 5 will be attending in the mornings and year 6 in the afternoon. Please ensure you have informed school, if your child is in one of these year groups and they are returning to school.

## Additional information you need to know:

- We will not be able to offer breakfast club or our wrap around after-school care
- No parents will be allowed into school
- Each bubble will be given a designated time to arrive. If you miss that time you will not be able to drop your child off until all other children are safely in school
- Within each bubble every child will be given a set place to sit and they will only use the equipment supplied by the school
- Children will be required to stay in their place apart from when they need the toilet
- All children will be required to bring their own water bottle
- Staff will be issued with PPE and will wear this if they choose to
- All areas will be deep cleaned at the end of each bubble's allocated time
- Children will be required to wash their hands frequently while in school
- Children will be going outside for some fresh air and exercise, rather than 'play-times'
- Children will not be required to wear their uniform. They will need to be wearing a clean set of clothes each day.
- Timings of the 'new school' day and the time in which your child is in school may vary, dependent on number of children in school and year groups we are asked to welcome back

## Home Learning

For those year groups and children, currently not in school all teachers will continue to provide learning during term time.

Home learning can be accessed either via your child's class page on our school website or paper-based packs.

If your child requires a paper based pack it is important that you contact school so that we can deliver one to you.

Teaching staff will of course continue to maintain contact with their classes through phone calls and emails.

Please be mindful that as our provision in school for additional groups of pupils widens your child's teacher may be in school teaching a group of children so will not have the opportunity to reply to emails as quickly as they may have done previously.

### **#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.

### **Keeping in Touch**

A little reminder that while school continues to remain closed for some year groups 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.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Stay safe and positive.



Mrs Smith  
(Head of School)