

Dear Parent/Carers

It has been lovely to welcome our year 5 and year 6 children back this week. It has been great to see how enthusiastic the children are about being back in school and they are certainly rising to the learning challenges being set. Birklands is definitely starting to feel like its heart is beating again.

Home Learning

Sadly, under current guidelines, with regard to social distancing, we are not able to welcome all year groups back.

Therefore access to home learning will continue until the end of term.

I am immensely proud of how many of our children are still accessing home learning either via our website or using the paper based packs.

If you requested a paper based pack you should have received this yesterday (Thursday). If you did not receive a pack for your child (and you requested one) please do get in touch.

The packs cover learning for the next two weeks.

The next set of paper based learning will be delivered week commencing 29th June.

However, do not forget that daily learning tasks are set by teachers on their class pages, on our school website.

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.

Teaching staff will of course also continue to maintain contact with their classes through emails. Please be mindful that as our provision in school for additional groups of children 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.

Reports

As mentioned last week teachers have written a mid-year report based on point of learning up to mid-March. Your child's report will be delivered either Monday or Tuesday next week, if they are currently not in school.

Once you have received the report if you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher.

Staffing and Classes

Normal running of school has most definitely not stopped during lockdown and it is looking as if come September we will be welcoming back more children than ever. Based on this I have made the decision to recruit additional teaching staff. This will enable the school to split three particular year groups that will have at least forty children in. Staffing for next year is as follows:

Year Group	Staff Member	Class Base
Nursery (F1)	Mrs Wesley	Wren
Reception (F2)	Miss Lounds	Puffin
Reception (F2)	Mr Cohen	Robin
Year One	Mrs Evans	Magpie
Year Two	Mrs Pawlitta/ Mrs Lewis	Dove
Year Three	Miss Marsh	Jay
Year Three	Miss Goodwin	Siskin
Year Four	Mrs Allen	Kittiwake
Year Five	Mr Brightman	Nightingale
Year Five	Mr Marsh	Kingfisher
Year Six	Miss Watson	Goldcrest

Mrs Henderson will be returning in September too. She will be in school on a part-time basis. Both she and Mrs Pawlitta will support learning across the school.

Transition

No one knows yet how the Government are expecting schools to operate at the start of next academic year. However, at Birklands, we remain constantly positive that we will be able to welcome all of our children back.

The start of the academic year is always an anxious time and this will no doubt be heightened even more this year.

To help support our children and families all staff are busy putting together a transition pack for everyone. This will involve staff introducing themselves and a virtual tour of the school/class base, as well as an opportunity for teachers to get to know their new class. This will be accessible from Monday 6th July.

Transition to Year 7

I am aware that all of our year 6 that are transitioning to Meden in September have received a letter and are now able to access their transition package.

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 thirty 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.

#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.

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

Stay safe and positive.

Mrs Smith
(Head of School)