



Leppington, Birch Hill, Bracknell, RG12 7WW
Headteacher: Michael Dillon B Ed (Hons) MA

Friday, 27 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe and managing these difficult times.

I wanted to update you on what is happening in school this week and going forward.

It is clear, that during this time of crisis teachers and support staff are doing essential work – caring for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. It also means we are all having to find new ways to meet the needs of our community

These are clearly very stressful and anxious times for everyone. Staff all want to do the right thing – and I continue to be extremely proud of their dedication and commitment during this time.

This week, our main focus has been on supporting the children we have on site and also looking forward in terms of planning – we are working on the next 12 weeks. We are moving staff into 3 teams, and developing a rota with each team working one week on and two weeks working from home. This is essential to keep the children we have on site safe and also our staff and their families.

Easter provision and beyond

The school remains closed, but will be open to Key Workers and vulnerable children over the Easter period, however we will be closed for everyone on the Bank Holidays.

There will be no Home Learning set over the Easter holidays (6th April – 17th April), but this will be published again on the website from Monday 20th April.

Secure Area of the website (access to Home Learning resources)

I know there has been some frustrations and confusion about home-learning this week. I believe the majority of these have stemmed from a confusion in accessing the secure area of the website and the PiXL app.

We have to put these resources into a password protected area as many of the resources are copyright protected material

Username: homelearning@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Password: b1rchh1ll

Pixl Apps

These log ins have been handed out to children already. If you cannot find yours, you can email us on the home learning email and we will get back to you when we can. Please note you will need to download the Pixl times table app from the App Store (it is free) and there is also a Pixl Vocabulary app. You can use the same passwords for both.

Home Learning on the Website

There has also been a huge demand in parents asking for paper copies of the Home Learning pack. We are happy to help with this, but please be assured, it is the same material as that on the website – there is no difference. If you can use the website, please do so because you should not be coming into school unless it is absolutely essential.

If you need any questions regarding home learning please use the email:

homelearning@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Mrs Nicholson is working from home during the period and will manage this email address and any questions. Please be patient, as sometimes she has to contact teachers to ask for the answers. Please note that the Home Learning provision is available. Unfortunately, we are not able to personalise this for every child, neither are staff able to provide an extension to this. We are updating the 'useful website list' that you can use.

We will put a Frequently Asked Questions up next week, which I hope will answer many of your questions.

Communication with school

Can I please remind parents not to contact teachers directly – either via email, or especially through social media - we have already had one parent attempt to friend/message a teacher. We are looking at ways to communicate with our families and children – I will update you on this next week. While communicating with the children and parents it is vital, this is done in a professional, safe and consistent way across the whole school.

All of the letters about the closure are available on the link below.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Dillon
Headteacher

All COVID19 information is at <https://www.birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19&pid=134>