



Weekly Update

18th September 2020

During this time, when things are constantly changing, I thought it would be helpful to write more frequently with regular updates. I hope this proves to be helpful. We have also attached a 'what to do'... chart that I hope you find useful. During this time, our MOTTO of 'Together' will be vital—we all need to work together and support each other. We are experiencing some real challenges and ask you your support and patience – we have had 114 children absent from school, 41 self isolating (with symptoms and waiting for a test. There have been no positive results). We have also had 4 member of staff ill —and this is just week 2!

As always, please feel free to send us any feedback via secretary@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Please remember all of our COVID19 information can be found on our website at <https://www.birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19&pid=134>

COVID19 Update.

As we know there is a significant challenge, both nationally and locally getting COVID test. While I completely understand everyone's frustrations, the rule(s) remain the same.

If your child shows signs;

- ⇒ a new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- ⇒ a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back 37.8+
- ⇒ a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL (If they are in school, we will send them home).

- ◆ Notify the school of their absence.
- ◆ They will have to self-isolate for 10 days.
- ◆ Arrange to have a coronavirus test.
- ◆ Fellow household members and any support bubble members should self isolate for 14 days, from the day when the first person in the household becomes ill.
- ◆ If any of their household develops symptoms they should request a coronavirus test as soon as possible.
- ◆ Inform the school immediately of the test result via COVIDtest@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk
- ◆ Parents are advised to follow the latest Public Health England (PHE) guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Access to Remote Learning

If you child is self-isolating for 14 days we will contact you and arrange for remote learning tuition.

Recording Absence

Over the last 10 days we have had approximately 114 children absent. This is becoming difficult to manage in the office. Therefore can you please register any absence via the online form available on the website at <https://www.birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Report+your+child+absent&pid=313>

Parent Governor Elections

Birch Hill is looking for new governors who are parents of children at the school.

The governors are a group of volunteers that work with the school to help it improve the education for the children, ensure that the budget is spent well and that the children and staff are safe. It is obviously important that we have the perspective of parents as part of this group.

We come from all walks of life and have different backgrounds, which is what makes it work.

You don't need to have any particular skills or experience to be a governor, your enthusiasm and interest in how a school is run is all we need.

We meet monthly during term time for 1.5 hours on a Monday evening (currently online!). There is full training provided by the council for free.

There are two places available. As the governors make legal decisions about the school, there is a formal process from the council to follow, which is mainly to do with holding a ballot if more than two people volunteer. So, if you would like to express your interest, please email Jane, the Clerk to the governors on Jhodgson@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk for a nomination form.

If you would like to find out more about what being a governor involves, please contact fellow parent and governor, Dave Droar on dave.droar@gmail.com

Packed Lunch Box

Can we remind parents that packed lunches should be healthy. Chocolate and nuts are not allowed in school. They should be brought in a container which is stored in class areas until children are called for lunch. Please only include water. We encourage you to vary your child's eating pattern during the week and you may change between packed lunches and school dinners.

Reading Books

Teachers will begin to send home reading books over the next few weeks. No reading records will be sent home, but please remember to hear your child read every day. Only bring the book back into school when your child has finished it. Books returned will then be isolated for 24 hours before being used again. We will be hearing your child read in school with books that are here already.

Diary Dates

Year 5/6 Year Group Welcome Meeting	6:30 - 7:30 Tuesday 22nd September (Live via ZOOM)
Year 3/4 Year Group Welcome Meeting	6:30 - 7:30 Wednesday 23rd September (Live via ZOOM)
Year 1/2 Year Group Welcome Meeting	6:30 - 7:30 Thursday 1st October (Live via ZOOM)
Reception Year Group Welcome Meeting	6:30 - 7:30 Tuesday 13th October (Live via ZOOM)
Parent Consultations	4-7pm—Tuesday 20th October (Via ZOOM)
	4-7pm—Thursday 22nd October (Via ZOOM)