



# Weekly Update

11th December 2020

## School Closure Friday 18th December

As you will know from yesterday's email, the DfE and LA have said school should close on Friday 18th to give 6 clear days for track and trace. Please find attached separate instructions on how track and trace will operate over the Christmas holiday.

I fully appreciate the difficulty this decision has on families and, please be assured it is not taken lightly. I thank you for your continued support during this difficult situation.

## Please see below the updated School Christmas Events timetable

- \* Wednesday 16th December.- **Christmas lunch** and online Panto
- \* **Nativity Show**—all year groups are working on a combined virtual Nativity. Many thanks to everyone who has helped with costumes and outfits. This is being curated over the weekend and we will share with the children and parents next week (via a link to our Homelearning page on our website).
- \* Thursday 17th December— **Dress Up/PJ Day (& Christmas jumper)**  
Children will have a games day and some classroom Christmas activities and watch the Nativity Show on the last day of term.



## Free School Meal Vouchers

The Local Authority are providing a £40 voucher for the Christmas holidays for parents who are eligible for benefits-based Free School Meals. Eligible parents have been emailed by school and the supermarket vouchers will be available next week. The LA will provide a £40 voucher for any other parents whose eligibility is confirmed by 16th December. If you think you may be entitled go to [School meals | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.schoolmeals.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

## Friends update

- Many thanks to everyone who supported and donated to the Christmas pop-up shop. It was very busy and Friends have already raised £200 in just one day.
- End of Term— **Thursday 17th December**—Dress Up/PJ Day (& Christmas Jumpers), Class Christmas Activities.
- EasyFundraising is an easy way for Friends to raise money. Simply register Friends as your preferred charity.



# A few reminders.....

## COVID19 Test results

If you are waiting for a test—the whole family needs to self-isolate until you have the test results.

Please send any test results in via

COVIDtest@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Our Twitter account regularly has photos and updates of class activities and events in school.

Follow us on  
@BirchHillSch



**Staff Gifts** – We fully appreciate your continued support and understand it is traditional for parents to buy staff a gift at Christmas. However, in light of the challenges COVID19 has brought everyone I would encourage parents to either send a thank you to staff and/or make a donation to Guide Dogs for the Blind. This is our nominated charity for this school year. The link is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dan-kelf>

## Cold Weather Arrangements

In the event of bad weather we will always do our best to stay open. We may need to make last minute changes to drop off and collection arrangements. If it's icy we will grit the bottom playground and Y6 playground. In this situation, please do not come onto site early, instead use the whole 'staggered' times available. **8:30-8:55 and 3:00—3:25**

In the event of a school closure, details are on our website— under About Us/Emergency Closure Procedures.

## Dates

<b>Christmas Lunch &amp; Online Panto</b>	<b>Wednesday 16th December</b>
<b>Friends Dress Up/PJ/Xmas Jumper Day</b>	<b>Thursday 17th December</b>
<b>End of Term (finish at normal time)</b>	<b>Thursday 17th December</b>
<b>INSET day</b>	<b>Monday 4th January 2021</b>
<b>Start of Term</b>	<b>Tuesday 5th January 2021</b>

\* See school website for term dates