



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

Friday, 26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Monday 8th March Opening & Arrangements

As you know, following the Government's announcement on Monday, schools are fully opening to all children on 8th March.

What is different now from January is that *'infection rates are significantly down, Frimley not in a state of emergency and numbers in hospital significantly decreasing each day, vaccination programme, most vulnerable had their first injection.*

Please read this letter carefully as it contains a lot of information. Saying that, many of the plans will be the same as we had in place during the Autumn term.

COVID 19 is still very prevalent in the community and we need to ensure safety is paramount, therefore please:

- Follow social distance rules
- Adults to wear masks on school site
- If you or anyone in your household or support bubble have any COVID symptoms – book a test and the whole household must self isolate until the result is back.

Since January, staff have been using LFD tests to self-test, twice a week from home - this will continue. The government have said primary aged children will not be tested.

Adults will be wearing masks and visors in and around school. Primary children should not wear masks.

KOOSA Kids will be open for Breakfast /Afterschool Provision and Easter holidays

Bookings for breakfast club can be made by 1pm and for after school club & holiday club by 6pm the working day before. Visit www.koosakids.co.uk or call [01276 21884](tel:0127621884) to find out more. Bookings are now open.

Staffing

Ms Cameron is recovering well from her medical procedure and recuperating at home. She hopes to be back towards the end of this half term; this is likely to be on a phased return, initially working from home and being back in school after the Easter holidays.

Mrs Russell is hoping to be back as soon as possible, hopefully for the summer term, we will keep you posted. In the meantime, Mrs Davies will teach the class Monday - Thursday and Miss Kaye (HLTA) on Friday.

Lunch

Online ordering for all will return on 8th and the menu is attached. This is the same as the Autumn Term menu. All parents must book and pay for school lunches online and you can now book these. We cannot accept any cash in school. Lunches must be ordered before midnight the day before for all children.

Lunches will be served in classroom for Y2-Y6 and in the Studio for Reception and Y1.

Drop off times

It is still very important that parents/carers keep to the following:-

- Arrive at the designated time for your child's year group
- One adult only to drop off or collect
- Please ensure you and your family are maintaining social distancing whilst waiting
- Adults wear a mask

We will close the whole car park outside school and the community centre whilst drop off and collection takes place. This enables children and families to access the bottom playground safely. Please do not park in the school car park unless you have been given permission.

Please walk if you can, or park in the car park near the scout hut or in South Hill Park.

If you have siblings, please drop off your siblings at the **earlier** time.

Year Group	Time	Gate
Y5/6	8:30 - 8.40	Back Gate
Y3/4	8:30	Bottom playground gate
Y1/2	8:40	Bottom playground gate
Reception	8:50	Bottom playground gate
Nursery	8:50	Bottom playground gate

Pick up times

If you have siblings, please collect your siblings at the **earlier** time.

If you need to speak to your class teacher please contact the school office to arrange a telephone call.

Year Group	Time	Gate
Y1/2	3:00	Bottom playground gate
Y3/4	3:10	Bottom playground gate
Reception	3:20	Bottom playground gate
Nursery	3:20	Bottom playground gate
Y5/6	3:20	Bottom playground gate

Please do not come to the school office if you can give us information by phone or email.

Pick up in the afternoon

All parents collecting must queue in the bottom playground and when called, walk round the site using the one-way system to collect their child. There will be adults to direct to the right place. When you pick up your child, stay in the train tracks and your child will come to you. Please keep the line moving.

If your Year 5 or 6 child can leave school on their own, please email

secretary@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk to let us know. Your child will be released at the appropriate time via the back gate. Adults are not allowed to enter the site through the back gate as we have a one-way system operating.

Curriculum & Assessments

We will not run a Recovery Curriculum as we did when the children returned in the Autumn. Teachers will continue to focus on what you have already been doing via remote learning - with a particular emphasis on Key Skills and Concepts in English and Maths. All national statutory assessments have been cancelled. We will be doing our own in-house (PiXL) assessments after the Easter Holidays.

Peripatetic music

Berkshire Maestros are planning for peripatetic music to be back from 8th March

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day next week, both in school and virtually! There will be a dress up day on Friday 5th March, where the children can come to school, or their online lessons, dressed as a character from their favourite book. On the Birch Hill website you can enjoy video recordings of some of the staff's favourite books and there is a game of "Guess the teacher" to play. Here, you will have to try to work out which teacher is reading their favourite book from a mystery photograph... In the home learning packs, there will also be a number of activities based around reading and some further links to some exciting online live events.

We hope you enjoy these and are able to absorb yourselves in some great books over the course of the week!

Staff are working on a number of other themed days – Red Nose Day (Friday 19th March) and we will send out further details in due course.

Residential

We are waiting for guidance from the DfE on when day trips and residential can take place. If the residential cannot take place, all money paid will be fully refunded. Further information will be provided when we know more.

Recording Absence

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>

Access to Remote Learning

If your child is sent home due to COVID we will provide access to Remote Learning. This is likely to be in form of learning packs and weekly live ZOOM sessions with a teacher or TA (not necessarily from their current class.

COVID19 Update.

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 10 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>