



Weekly Update

01 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've made it to Easter – well done everyone. The evenings are lighter and fingers crossed we have some warmer weather over the holidays.

Many thanks to everyone for their hard work and continued support in helping to bring the children back this term. I wrote to everyone back in January that school is about both Learn and Believe, and also about doing this Together. COVID has definitely tested all of us, but it has also brought out the best in the community spirit. We have said all along, our main priority is to support and nurture the children's well-being - we want them to feel safe and be happy. We also know this will ensure they are Ready to Learn. We know from working with the children in the classroom and from our informal assessments this half term, that COVID has had a detrimental impact on children's learning – and for some children – a significant impact on their wellbeing. It will take time for everyone to get back to some sense of normality and 'catch up' on their lost learning. We will do our utmost to support the children during this time.

Although there have been limitations, everyone has worked hard to ensure the children still have an engaging and enriching curriculum. This half term we have been able to have some Dressing Up days, celebrate Red Nose Day, welcome back Maestros and even a Yoga instructor for Y3. Over the summer term, we will be hosting more external sport coaches, start to run a football club for Y5 and Y6 and multi-skills for Y1 and Y2, celebrate National Sport Week, Year 3 will have an immersive History Experience from Reading Museum and also a performance (virtually) for Year 3 and 4 and also Year 6. We will also run informal Parents Evenings (virtually) and a range of assessments – to name a few!

Staffing

As you know Miss Mustoe will be working from home for the next half term and her baby is due in June. Mr Laws will take 5M over the summer term and has already been in school meeting the team and children. I am also pleased to welcome Mrs Chick, who will be joining the Year 5 and 6 team as Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) who will cover teachers Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA). Mrs Williamson joins our cleaning team.

School Council

Earlier this term, School Council fed back to Birch Hill's governor, Pauline Cole, about how the children had experienced remote learning during lockdown. The representatives conducted themselves superbly via zoom and provided some detailed feedback which Pauline took note of- even the funny moments of our home school learning! The governor commented on how articulate and responsible the pupils were and how they were a credit to Birch Hill.

School Photos

We have booked the school photographs for Wednesday 19th May.

Uniform

Can I remind parents that all children should be coming into school in their full uniform – and trainers are only allowed on PE days. The correct cardigans and sweatshirts should be worn

Lunch menu

Please see attached our new summer menu.

Healthy Snacks

Can I remind parents that children in KS1 are given a piece of fruit a day and children in KS2 are welcome to bring a healthy snack – this should be a piece of fruit, or something similar. Crisps or biscuits are not appropriate.

RSHE consultation

If you haven't already, please see online the consultation for Relationships, Sex and Health education Policy and Curriculum

Letters for football and Key Skills

Please see letters regarding Football clubs for Tuesday and Thursday.

LFD Testing and Test & Trace over Easter

All staff and parents should continue with LFD testing over the Easter holidays. The DfE and Public Health England have asked schools to manage Test and Trace up to and including Wednesday 7 April. If you have a positive LFD test, you must get a confirmatory PCR test and inform the school – using the email address covidtest@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Holiday Activities

Please see links below for Holidays activities from Bracknell Forest
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food

KOOSAKids

There are still spaces for holiday club at KOOSAKids. Please see the link below for more information and booking.
<https://www.koosakids.co.uk/berkshire/bracknell/birch-hill-primary-school-bracknell/holiday-club>

Carpark

We are aware that the local car park is extremely busy at drop off and collection, this is compounded at the moment with the GP surgery running vaccines clinics. We would strongly encourage parents/carers to either walk, or if driving, park in South Hill Park car park. Please follow the speed limit and do not double park to collect or drop off children.

Photo Gallery



Year 5 have been investigating how a plant reproduces either using a bulb, a leaf cutting or a stem. The children are carrying out a variety of different experiments in groups but will all observe their plants over the next few weeks to see which ones propagates the fastest.



Year 2 planting green beans in the Edible Garden.



Year 3 have created a video of their shadow puppet performances. These can be seen on the New page of the school website.

Dates

Last Day of Term	Thursday 1st April (normal time)
INSET	Monday 19th April
Start of Term	Tuesday 20th April