

Dear All,

It has been lovely to see all the children in their dressing up costumes today—there has definitely been lots of fun and laughter. Many thanks to Friends for organising the event and continuing their fund raising events, in particularly the Christmas cards. Any questions please contact us.

Please find attached a letter from the Local Authority and PHE about the recent increase in COVID cases and some new restrictions we are introducing after half term. A summary is below.

Lastly, I hope you all have a restful half term and we look forward to seeing everyone back on **Tuesday 2nd November**.

The Local Authority and local Public Health team have asked all local schools to reintroduce some COVID restrictions to try and help slow the spread of the virus. We plan to make the changes from the beginning of next half term until at least the end of term.

They have stressed that these need to be proportionate and minimise any disruption to children's education and learning and is NOT a reintroduction of bubbles. Children and staff can go into other year groups. Most trips and enrichment activities (music and sporting events) can still continue.

Restrictions

- Try to avoid/minimise any 'large gatherings' – **We will continue to use virtual assemblies**
- Minimise lunches in the hall & large groups outside—**We will put Year 2 – Year 6 in their classrooms for lunch and continue with staying in year/phase groups outside**
- Minimise Parents in school—**We will continue to use virtual meetings and not have volunteers in school**
- Reintroduce Face -coverings—**Staff will be advised to wear face coverings in communal areas indoors.**
- Primary aged children do not need to wear coverings. Parents do not need to wear coverings outside
- **We will ask all parents and visitors entering the school including the school reception area to wear a face covering.**

Testing

- **7 day daily Lateral Flow Testing—for children with no symptoms**
- If someone in the household is positive and the child's PCR test is negative, we will advise you to test you child with a lateral flow test every day for seven days. The child still attends school unless they test positive.
- If your child is Identified as a close-contact, we will advise that you get a PCR test for your child. If the child's PCR test is negative, we will advise you to test you child with a lateral flow test every day for seven days. The child still attends school unless they test positive.

PCR test for children with symptoms

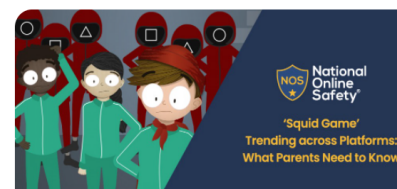
- If your child has any symptoms, they will be advised to get a PCR test, not a lateral flow test. Send test results to covidtest@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Safeguarding

Please find attached a letter from the Local Authority regarding a Tik Tok update.

There have been a number of reports that children have been watching the Netflix series Squid Games. Please see a link below for some further information.

[https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR0rBHXu1WcQVQSA_Dr2aNWE5cx-UPTd9cQYEaZESnxaRRq2RDhsqto2Kv0)
[fbclid=IwAR0rBHXu1WcQVQSA_Dr2aNWE5cx-UPTd9cQYEaZESnxaRRq2RDhsqto2Kv0](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR0rBHXu1WcQVQSA_Dr2aNWE5cx-UPTd9cQYEaZESnxaRRq2RDhsqto2Kv0)



Secondary School Applications

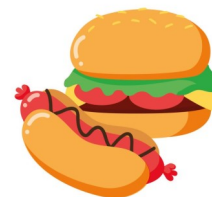
Please ensure you apply for your child's secondary school place by 31st October. For further information go to the Bracknell Forest Council website: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school/when-apply>

Special Lunch

On Thursday 11th November we have a special lunch!

Your child can order burgers and wedges or vegan hotdog and wedges.

Please order online.



Remembrance Day

Children will be able to bring money in to buy poppies and other items after half term to commemorate Remembrance Day.



Reminder

Some children have brought glass water bottles into school, one of which was accidentally smashed. Please ensure your child brings their water to school in a plastic container.








Flu Immunisations

Please remember to complete the online consent form by Monday 1st November. To consent to your child having the flu vaccination you must complete an electronic consent form via <https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> and insert your school's (**Birch Hill Primary**) unique code: (**BK109893**)

Dates for the Diary

HALF TERM	MONDAY 25TH—FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER
INSET DAY	MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
Year 6 Height & Weight Check—School	Tuesday 2nd November
Flu Immunisations - Reception-Year 6	Thursday 4th November
Reception Family Learning Workshop (TBC)	Tuesday 16 th November (RW) & Thursday 18 th November (RR)
Parent Workshop—Children with Anxiety	Wednesday 24 th November 9-11am
Friends Christmas Fair	Saturday 4th December

Letters/Attachments coming home this week:

-  Frimley schools flowchart
-  LA Letter to Parent & Carers re CV19 Update 21 Oct
-  Library Halloween Crafts
-  Reading Museum October Half Term
-  Tik Tok Update Parent Letter
-  Year 4 Trip Oxford Castle 2021
-  Little Olympians flyer