

Welcome Note

Happy New Year and I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday and were able to spend some quality family time together. It has been lovely to see the children all back and settling back into school. Teachers used INSET on Tuesday to review our Curriculum Topic planning.

Although COVID restrictions mean we are still limited from running some of our normal activities, we still want to provide a range of activities and trips where possible. Maestros are in running a range of music tuition sessions, Year 5 have started their swimming lessons and Y5/6 children are attending the Athletics Tournament today. This term we will also be participating in the 3M Science Challenge (more details to follow).

Staffing update

Welcome to Mrs Chantal Watson who is covering Reception (RW) class until the end of summer term.

Year 3 & 4 Topics

Year 3 and 4 have returned after Christmas excited for their learning. Year 3 have begun their geography and science-based topic 'What's beneath our feet?' and Y4 have started looking at their history topic 'Why did the Vikings raid and invade?'.



Both year groups have enjoyed their art lessons: year 3 have completed some vibrant Volcano artwork using paint and Year 4 are working on a collage of a Viking longboat, which will take several weeks to complete, using lots of different techniques and mediums.

COVID UPDATE

We currently have nine positive COVID cases spread across the school. As before, we will inform parents when there is one, three and five positive cases. We are not able to give a daily update. If there are more than five positive cases in a year group, we will write to parents and give further guidance and consult with the Local Authority.

Testing

If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test, they need to isolate. There is now no need to get a confirmatory PCR if they have a positive lateral flow test.

If your child has COVID symptoms - a temperature, persistent cough or loss of taste/smell, please keep them off school and book them a PCR test. Please send us the results. You must book a PCR test if they have symptoms even if they have a negative lateral flow result.

We recommend that you use regular lateral flow testing with your child as a minimum as this can pick up positive cases before symptoms show.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

If your child is returning early from isolation, please email us before they return and confirm they have had two negative LFD results. covidtest@birchhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Half Term



You can book KOOSA for half term childcare at:

A promotional banner for KOOSA Kids. On the left, it displays a phone icon with the number 01276 21884, the website www.koosakids.co.uk, and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Below this, a large pink box contains the text 'Holiday Activities for children aged 4-13'. To the right of the pink box is a circular logo with 'Ofsted Outstanding Early years provider' and the KOOSA Kids logo, which includes a blue handprint and the tagline 'FUN, ACTIVE CHILDCARE!'.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

School Photographs	Wednesday 26th January
Year 6 Parents Evening	Tuesday 8th & Thursday 10th February
Half Term	Monday 14th—Friday 18th February
Parents Evening (apart from Year 6)	Tuesday 8th & Thursday 10th March
Year 6 Residential Trip	Monday 14th -Saturday 19th March
End of Term	Friday 1st April

Letters/Attachments coming home this week:

-  KOOSA Kids February Half Term Holiday Club
-  Silwood Park Karate lessons 2022