



# Birchfield News

## Dates for your diary:

17.07.20 End of Summer term

03.09.20 School starts for Yr1-6

08.09.20 School starts for Reception children

Nursery and Reception parents will receive a letter with the details for their child, including a data and time for a pre-visit.

Please contact [enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk) if you have any questions or need any further information.

## Message from Mrs Thewlis

Dear Birchfield families,

It seems an impossible task to try and put this year into words; for all of us, this has been, and continues to be, one of the most challenging times. We are pleased with the news from the Prime Minister that all children are expected to be back at school full time in September.

We are carefully considering both how to best support the children in their learning, as well as ensure we are keeping all children and staff as safe as possible. We are waiting for further guidance from the government which should help us determine how far the restrictions will be relaxed and what is expected of us. I can assure all parents that it is

our utmost priority to support our children, many of whom will be returning to school after a considerable amount of time away. Please take time over the summer to enjoy being together and to talk about returning to school. It is understandable that many of you may be feeling anxious or nervous about returning to this new 'normal'.

I would like to say a personal thank you to those of you who have reached out and offered kind words and support during this time and to my team for all their hard work.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Thewlis

Follow us on twitter to keep up to date with the latest Birchfield news.



@Birchfield\_Sch  
@thePA\_CT

Please use [enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk) if you need to contact school. We will ensure that your enquiry is passed to the relevant person who can help you.

## Home Learning

Home learning has been one of the challenges facing lots of parents, myself included. We all want to make sure we are doing enough and we have all had to try and juggle this with our own work as well as all our other commitments, and caring for family and children of all ages. As a school, we have recently added new planning and resources to the website and hope that you will find these useful. Please remember these are there as a guide. You will know what is appropriate for your child whilst at home. Any learning, at home or at school should be a positive and rewarding experience and take into account the needs of the individual. There needs to be plenty of varie-

ty, lots of praise and also down-time where the children choose how to spend their time.

We will ensure there is content to access over the coming weeks and I would ask all parents to continue to read, and encourage reading at home. As a school, we will plan carefully for children in the Autumn term to ensure that the learning meets their needs.

All of our children have been through an extremely difficult time and so much has been expected of them at such a young age. I know that my children will be having a good rest over the summer and I hope that you are all able to spend quality time as families before September.

## Coronavirus Updates

Coronavirus remains a serious concern for all of us and has changed the way that we live and work together, now and in the future.

All of our school planning has to be informed by the government guidance and therefore is always subject to change. Updates continue to come through to schools and we are expecting more detail from the government in the coming weeks.

I ask all parents to keep up to date through the news and by regularly checking our website where we will share key information. The NHS advice is as follows: Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Check the NHS website if you have any symptoms and please keep school updated on any changes to your circumstances.

Many of the behaviours we have become used to will still apply in September and beyond. Over the summer, please continue to encourage your children to practise good hygiene behaviours including **regular, thorough handwashing and maintaining social distance where this is possible**.

Please talk to your child about what is happening and answer their questions. This will help them be prepared for their return to school. It is our aim to have all our children and staff back in school in September.

## Staffing

As we near the end of the year, there are some staff updates to share with you. We are sad to be saying goodbye to Ms McCrossan and Mrs Clarke who are leaving us at the end of this term. I want to thank them both for their support for the school since I joined and for their hard work with the children. I know they will be both missed by us all.

We have made some new appointments to the staffing team. Miss Rock and Miss Bakalou are both joining us and we want to warmly welcome them to our school. We welcome back Mr Adcock who will be continuing his work as a learning mentor with our children. We also want to wish Mrs Saboor our very best as she leaves to go on Maternity Leave. A full list of classes and staffing will be posted on the school website soon under 'latest news'. Clearly, it has not been possible this year for parents to have time to speak with

their child's current and new teacher. We will ensure that there is plenty of opportunity for this in the Autumn term.

For those children who are joining Nursery or Reception in September, you will receive a letter inviting you and your child to a pre-visit before starting school. Please can we ask parents to contact [enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk) if they have not received this letter by the end of this term. Due to covid19, pre-visits have to be organised in a staggered approach so please observe the dates and times given. I ask that only one parent accompanies the child and no siblings so we can provide this opportunity as safely as is possible.

## Curriculum for 2020

It has always been a priority for me that we involve parents in their child's learning as well as making parents feel welcome in our school. We all have the best interests of the children at heart and I want to continue to develop the relationship that we have with our parents and to build upon the work that we've begun.

I am sure that parents may be worried about how the children will 'catch up' once they return to school. Please can I reassure all parents that we take our professional responsibility for the children's education extremely seri-

ously. Many of the challenges for the autumn term are already known, and others will need to be assessed on our return but the children's learning and sense of wellbeing remain at the centre of our planning and decision making. Where necessary, our curriculum and lessons will be adjusted to meet the needs of the children. We will keep you informed about this and ask for your support and trust as we face yet more unprecedented circumstances. Ultimately, we all share the same priority in wanting the children to settle back into school and cover lost ground as quickly but thoroughly as possible.