

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I want to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope that 2021 will be a much better year for us all. Over the past few days, you will have undoubtedly seen lots of news/media coverage regarding the revised tier system and school closures.

Birchfield Primary School is in a tier 4 area but is not in one of the boroughs where school closures have been enforced. As a result - based on the current government guidance - school will open to ALL pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January as previously planned. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January remains an INSET day for staff training and pupils should not attend on this day.

Since our full reopening in September, working together has been vital in minimising the risk to all members of our school community. It is extremely important that we continue to focus on key control measures and that everyone plays their role in this. Below are some key reminders for parents:

- **Staggered start times and collection times remain in place.** These can be found in the 'for you' area on the school website in 'letters home'. We will continue to open from 8:30.
- **The one way system remains in place, with the exit being the alley way by Sacred Heart School.**
- **We ask that only one family member drops off/collects please-** this supports us in reducing congestion and prevents unnecessary gathering.
- **The school office remains closed** - Please email [enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk) or call the school via the landline 0121 464 5661.

The government have made it clear that they expect all pupils to attend school at this time. Within school, we will continue to follow our risk assessment and to pay close attention to the strategies that have been shown to reduce the risk of infection:

#### **HANDS** –

Children will be asked to wash and sanitise their hands frequently throughout the school day. This includes on arrival to school. We also ask that they show good respiratory hygiene habits when coughing or sneezing (catch it – bin it – kill it). We ask parents and carers to support this by also promoting these good habits at home.

#### **FACE** -

Adults are asked to wear face masks when collecting or dropping off pupils (exceptions are made for those who are medically exempt). Staff will also wear face masks in communal areas and when not directly teaching children. Government guidance is clear that pupils should not wear face coverings for school.



**SPACE** –

We will continue to operate in bubbles which reduces the amount of contact between adults and children across the school. We would like to remind parents of the importance of social distancing when dropping off and collecting children. Please be considerate to others, follow the allocated timings and keep your children close by at all times.

The school and classrooms will remain well ventilated throughout the day. We will also continue to get children outside for breaks, lunchtime and PE lessons wherever possible. With recent falls in temperature, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for school with warm undergarments/layers, a winter coat, gloves and a hat.

The team at Birchfield Primary look forward to welcoming you back to school following the Christmas break however we need to continue to minimise the risk to others as far as possible. If your child has symptoms of Covid-19/is awaiting a test result or has been in contact with a suspected or positive case of Covid-19, please keep them at home and contact the school [enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk) or 0121 464 5661.

We will continue to do all that we can to support our children and families during these strange and challenging times. At all times, we will follow government guidance and thank you in advance for your ongoing support as we begin the Spring term.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z Thewlis', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Z Thewlis  
Head of School