

With God all things are possible.
We are all God's Children.



The 'Key' Messages

The fortnightly newsletter that keeps you up to date with what is going on at Birchills C of E Community Academy.

Greetings from Mr. Dean, Principal

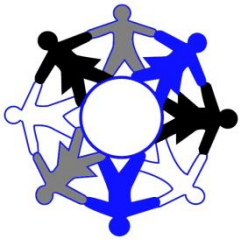
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to all of the children, families and colleagues of Birchills for making me feel so welcome. It has been joyous working alongside such wonderful and hardworking children and colleagues.

The academy will be making some changes to the structure of the school day in order to help with the COVID-19 situation that is affecting the country. These details are being finalised and will be shared with you in due course.

There will be no Parents' Evening this half term owing to the restrictions in place from the Government. As we have a legal requirement to report to parents three-times per academic year, we will be sending home via Class Dojo, an overview of targets for English, Mathematics and Reading with a comment on how your child/ren have settled back into school. These reports will be released WB 19th October 2020 (Actual date to be communicated nearer that time). If you cannot access Class Dojo, we will provide a paper copy.

I would like to thank all of the families that have already signed up to Class Dojo. The Admin Team at Birchills have been sending text invites out to families and will continue to do so until all of the school has been connected. Class Dojo will help you see what your child is learning, communicate with the class teacher (during specified times and for everyday queries) and keep up-to-date with what is happening across the academy.



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COVID-19

Over the last few days I have spoken to a number of parents about children feeling ill with cold like symptoms, this is a very strange time and increased anxiety regarding coronavirus has obviously made the situation more difficult.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

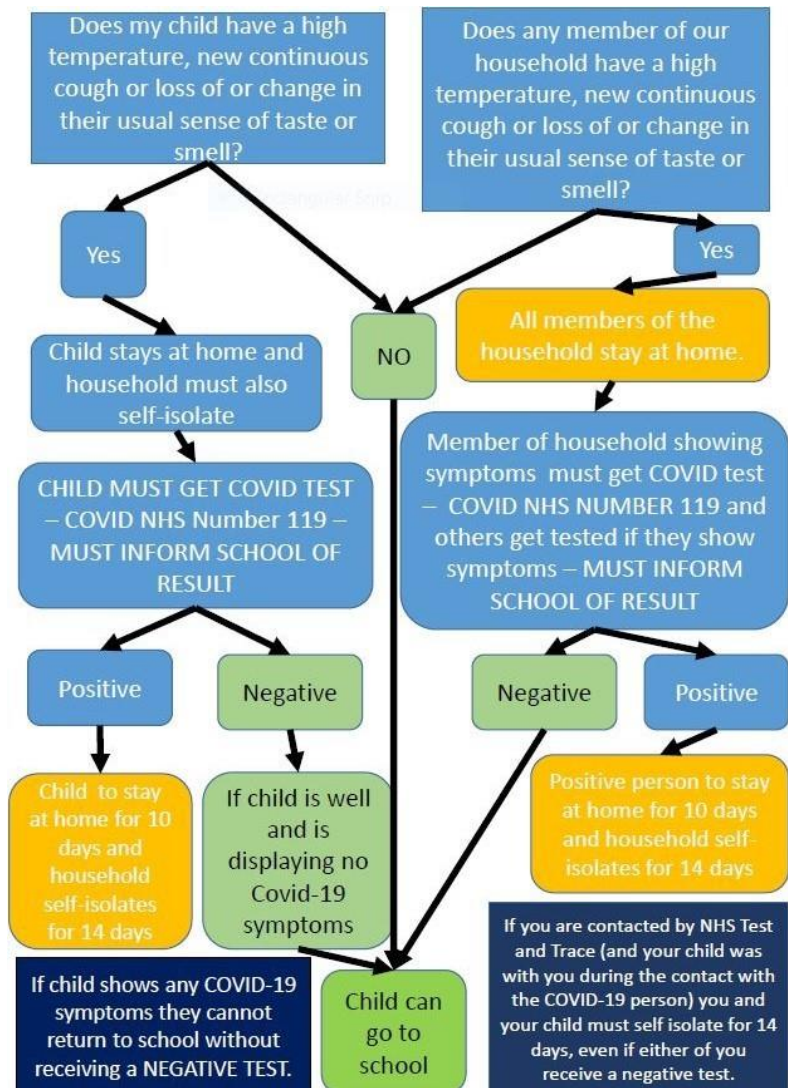
- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or above – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

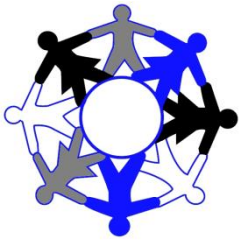
If you or your child is displaying any of these symptoms we ask that you do not attend school and ARE tested for coronavirus, on most occasions test results come back with 24 hours and children can return to school straight away following a negative test. I am unable to provide medical advice as to whether you should send your child to school, and if you are in any doubt or worried please use the [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](https://www.nhs.uk/111).

PLEASE NOTE:

THE ACADEMY IS WORKING
ALONGSIDE THE PUBLIC HEALTH
ENGLAND DEPARTMENT AND
WALSALL PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND
TO ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN,
FAMALIES AND COLLEAGUES OF
BIRCHILLS IS KEPT SAFE.

ALL STAFF ARE FOLLOWING THE
LATEST GUIDANCE SET.





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Safeguarding

All the staff at Birchills are Safeguarded trained. Please familiarise yourselves with Birchills Designated Safeguarding Team. If you have any concerns regarding a child, then please speak to a member of staff or a member from the team below. Thank you.



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DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING TEAM AT BIRCHILLS C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY



Mr. J. Dean
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



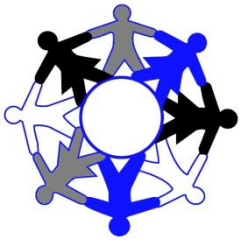
Mrs. K. Partridge
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. E. Solomon
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss. E. Partridge
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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School Census

On Thursday 1st October there was a School Census held in which the information was uploaded to the Department of Education. The purpose of the census was to establish the number of children that have a hot school dinner or order a snack box. This number then feeds into our annual school budget. This money has a big impact on our day-to-day running of the Academy and the provision of resources for your children.



We encourage all of our parents to apply for free school meals regardless of the year group their child/ren are in. If you think you may be eligible, please collect a form from the academy office.

Harvest

We will be celebrating food and farming here in England and around the world. Pupils are welcome to bring in items listed below. Please check 'eat/use by' dates! One item per pupil. All the donations will be going to our local food bank.

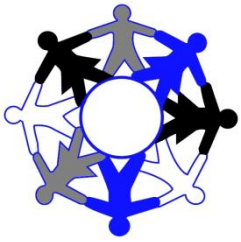
Please can we have donations by Friday 16th October 2020.

We would like the following items please: -

YEAR GROUP	ITEM FOR DONATION
Nursery Classes	Toothpaste or Crisps
Reception Classes	Cuppa Soup or Toilet Roll
Year 1	Tinned Fruit or Tinned Rice Pudding
Year 2	Tinned Meat or Fruit Juice
Year 3	Pet Food or Packets of Mashed Potato
Year 4	Snacks for children or Shampoo
Year 5	Toothpaste or Tinned Meat
Year 6	Shampoo or Toilet Roll

****Please NO beans, chickpeas, teabags or tinned soup****





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Thank you in anticipation of your support for this local cause and for the donations we have already received.

Reminder

Please note that the only types of earrings that can be worn in school are stud earrings. Bracelets and necklaces should not be worn in school. If your child/ren cannot take out their earrings, please provide plasters to cover. Thank you.

Dietary Requirements

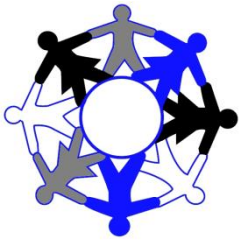
If your child is not having school dinners due to specific dietary requirements, Birchills catering team are more than happy to discuss this and how they may be able to help so your child can enjoy school dinners as well. Birchills has a policy where no nuts are used in producing any dishes to give parents the peace of mind that nut allergy sufferers will not come into contact with nuts from school meals. Moreover, if your child has other dietary needs, this can be catered for as well.

Home time Arrangements

It is vitally important that parents notify the school of any alterations to home time arrangements for their child. Under Child Protection procedures, we are unable to allow children to go home with friends/relatives other than the usual person unless we have parental permission to do so. Parents should send a note or telephone the school office, if appropriate.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please be advised that although Mr. Dean is present on all of the classes for ClassDojo, any messages sent to him directly may not be picked up. Therefore, any queries regarding your child/children, please message the class teacher directly. If it is a query/concern regarding absence, collection for a medical appointment etc. then please contact the Office either by email/telephone. Thank you.



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Key Dates

The academy will be closing on Friday 23rd October at the end of the school day for half term.

Week Beginning 19th October 2020 – Reports to be sent out

Monday 2nd November 2020 – Academy closed for INSET

Tuesday 3rd November 2020 – Academy open to all

Friday 18th December 2020 – Academy closes for Christmas break

Monday 4th January 2021 – Academy open to all

Next newsletter released on Friday 23rd October 2020.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. James Dean

Principal