

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



The 'Key' Messages

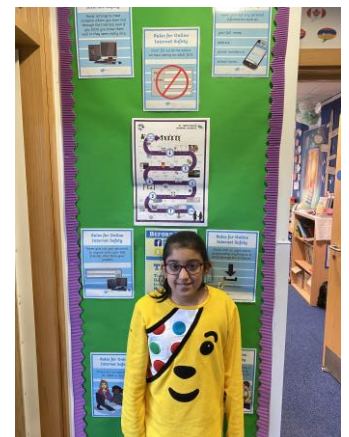
The fortnightly newsletter that keeps you up to date with what is going on at Birchills C of E Community Academy.

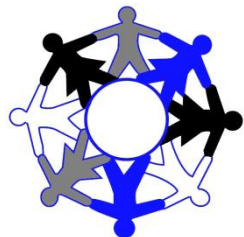
Greetings from Mr. Dean, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to you all for making our new drop-off and collection timings work incredibly well. We have been reviewing the processes in order to make them more efficient. Therefore, from next week (WB 16.11.20) we have altered the times that Year 5/6 children are able to enter the school grounds and for when they can be collected. These timings do not affect any other year group.

A great big thank you to all of the children and families for supporting BBC Children in Need. We have had some fantastic costumes and Children in Need themed outfits. It has been a pleasure seeing the children taking part and having a fantastic time!





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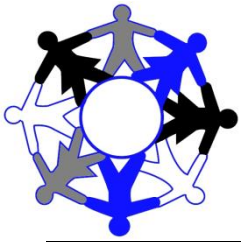
Start and End times

Owing to the increase in cases of COVID-19 within Walsall and the surrounding areas, coupled with the local lockdowns occurring in nearby areas, the academy is introducing staggered starts and staggered home times. These timings will not reduce the amount of teaching time the children will receive.

New drop off and pick up arrangements are as follows:

DROP OFF TIMES	COLLECTION TIMES	YEAR GROUP	DROP OFF/COLLECTION
<i>Drop off from 8:20AM 8:35AM (Gates will be locked at 8:35AM) No Parents on site</i>	<i>3:00PM to 3:10PM (Gates will be locked at 3:10PM) Parents to collect from playground</i>	Nursery Reception Year 1 Year 2	Nursery to bring children/collect from the gate near Main Entrance. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from the gate on Birchills Street leading to Infants playground.
IF YOU ARE LATE DROPPING OFF OR COLLECTING, YOU WILL NEED TO DROP OFF/COLLECT FROM THE MAIN RECEPTION AREA			
<i>Drop off from 8:35AM 8:45AM No Parents on site</i>	<i>3:10PM to 3:20PM Parents to collect from Junior playground</i>	Year 3 Year 4	Rear entrance of the school.
FOR COLLECTING YOUR CHILD, YOU WILL NEED TO QUEUE ALONGSIDE THE FENCE LABELLED 'YEAR 3 & 4'. KEEP 2 MTRS DISTANCE WHERE POSSIBLE. THE GATES WILL BE OPENED AT 3:10PM.			
IF AFTER 3:20PM YOUR CHILD HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTED, YOU WILL NEED TO COLLECT FROM THE MAIN OFFICE.			

<i>Drop off from 8:35AM 8:55AM No Parents on site</i>	<i>3:20PM to 3:30PM Parents to collect from Junior playground</i>	Year 5	Rear entrance of the school.
FOR COLLECTING YOUR CHILD, YOU WILL NEED TO QUEUE ALONGSIDE THE FENCE LABELLED 'YEAR 5 & 6'. KEEP 2 MTRS DISTANCE WHERE POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH THE GATES WILL BE OPEN WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ENTER THE SITE UNTIL 3:20PM.			
MEMBERS OF STAFF WILL BE MONITORING.			
IF AFTER 3:30PM YOUR CHILD HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTED, YOU WILL NEED TO COLLECT FROM THE MAIN OFFICE.			



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<i>Drop off from 8:35AM 8:55AM</i> <i>No Parents on site</i>	<i>3:20PM to 3:30PM</i> <i>Parents to collect from the Year 6 entrance near the staff carpark</i>	<i>Year 6</i>	<i>Rear entrance of the school.</i>
FOR COLLECTING YOUR CHILD, YOU WILL NEED TO QUEUE ALONGSIDE THE FENCE LABELLED 'YEAR 5 & 6'. KEEP 2 MTRS DISTANCE WHERE POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH THE GATES WILL BE OPEN WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ENTER THE SITE UNTIL 3:20PM. MEMBERS OF STAFF WILL BE MONITORING. IF AFTER 3:30PM YOUR CHILD HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTED, YOU WILL NEED TO COLLECT FROM THE MAIN OFFICE.			

Drop Off

Once your child is on the academy grounds, please leave so that others may drop their child/ren off. Please ensure your social distancing of 2mtrs, if this is not available, then please stand 1mtr away.

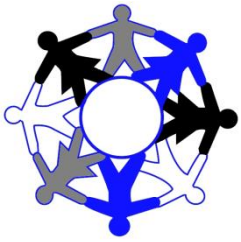
NB – If you arrive earlier than your designated drop off time, you will be asked to kindly to move to one side until it is your child's time.

THE COLLEAGUES AT BIRCHILLS WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY RUDE OR ABUSE BEHAVIOUR.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Birchills has been advised by Walsall MBC that there will be COVID Marshalls and Police patrolling around schools in the coming weeks. These individuals will be there to support but, in some cases, will have the power to issue on the spot fines.

Please ensure we keep our distances when dropping off and collection children.



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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:

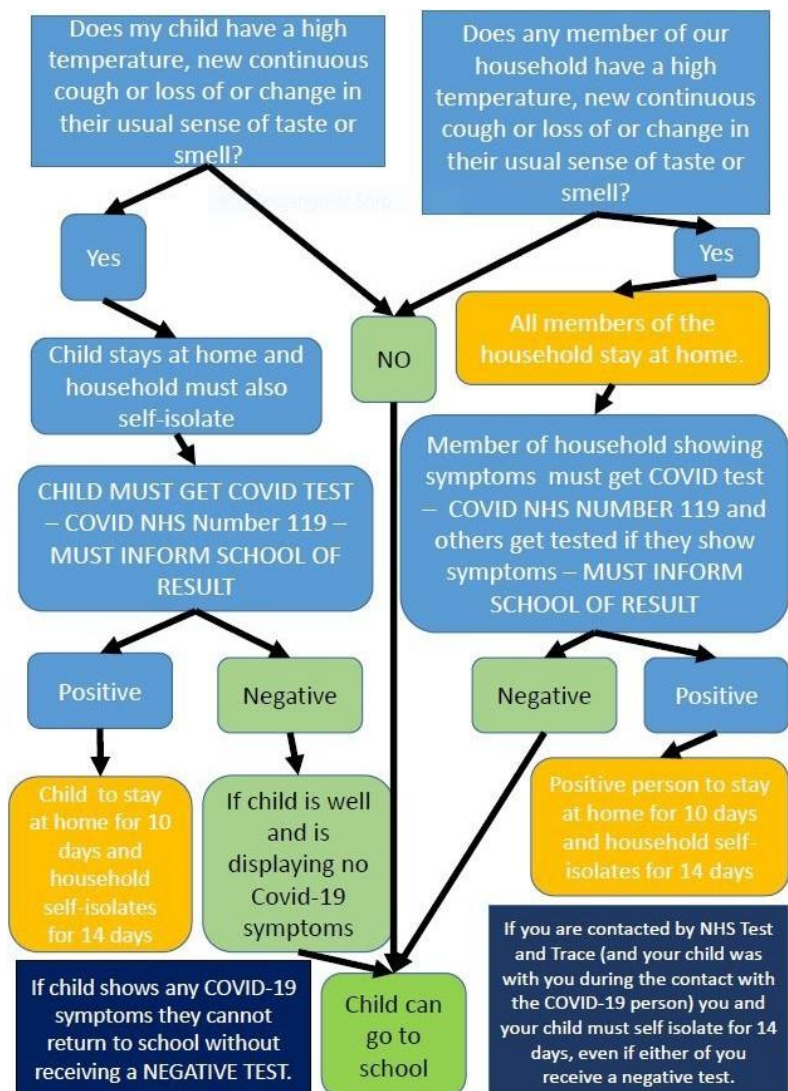
- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or above – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it 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

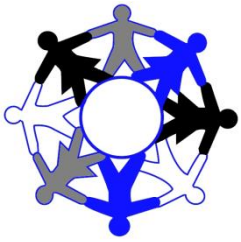
If you or your child is displaying any of these symptoms we ask that you do not attend school and ARE tested for coronavirus, on most occasions test results come back with 24 hours and children can return to school straight away following a negative test. I am unable to provide medical advice as to whether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

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



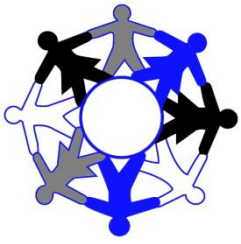
Mrs. K. Partridge
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. E. Solomon
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss. E. Partridge
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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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.

SchoolMoney

To log into **SchoolMoney**, visit the website www.eduspot.co.uk and click on the sign in button in the top right-hand corner. In the drop down, select the **SchoolMoney Parent Login** option and this will send you through to a page where you need to enter your mobile number, email address, the password we have sent to you, and your child's first name.



schoolmoney

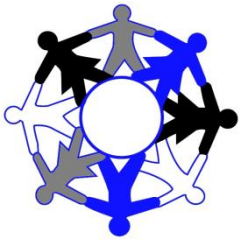
If for any reason you are struggling to log in, it may be because you have not provided us with the correct contact details. Please let us know immediately if either your mobile number or email address changes.

We no longer will be accepting cash for any payments due in school, including dinner money, from Monday 2nd November 2020. Please sign up to SchoolMoney as soon as possible.

We appreciate your cooperation in the early stages of rolling this system out to you.

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.



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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.

Key Dates

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

Monday 2nd November 2020 – Academy closed for INSET

Tuesday 3rd November 2020 – Academy open to all

Friday 13th November 2020 – Children in Need Dress Up



Friday 11th December 2020 – Christmas Jumper Day



Friday 18th December 2020 – Academy closes for Christmas break

Monday 4th January 2021 – Academy open to all

Next newsletter released on Friday 27th November 2020.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. James Dean

Principal