

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

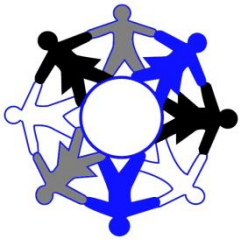
Dear Parents/Guardians,

What can I say? Where have the last eight weeks gone? Although the weeks has flown by, it has been an absolute pleasure for all at Birchills to have the children back in school learning, laughing and growing.

Thank you to all of our families that have donated to our Harvest collection. It is heart warming to see the community spirit and camaraderie that has been displayed. The goods have been collected by our local food bank and will help those who are in need – especially during these difficult times.

Myself and the colleagues here at Birchills wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable half term.





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Farewells

Birchills are bidding farewell at the end of October to Mrs. S. Simkiss, Miss. L. Ellen and Mrs. C. Francis. Each of the colleagues have been part of the Birchills family for 20 years, 10 years and 20 years respectively. They have been instrumental in supporting a number of our children and it is both sad but exciting for them as they move onto their new journeys. The colleagues and children wish them the very best for their futures.

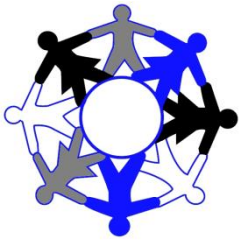


Start and End times

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)</i> <i>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	Nursey to bring children/collect from the gate near Main Entrance. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 from the gate on Farringdon 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</i> <i>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.			



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<i>Drop off from 8:45AM 8:55AM</i> <i>No Parents on site</i>	<i>3:25PM to 3:35PM</i> <i>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 3:25PM. <u>MEMBERS OF STAFF WILL BE MONITORING.</u> IF AFTER 3:35PM YOUR CHILD HAS NOT BEEN COLLECTED, YOU WILL NEED TO COLLECT FROM THE MAIN OFFICE.			

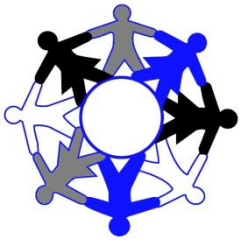
<i>Drop off from 8:45AM 8:55AM</i> <i>No Parents on site</i>	<i>3:25PM to 3:35PM</i> <i>Parents to collect from the Year 6 entrance near the staff carpark</i>	Year 6	Rear entrance of the school.
FOR COLLECTING YOUR CHILD, YOU WILL NEED TO QUEUE ALONGSIDE THE FENCE LABELLED 'YEAR 5 & 6'. KEEP 2 MTRS DISTANCE WHERE POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH THE GATES WILL BE OPEN WE ASK THAT YOU DO NOT ENTER THE SITE UNTIL 3:25PM. <u>MEMBERS OF STAFF WILL BE MONITORING.</u> IF AFTER 3:25PM 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.



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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.

Message from the Chair of the Local Academy Committee

On behalf of the Local Academy Committee I would like to thank staff, parents and children for the way they have worked together over the past few weeks to enable children to safely return to the classroom.

It has been wonderful to see how well children have adapted to the new restrictions and have demonstrated that they are much more resilient than we thought.

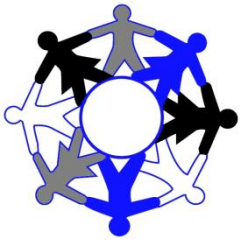
I know that this has been a very worrying time for parents but I would like to thank you for the faith that you have shown in the school. Our attendance figures for this half term have been above the national average which is absolutely wonderful. A big thank you must go to you our parents for ensuring your children are in school every day, it makes a world of difference to your child's education and future life chances. For those of you who are still concerned I can assure you that the school is as safe as it can be.

I would also like to thank Mr Dean, our new interim principal and his staff for making the re-introduction of children into the classroom so successful. I know everyone has worked tirelessly to meet all the government guidelines at the same time ensuring children have an environment which enables them to learn and grow. I can assure you that your children are always their number one priority.

I hope everyone enjoys the half term break and look forward to a very successful second half of the term.

Hilary Hastings MBE

Chair of Local Academy Committee



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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:

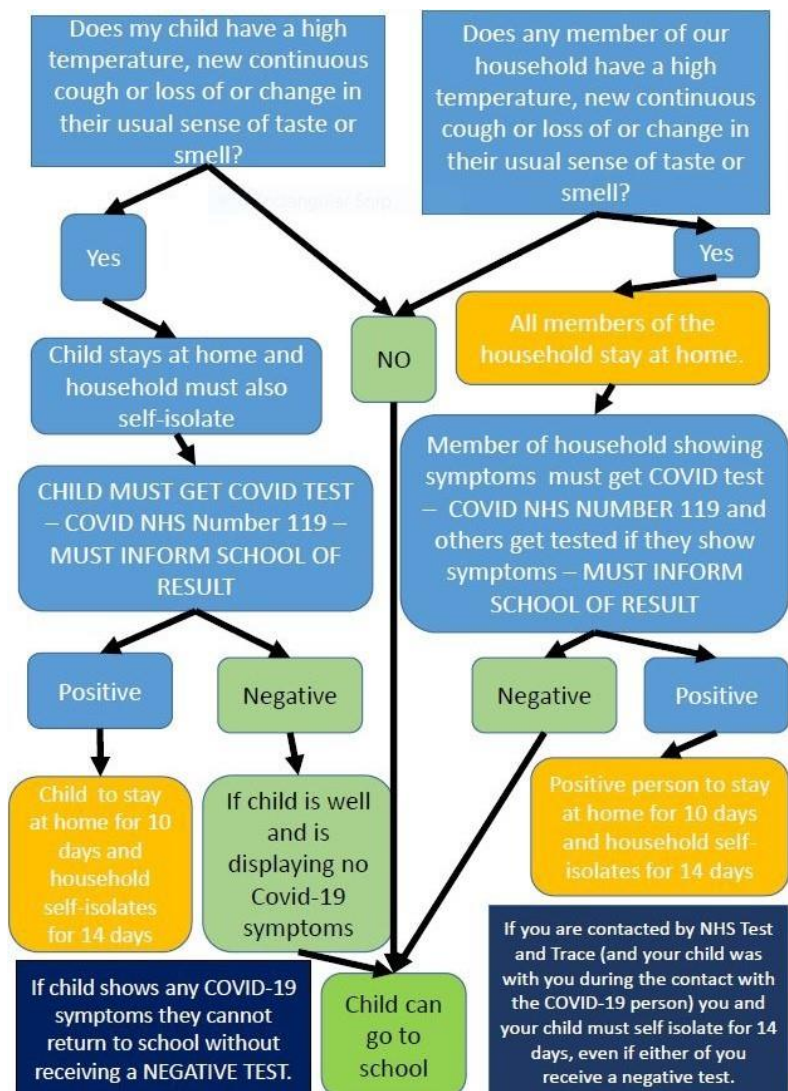
- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or above – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it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

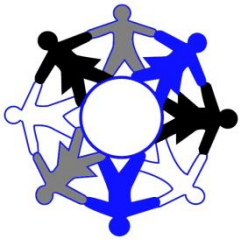
If you or your child is displaying any of these symptoms we ask that you do not attend school and ARE tested for coronavirus, on most occasions test results come back with 24 hours and children can return to school straight away following a negative test. I am unable to provide medical advice as to whether 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



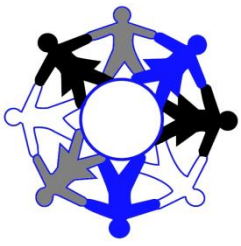
Mrs. K. Partridge
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs. E. Solomon
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss. E. Partridge
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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Harvest

Thank you to all that donated to our Harvest collection. It has been collected and will be distributed to those who are in need.

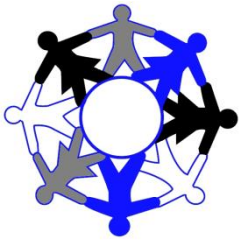


Reminder

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.



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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.

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 18th December 2020 – Academy closes for Christmas break

Monday 4th January 2021 – Academy open to all

Next newsletter released on Friday 13th November 2020.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. James Dean

Principal