



Covid-19 (coronavirus) Update 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well and observing the guidance:

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

We are missing you and our children very much. Just to update you on a few things:

Free School Meals vouchers of £15 per child have been sent home to parents/carers where we have an up-to-date email address, this was checked by school staff last week. Those without email, E-vouchers were posted First Class on Wednesday 1st April.

We are also going to be sending **additional vouchers** to cover families during the Easter holidays ~ so, you should receive a £15 voucher weekly per child.

If you have not received a voucher and you feel that you are entitled, please contact school on 01226 710447 or:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/free-schoolmeals> / Alternatively contact the Local Authority on: 01226 787787 Option 3.

No lunches will be prepared in school from Monday as all families are now in receipt of FSM vouchers. If your child is attending care in school, please provide them with a packed lunch. We will provide snacks and a free breakfast for those attending from 8 – 8.30am.

School intends staying open during the Easter holidays, including Bank Holidays, for vulnerable children and those of key workers who have been identified, thanks to our school staff.

On the last day, Friday 20th March, we had **Channel 4 Dispatches** in school filming. If your child/ren were in school, then you should have received a text asking for permission for them to be in the film. It is due to be broadcast on **Wednesday, 8th April at 9pm**.

These are very difficult times when we must look after each other, that's a real strength of the Birkwood Family and one that I am very proud of and I know our staff and governors are too.

Please stay safe and well ... **'until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hands'** ... the children know this from when we sing our Gaelic Blessing.

With love and best wishes to you all,

Julie Allen MBE
Headteacher