



# Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 1: Friday, 4th September 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers,

**WELCOME BACK** to all of our very special children and families!

I can't tell you how much we have all missed you, it's been very strange in school although we have been open since March for our vulnerable children and key workers, including holidays and Bank Holidays. I have very much appreciated all of the hard work from our amazing staff team to support our children and families. It has been lovely to receive all the positive feedback about the support you have received including the well-being checks and learning packs ~ your kindness, cards, gifts and words have been very gratefully received.

The children have been just amazing this week and a credit to you and your families. We have spent most of the week settling them in and doing lots of creative activities, also getting them used to new routines, washing, sanitizing and encouraging social distancing. They never cease to amaze us and thank you for your encouragement with them and your trust in us.

A special welcome to our new children in school, Rosie and Olly and our Reception and Nursery children who have been very brave ~ our youngest children look so grown up in their uniforms and have done really well. Our EYFS team have worked hard to make the children's transition into school as carefree as possible and for our parents/carers. We are very proud of you and your children and we promise to look after them!

**We hope you will all be very happy at Birkwood. You are all very welcome.**

Thank you for your support with the staggered start and finish times which have gone smoother as the week has gone on. It is really helpful if you arrive for your first child's allotted time promptly to avoid congestion.

**Dinner Times** ~ We have changed dinner times from in the class bubbles to a hot meal in the Hall. The reason for this was the limited choice of meals ~ a sandwich, jacket potato with 1 filling and cold pasta. We felt that it was important for our children to have a nourishing, hot meal each day, therefore we are having dinner in the Hall now. The children are in year group bubbles with the same members of staff each day; this has worked much better as they are now having 1/2 hour in the Hall. Packed lunches are also eaten in the Hall with their class. Can I encourage you to think about taking up school dinners again as the children do really enjoy them. Remember children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals each day. Please ensure that you pay for your child/ren's dinners in advance please.

**The cost of dinners is £1.90 daily and £9.50 per week.**

**School Uniform** ~ The children all look so smart in their new school uniforms. It's good to see so many children wearing proper school shoes too, which are much better for supporting their feet. Thank you. The latest guidance is that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different to normal.

We will be going out to play and learn outside as much as possible, so please make sure that your child has their coat and suitable clothing for wet/cold weather. Thank you.

**MOBILE PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED in school at present.** Children are to wear stud earrings only and a watch, if they wish, no other jewellery please as this will need to be removed for PE/Dance.

**Children are asked to bring their own water bottles and take them home each day for cleaning.**

I wanted to share with you some of the latest guidance from the Department for Education (28/08/20):

- It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials. These are lunch boxes, water bottles, back packs, Reading Bags, hats, coats, gloves etc.
- Parent/Carers need to be ready and willing to:
  - Book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come to school if they have symptoms and will be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5

- You are asked to inform school immediately of the results of a test and follow this guidance:
  - If someone tests negative and they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as cold or flu, in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people
  - If someone tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus and must continue to self-isolate for **at least 10 days** from the onset of symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of the household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days

We have undertaken a thorough risk assessment which is included at the top of our school's website [www.birkwood.org.uk](http://www.birkwood.org.uk). If you have any concerns, or you're not sure about symptoms etc, please contact school.

**We all have a role to play in keeping our school and community safe.**

**Please only come into school if it is essential and make sure you are wearing a mask, thank you.**

**Attendance** ~ We will now be following our usual attendance policy. Now more than ever, it is really important that your child attends school on time each day unless they are ill or they have an authorised absence. If your child has a medical appointment, please bring their appointment card to the School Office to be photocopied for their records so that they may be given a medical mark. If your child is ill, please ring the School Office before 10.00am to tell us why they are absent and how long they are likely to be away from school. Thank you.

Any child with attendance **below 90%** is classed as a persistent absentee under the Local Authority guidance; if this does happen, then the Education Welfare Officer may become involved. However, **do not send your child to school if:**

- they have symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) or have tested positive
- you, someone in your household or support bubble has symptoms or has tested positive.

**Music Lessons** ~ can start again. Children who would like to continue having instrumental music lessons to inform Mrs Sutton ASAP please. Lessons will begin shortly and will be delivered in accordance with the latest guidelines re Covid-19.

Parents/Carers of children interested in starting to learn an instrument should inform Mrs Sutton asap or send a note into school or ring Reception. Lessons are available in the following instruments: Piano, keyboard, violin, clarinet, flute, saxophone, percussion, brass and guitar.

**Tuck Shop** ~ We will be continuing to offer a range of tuck from next week in each classroom at a cost of 50p per item.

**Milk** ~ We have contacted School Milk UK about milk payments that were made before lockdown. We have been asked to let you know that any milk owed from the spring and summer terms has been converted into a credit. You will need to log into your School Milk account to activate the credit and place your order. If you do not want to order milk for this year please contact School Milk UK for a refund on 0845 3402100.

**Homework and Reading Books** will be sent home from next week for Years 1 - 6. **Could any reading books from last year be returned to school asap so they can be prepared ready for use again please.**

We will not be holding any Class Assemblies for the foreseeable future as we can't hold large gatherings. We will continue to post on our school website [www.birkwood.org.uk](http://www.birkwood.org.uk) and on Twitter @BirkwoodPrimary. Whole school assemblies are now 'virtual' and broadcast to each class (a whole new experience for me and Mr Sandwich!)

With many thanks for your continued support and here's to a more settled, normal, but exciting year!

Mrs Julie Allen MBE  
Headteacher



## School Calendar 2020-2021

<b>Autumn Term</b>		
Tuesday	01.09.2020	School closed (INSET)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>02.09.2020</b>	<b>School re-opened</b>
Friday	23.10.2020	School closes (Mid-term)
Monday	02.11.2020	School closed (INSET)
Tuesday	03.11.2020	<b>School re-opens</b>
Friday	18.12.2020	School closes (Christmas)
<b>Spring Term</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>04.01.2021</b>	<b>School reopens</b>
Friday	12.02.2021	School closes (Mid-term)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22.02.2021</b>	<b>School reopens</b>
Friday	26.03.2021	School closes (Easter)
<b>Summer Term</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12.04.2021</b>	<b>School reopens</b>
Monday	03.05.2021	School closed (May Day)
Friday	28.05.2021	School closes (Mid-term)
Monday	07.06.2021	School closed (INSET)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>08.06.2021</b>	<b>School reopens</b>
Friday	16.07.2021	School closes (Summer)
Monday	19.07.2021	School closed (INSET)
Tuesday	20.07.2021	School closed (INSET)