



Birkwood Primary School

www.birkwood.org.uk

Newsletter 16: Friday, 8th January 2021



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I had started this Newsletter on Monday before the Prime Minister's Announcement by saying:

Wishing you a very Happy New Year and let us hope that it is a much better one too!

Thank you very much on behalf of all the staff and myself for your cards, gifts and wishes, it's very kind of you and much appreciated, especially in the current climate.

We are facing very challenging times, as you know, with the new strain of the virus and we are all anxious and worried about everyone's safety and wellbeing. I am immensely proud and grateful to all of our staff who continue to put themselves at risk for the continued education of our children.

It is important to emphasise that school is open only to children of Critical Workers and the Vulnerable Children. The categories of Critical Workers are very clear on the .Gov.UK website. Children of Critical Workers should only be sent to school if there is no alternative, try and organise child care safely if at all possible. Consider if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. A number of my staff are very worried about being in school at the moment and putting themselves and their families at risk during a National Lockdown.

Please ensure as much as you possibly can that you are playing your part in keeping our children, our school and community safe. Parents/carers should do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus.

We have further reviewed our safety arrangements and Risk Assessment again and just to let you know that we are keeping each bubble as 'pure' as possible with very limited risk of cross-contamination. Staff do not mix across bubbles, unless absolutely necessary and we have no other choice. At playtimes, each class has their own 'zone' on the playground and their own equipment. Similarly, at lunchtimes, year groups continue to dine in the Hall together, but each class is on their own designated table and face each other, rather than another class. Cleaning and sanitising is continuing throughout the day. The children are really good at the routines in place.

Nursery children ~ Really well done to our new Daisies who came to school for the very first time with their grown up for the Open Day on Monday. They all clearly enjoyed it and we look forward to seeing them soon. Our Nursery will remain open again for children of Critical Workers and the Vulnerable.

The provision of Free School Meals for those entitled, not Universal Free School Meals, will be via the offer of a 'Grab a Bag' to be collected from school. You should have received a text message inviting you to collect from school, if not, please let us know. There is not currently the option of the Voucher system as before.

Teachers are working hard to start Remote learning this week. As you can imagine, learning platforms have been overwhelmed with the workload! If you have any queries we will do our best to resolve as soon as we can. Thank you so much for the many positive comments received, they are much appreciated.

Assemblies ~ I will deliver a Virtual Assembly each Monday which you can have access to (thank you to Mr Sandwith for his support). Friday Celebration Assembly will be class based to ensure online safety.

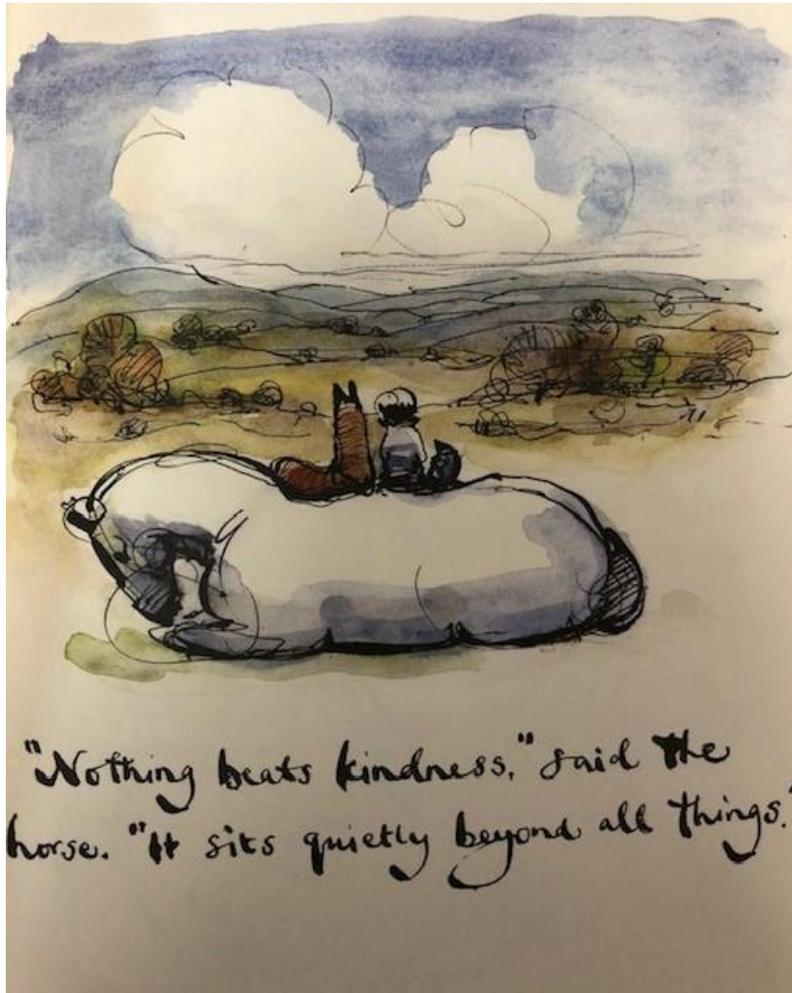
We hope and pray that more normal times are ahead for our children, but until then we are bound by the Local Authority and Government guidance.

A very warm welcome to Miss Becky Gormanly; Miss Betts will be supporting her working from home to ensure the progress of the Butterflies. Also, a very warm welcome to Miss Bethany McCartney who has joined Miss Jenkins and the Sunflowers as an additional Teaching Assistant.

If you say prayers, would you remember our school in them please.

With many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Julie Allen MBE
Headteacher



From Charlie Mackesy's 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'