



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



18th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I am sure you have, by now heard this evening's announcement by Gavin Williamson (Secretary for Education) that schools in the UK are to close from Friday to all except vulnerable children and those of 'key workers'.

Therefore, Birches First School will close to the majority of children on Friday afternoon.

This week has brought huge challenges for us all. I am very proud of the way that the Birches team has worked to recently ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children whilst maintaining high standards of learning and providing support and guidance to our parent community. I would like to personally thank our wonderful team for this during such uncertain times. We will continue to do all that we can as a team to support all our children and parents in the coming weeks.

Now that the decision to close has been made, it leaves a number of unanswered questions. We are aware that provision will need to be in place for those who really need us, as well as for children of key workers to enable them to continue their vital work during this time. A list is expected tomorrow to clarify which roles are classed as 'key worker' roles. This will enable us to begin planning for this provision whilst also being mindful that many of our team are parents themselves.

I have provided regular updates over recent weeks and will continue to do so. As you know, staff have been making preparations for home learning and over the next two days will ensure that everything is in place for the next stage. Staff will continue to share tasks and activities on the school website throughout the closure.

These are unprecedented times and as a school community we continue to do our best in the interests of all the children, staff and wider family members.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Ferretti

Acting Headteacher