



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Key Worker Childcare Provision – Week 2

Dear Parents,

Firstly I'd like to say thank you for the support and communication from our Key Worker (and non-Key Worker!) parents over the last week. Establishing our childcare provision has been quite a task as I'm sure you will appreciate! I would also like to thank those families who may meet the criteria for provision but have been able to make arrangements for their child(ren) to be cared for at home in line with the Government guidance. This has helped us to minimise risk for children and staff coming into school each day.

My final thanks goes to all the staff at Birches who have, once again, risen to the challenge and have all offered their time, commitment, help and support in providing this essential service to help other Key Workers fight this virus. To all the Key Workers in our community – staff in school and parents who fulfil other vital roles – YOU ARE OUR HEROES! THANK YOU!!!

I appreciate parent's working arrangements (and therefore childcare needs) can change, sometimes at very short notice. Please continue to notify us as soon as possible if this is the case so that staffing and arrangements can be adjusted accordingly.

Having reviewed our offer this week, we will be making some changes to next week's offer. This is to enable us to continue to provide the best provision here at Birches whilst utilising our staffing capacity most effectively and therefore minimising spread risk where possible.

This week we have had little or no uptake of Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs. Therefore, from Monday 30th March our hours of provision will be from 8.30am to 3.15pm. Please contact me if this causes you particular hardship or difficulty and I can explore alternative options with you.

This week we are pleased that we have been able to offer provision to all who have requested it. In future weeks as parent's working and childcare arrangements change, numbers could increase. Should numbers exceed the 20% of school population guideline (38 children for us) it may be necessary to prioritise places.

If you haven't done so already, please could you email a copy of your Key Worker status letter to jferrett@birches.staffs.sch.uk by Friday 27th March 2020.

I will email the new, amended booking form to all parents who we know may need childcare. If there are any parents who previously haven't needed childcare but are now in need, please email jferretti@birches.staffs.sch.uk to request a form. Please could all parents complete and return the booking form outlining their childcare requirements for week commencing 30th March 2020 by Friday 27th March at 12pm so that registers can be compiled, staffing confirmed and confirmation emails sent.

Over the next week I will be discussing provision for the Easter holidays with Miss Parker from St Nicholas First School and Mr Bowers from Codsall Middle School. As soon as arrangements have been finalised I will share this with families. Please note that Easter provision will be for children of Key Workers only as children from other categories would not normally be in school during the Easter holidays anyway.

Best wishes

Mrs J Ferretti

Acting Headteacher