



# Birches First School

*Believe, Grow, Succeed*



17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Further to my letter last week, we continue to monitor the situation regarding the current Coronavirus guided by the DFE and Public Health England and take any necessary measures to minimise risk to the immediate school community and the wider school community (Parents, Grandparents etc). We will continue to update you with any new information or developments. **At the moment we remain open.** If schools are instructed to close this could be announced at very short notice. Therefore I wanted to inform you of the arrangements that will be put in place to best support your child and their learning.

In the event of a school closure;

Parents will be notified as soon as a school closure is made via text message. A notice will also be posted on the home page of the school website.

The school website will be used to share any home learning tasks and activities with you. We will be sending a book home for each child in which to complete their home learning tasks. Many tasks can be completed directly into the book while some tasks may be completed on paper and stuck into books.

Home learning tasks will comprise of...

- A 'homework' style 'project grid' outlining a number of tasks in a range of curriculum areas linking to a shared theme.
- A daily Maths task (this could comprise of fluency questions, a reasoning task or problem solving challenge.)
- A daily English task (this may be a Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) task or a writing challenge.)

In addition to this children from Reception up have access to TT Rockstars and/or Numbots which can be used to support their maths skills.

Several online resource companies are allowing free access to schools and parents. Access details will be sent home to enable children to log on to Education City and Purple Mash to complete set tasks or self-selected tasks, as well as Twinkl which provides a range of learning resources.

Please visit the Parent Hub area at [www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents) for further information. Links will be also sent for direct access to Year group specific School Closure Home Learning Resource Packs.

Please encourage your child to enjoy a range of books at home to practise and apply their reading skills. When a book has been completed please ask your child to complete a book review in their workbook or set them some questions about the text for them to answer and show their understanding. A Reading Bingo challenge will be uploaded to the Home Learning tab for each class for children to complete.

Children will have extra reading books set this week to last them into a school closure if necessary. Please bear in mind that it is intended that these books last several days/weeks (depending on the reading level of the child/length of book) therefore we ask that you encourage children to read little and often rather than all in one go!

We are aware that not all families have access to internet. In order to access much of the content we will be suggesting, parents and children can use mobile phones, iPads and tablets, desktop computers and laptops. Please do not think because you don't have a computer that your child would not be able to access any of the activities, these by and large can be accessed on any of the above devices. However, if you do not have internet access at all for your family, we appreciate that this may present difficulties. If this is the case, please contact Mrs Ferretti as soon as possible. As a staff team we have been discussing ways in which we can support our most vulnerable children during any enforced closures. If you have any concerns about your child should a closure be announced, again, please contact Mrs Ferretti as a matter of urgency.

In the event of a school closure, we will remain committed to the safeguarding of all our children and will continue to carry out our duties. Safeguarding concerns can be sent to Mrs Ferretti as Designated Safeguarding Lead or if parents wish to they can log concerns themselves anonymously by calling 0800 1313126.

Should you require any support during this time please email the office at [office@birches.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@birches.staffs.sch.uk) or myself at [jferretti@birches.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:jferretti@birches.staffs.sch.uk). In the event of a closure teacher's will be available during normal school hours- staff email addresses will be shared via the school website should this be necessary. (Please bear in mind that whilst staff will be working from home, many will have their own childcare commitments to manage!)

I would like to thank you for your understanding and patience and for your support in following the published guidance during these unprecedented times.

I hope that all our children, parents and wider family members remain safe and well during this time.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Ferretti  
Acting Headteacher