



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



18th March 2020

Dear Parents,

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.

It has just been announced that Wales and Scotland are enforcing school closures. There has been no announcement regarding schools in England. Therefore **we remain open and operational**.

During this time, whilst we continue to do all we can to minimise risk to all, we understand that some parents remain concerned.

National guidance has advised that anyone who has;

-displayed symptoms themselves (high temperature and / or persistent cough)

or

-shares a household with someone who has shown symptoms

should self isolate and remain home for 14 days. **Please do follow this guidance and keep your child home if they have shown any of these symptoms.**

Whilst reassured that their child is not displaying any symptoms, some parents are still concerned that there may still be risk due to other health issues.

Therefore, we respect your decision should you feel it necessary to self isolate your child(ren) due to;

-Them having an underlying health condition

-A family member having an underlying health condition and being classed as 'at risk'

-A family member being pregnant

Any child absent due to the Coronavirus will be marked as 'Y' in the register. This is an 'exceptional circumstance' and therefore does not affect attendance.

Today we are sending home School Closure Workbooks - this does not mean we are anticipating an imminent closure – we are just being prepared! Additional tasks will start being uploaded to the website should a closure be enforced. As always, we will update you as soon as we receive additional information.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding during this time. I would also like to thank the Birches team who are working tirelessly to ensure continuity and care for the children in school, implement our new measures to minimise risk as well as preparing tasks and resources for any potential closure.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Ferretti

Acting Headteacher