



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Birches First School Home/Remote Learning Offer – Autumn 2020

Dear Parents

We are all aware of mounting concern and growing speculation regarding infection rates and a 'second wave' of coronavirus. There have been a number of reported cases in the Codsall area in recent weeks and as of this week, we find ourselves adapting once again to tighter restrictions as we continue the battle against the pandemic.

As was the case back in March and during the subsequent months of school closure, our team have been planning and preparing for the possibility of new school closures.

We would like to reassure parents that these preparations are not prompted by a specific, anticipated closure or special information - we are required by the guidance to have a robust plan in place for remote learning should a partial or full closure (locally or nationally) become necessary.

We are extremely proud of the home learning offer we were able to provide for our families during the Spring and Summer Terms. Feedback via our Parent Survey at the end of the Summer Term was very positive. We have been considering ways we can develop and refine our offer should we be required again. We endeavour to make our offer flexible for the range of families within our school, however we also acknowledge that one size simply doesn't fit all as we are sure you will appreciate. As such, we have considered a number of factors while putting our remote learning plan together.

For individual children who are required to self-isolate; (due to quarantine, awaiting test results for themselves or a household member, or following contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19) staff will email a set of tasks to parents reflecting the class coverage for that day.

If your child is absent due to self-isolation requirements and is also unwell, please notify staff that home learning is not currently required. As soon as they are feeling better (if they are not able to return to school at this time) please notify your child's class teacher and they will be happy to email you some home learning tasks.

In the event of a full or partial closure; parents will receive a daily email containing their child(ren)'s learning tasks for the day. Within this email there will be;

Early Years – Nursery

A weekly learning newsletter every Monday followed by daily, practical tasks and ideas to support your child's learning and development.

Early Years – Reception

An activity to support your child's developing maths skills. This may include a teaching input video (using our White Rose scheme of work) and practical activities to follow on.

A story or literacy activity (again, this may include a recorded video and message for the children).

A phonic activity.

A suggested activity or task linking into one of the 7 areas of learning of the Early Years Curriculum.

Key Stage 1 and 2 (Years 1-4)

A daily message from the teacher (this may be incorporated into the English video if appropriate).

Maths learning (to comprise of a teaching input video using our White Rose scheme of work and supporting tasks).

English learning (which may comprise a lesson presentation with explanation from the teacher and follow up tasks to practise and apply the focus skill).

A reading task.

A task linking to an area of our wider, broad and balanced curriculum.

We are looking forward to using the Government produced and recommended National Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize online lessons, where they support our school curriculum and the needs of our children and their learning.

Emails will contain a link to access any recorded material – these can be accessed on a laptop, smartphone or tablet. Staff will endeavour to plan tasks that remove the requirement to print worksheets and activities and instead ask children to write answers into their Home Learning Book. Home Learning Books will be sent home during w/c Monday 28th September. Again, this is not because we are anticipating an imminent closure, we just want to be prepared!

Parents are invited to email their child's completed work to their class teacher at the end of the day. Staff will then reply providing brief feedback on their learning via email.

We would appreciate your understanding that staff workload can be considerable – particularly in the current climate. We are incredibly proud of our hard working team who consistently go above and beyond for all our Birches children. As a school, staff well-being is important and as such, please be mindful that they may not be able to respond immediately to emails sent outside of the working day. Staff will endeavour to reply within a timely manner.

In addition to the daily tasks, teachers may set tasks on My Maths, Purple Mash, Education City as well as monitoring children's use of Numbots and TT Rockstars. (As appropriate to the age of the children).

As a full or partial closure could happen at short notice, we intend to build up to our full offer over the first few days and require 24 hour 'lag' time from the onset of closure.

We hope that our offer will support you and help to maintain a level of learning from home which will closely match the curriculum offered in school (in terms of coverage). By pre-recording lessons rather than live streaming, this will provide flexibility to enable families to work around commitments and other sibling's home learning. We also hope that the personal touch of messages from staff will ensure that children remain 'connected' with the school and their class teacher.

It is our sincere hope that these plans are not needed and we are able to stay open for all children, however, we hope that the above information is reassuring to you should we find ourselves in a closure situation.

Thanking you once again for your continued support and understanding during difficult times.

Miss Varricchione and the Birches Team