



# Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



Dear Parents,

Having received a local update today, I feel it is very important to write to you to help our school community understand the significance and severity of the situation our local area is in. We are now aware of three schools in the local area who have had to take the difficult decision to close classes due to positive Covid tests within their school community. As a school we are and will continue to do everything we can to keep school open. However, we need your co-operation and support as this is a collective effort; school measures are only **one** element of keeping us all safe and to remain fully open and functioning.

Despite the best efforts and ongoing measures we have put in place to ensure many levels of mitigation against Covid in school, we fear that some children/families are still mixing out of school and breaching social distancing guidelines. We have been made aware of several incidents such as children gathering together, children visiting relatives to name a few.

South Staffordshire is deemed to have a very high rate of daily infections, Covid marshals and PCSOs will be deployed to our area to ensure that children/families are not meeting in public when there is a National Lockdown and many should be self-isolating. Please be aware that fines are now being issued for breaching isolation guidance.

Finally, as ever, I am very grateful for the support and consideration shown by so many of our parents and carers who understand the very difficult challenges that all schools are facing and who are adhering to the Government Guidelines both in school and beyond. Hopefully with us all playing our part, the restrictions will be lifted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December for us to have a Christmas with our loved ones.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

S Varricchione

Headteacher