



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



16th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We're nearly at the end of what has been the most challenging of terms for our school and community. I would like to thank you and your children for all the support and engagement you have offered as we have successfully navigated through these times together.

With all the concerns and worry everyone is understandably feeling, school has remained a remarkably positive, settled environment. This could not have happened without the levels of care and expertise demonstrated by ALL our staff, or the support shown by our pupils and parents.

As the holidays approach, I do have to communicate the measures we have to take should any of our pupils test positive for Covid-19.

From Friday, 18th December to Wednesday, 23rd December

In essence, the actions you need to take as a parent during the above dates should your child test positive, are very straightforward. Please contact me directly via email headteacher@birches.staffs.sch.uk and include a mobile contact number. You do not need to contact any other member of staff.

I will then communicate directly with you and ensure the school takes the appropriate action.

From Thursday, 24th December to Sunday, 3rd January

Should your child test positive themselves or be a confirmed contact of someone else who has tested positive after this date, their required self-isolation period may prevent them from returning at the start of the new term. If this is the case, please notify us by emailing office@birches.staffs.sch.uk to inform us the date of their positive result or contact and the date their self-isolation period will end. This will enable us to record the absence correctly on our system and arrange any remote learning that may be required.

We will respond once we re-open on the 4th January.

There is so much happening in school of which I am immensely proud, particularly in the context of these highly challenging times. As 2021 begins, I look forward to sharing our successes with you and information about new initiatives that continue to take place – so much at the moment seems to be overshadowed with thoughts of Covid!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy, safe and enjoyable Christmas. Enjoy making special memories and treasuring this wonderful time of year with loved ones.

(I am sure you will understand when I write)...I hope I do not hear from you until the New Year!! Stay safe please...

...and here's to hope in 2021...

Best wishes

S Varricchione
Headteacher