



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



5th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Please find below details regarding the provision at Birches First School for vulnerable and Critical Worker children from Wednesday 6th January 2021.

The school day;

Children in Nursery / Reception and Year 1 – 8.30am – 3.00pm

Children in Year 2 / Year 3 / Year 4 – 8.35am – 3.05pm.

Markers by the playground gates / on the carpark will indicate where parents of each year group / bubble should line up in the morning and at the end of the day to ensure that bubbles do not come into close contact.

Children and parents should arrive promptly. Children must be dropped off and collected at their designated time i.e. please walk round twice if you have a child/children starting at 8.30am and another child/children starting at 8.35am.

Children should continue to wear their school uniform. Due to the requirement to keep windows and doors open for ventilation, current weather conditions in particular mean that classrooms are chilly! Children may wear extra layers under their uniform or joggers instead of school trousers if this keeps them warmer. They may also wish to wear their Birches hoodie as an extra layer.

Organisation / Bubbles;

From Wednesday 6th January we will form new 'Key Stage Bubbles'. Please see below

Bubble	Year groups	School Day	Location	Drop off / collection point
Early Years	Nursery Reception	8.30am – 3.00pm	Reception classroom (the children will access the Nursery class during the day.)	Reception class gate
Key Stage 1	Year 1 Year 2	8.30am – 3.00pm 8.35am – 3.05pm	Year 1 classroom	Year 1 cloakroom door
Key Stage 2	Year 3 Year 4	8.35am – 3.05pm	Year 3 classroom	Playground into corridor door

Club;

Before school club –

Before school club will continue for this week and week commencing 11th January in the first instance. Due to staffing we are required to have 2 specific drop off times – parents can drop their child off at **either 7.30am or 8am. Staff will not be able to open the gate between these times.** There will be no need to buzz the intercom as staff will come out to the gate to let you in.

After school club –

Unfortunately, it is not viable for us to run club provision after school after Wednesday 6th January. Therefore parents will need to make arrangements for their child(ren) to be collected at the end of the day from Thursday 7th. Our club offer will be reviewed regularly in line with guidance, staffing capacity and parental demand.

Learning;

Throughout the day, children attending school will complete the 'online learning' offer as emailed to those at home each day.

Lunches;

Cooked school dinners (as per menu) will continue to be provided as usual for the remainder of this week. (Order on the day as usual).

From Monday 11th January –

Children will be required to bring a packed lunch with cup (water will be provided) each day. A school packed lunch will be provided each day for any children who are eligible for **benefit related Free School Meals**. For eligible children who are in school, this will be provided to them at lunchtime. For those who are not currently attending school, parents will be able to collect their child's packed lunch each morning. Parents of children eligible for

free school meals will be required to book their child's lunches weekly to enable the kitchen to cater for the correct numbers. An order form will be sent weekly via text.

All children should bring a piece of fruit to school as a healthy snack each day. We have been notified today that the free fruit for schools scheme has been suspended.

We are awaiting updated guidance from the government and we ask that parents please be aware that we may be required to make changes to our offer once this has been received.

We hope that the above information has answered some of the questions you undoubtedly have and given you an understanding of the provision we will be offering children in school. We face, once again a very uncertain time but please be reassured that the rigorous procedures and measures we have in place will continue, ensuring that the school environment remains as safe as possible.

Best wishes,

S. Varricchione

Headteacher