



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed

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Dear Parents

Firstly, I would like to thank you again as per my letter last week (20/1/2021) for the continued support you have shown to school during this closure. The emails received this week have been a real morale boost for us all! Thank you.

Staff are working incredibly hard (day and night) to ensure we are providing both 'Face to Face' and 'Remote Learning' for all our children and are continually refining and evaluating our offer. You will have received the information regarding a move to Teams starting this Monday. We have worked incredibly hard at school doing all we can to ensure this is a smooth transition. I hope you find the guides useful.

Like you, we are learning as we are going so please be patient and kind...I have some very excited albeit slightly nervous staff regarding the first 'live' sessions. We are all human and I am sure there may be teething problems during the roll out phase. I know you will be behind us 100% and I thank you again in advance for any problems we may have-I will do everything I can to help you.

As you are aware, the Prime Minister announced that schools would not be returning after the February half term. The February half term (15th February -19th February) will remain a HOLIDAY and teachers will not be setting any Remote Learning during this week.

The Prime Minister also stated that he was **hopeful** that schools might be able to start re-opening from March 8th. This is dependent on a number of variables, including whether or not vaccination targets have been met. At the moment it is all speculation as to how schools will return, what we do know is we will be given two week's notice. Please note that I will update you as soon as I know any details and you will receive all the necessary information as to how we plan to return back to our normal school day...hopefully very soon.

I look forward to rolling out the Teams and seeing all the children next week virtually! I know from the many emails that the children are missing each other very much and I hope that the live sessions will help.

Equally, I know many of you are finding the Remote Learning very stressful and again, I would like to reassure you that you are not alone. Please be kind to yourselves-we are so impressed with the quality and amount of work the children are sending in...we sincerely thank you. I appreciate it is not easy juggling work and children-most staff here are parents too, so share your feelings!

Have a wonderful weekend, take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Miss Varicchione