



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



20th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continuing exceptional support during this period of remote education. We are fortunate to have such a positive and resilient community of parents and carers, and we are enjoying working with you to ensure that both remote education and in school provision is as effective as it possibly can be. Thank you also for all of the positive feedback and emails – this **REALLY** does mean a lot to us and we are keen to continue to gather views from parents and children in order that we can continue improve our provision still further.

I know that change can be difficult for everyone, especially for some of our children – as well as for parents and education staff. Nevertheless, we have collectively managed a move to a different form of education as positively as possible, and despite some teething problems in some areas, we are now fairly well established in both remote and on site provision.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parents at home who are doing all they can, I know many of you are currently working from home whilst trying to support your child/ren as best as you can. None of you have 'self-selected' to Home School your child, so please remember the teachers and I thank you, we thank you for all you are doing.

I appreciate how hard this is for some of you and in conversations and emails I have received (more so this week) I do sincerely understand the pressure/strain some of you are feeling. Please be reassured you're not alone. All you can do is your best, which you are doing. The school is not judging you and your commitment to home learning. We are all in different situations, with different time available to work with our children, different resources at our disposal and of course very different children.

To answer some of your questions, the remote learning offer that is in place is exactly the same as what the children who are attending school are receiving. As a school we must ensure that this is happening so that when all the children are once again reunited with their teachers no child is either at an advantage or disadvantage, and have received the same learning. This is an expectation set by the Government as outlined in our updated Remote Learning Offer last week. We are also working within the expectations and guidance laid out by the Government in terms of the amount of work set.

As this crisis continues, we will continue to evolve our provision and keep you informed of our plans. It is essential that children maintain their current levels of commitment, continue to complete all the work that is being set and ensure it is of the highest possible standard.

As you are aware from our communications teachers are readily available to help and support with any particular issues you may be experiencing. Please use these contacts and do not struggle alone.

I hope this letter has helped. If you have any further questions please contact me.

Best wishes

S Varricchione, Headteacher