



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed ...
...to be the best 'me' I can be.

30th September 2021

Covid-19 information for Parents Letter

Dear Parents

Following a Headteacher Briefing from Staffordshire County Council it has been **encouraged** that all primary school are to take proactive action as we see the cases in our district rise. As a school we have decided to actively take these measures to help keep children, staff and the community safe and do what we can to minimise the spread of Covid-19. Please see following Letter from Staffordshire County Council.

Further to my October Newsletter, I would like to explain measures that will be reintroduced from tomorrow, Friday 1st October:

- School will not be holding any whole school events/assemblies until further guidance from the authority. Alternative methods will resume as last year via Teams.
- Children will revert to being in Key Stage 'bubbles' as below:
 - Nursery and Reception
 - Year One and Year Two
 - Year Three and Year Four

Children will be kept in their bubbles for playtime and lunchtimes

- Staggering Start/End and Lunchtimes

Start and End Times:

	YN	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
Drop Off Playground	8.30	8.30	8.35	8.35	8.40	8.40
Collection Where?	3.05 Nursery Gate	3.05 Reception Gate	3.10 Y1 Classroom	3.10 Library Door	3.15 Playground Door	3.15 Mobile Door

Drop Off

Please could parents continue to say a positive farewell to their child(ren) at the gate and children line up in their allocated space. If Reception parents could from Friday say a positive goodbye at the gate this would be greatly appreciated. Nursery parents please continue to come onto the playground line your child up and say a goodbye and exit as quickly as possible. Thank you.

As before, please could all parents stay to the left when walking up and down the path. Thank you for your cooperation.

Collection

For **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** to ease congestion and keep the flow of traffic going we will be reverting to walking around the school site and exiting at the pedestrian gate. In light of the cold and bad weather, if you have a siblings they will be able to leave earlier when you come to collect. For example if you have a Year 3/4 child and a Year 1/2 child, the Year 3/4 child will be able to leave at 3.10pm with Year 1/2, equally if you have a child in Nursery/Reception you will be able to collect their siblings at 3.05pm from Y1/2/3/4.

Please always collect elder siblings first so that you do not go back on yourself.

For parents with Children in **YEAR THREE and YEAR FOUR** and **NO** siblings to reduce the volume of traffic on the daily mile could I please ask that you exit via the pedestrian walkway on the car park. Thank you for your cooperation, this will help greatly.

Nursery 11.30 Collection

Nursery children are to continue to be collected at 11.30am at the pedestrian gate at the bottom of the field.

Lunchtimes:

Lunchtimes will be staggered to enable us to limit bubbles in the hall and on the playground at any one time. Children will eat their lunch in the hall with their bubble. Each bubble will have 30 minutes in the hall to eat their lunch and 30 minutes on the playground.

Tables and chairs will be cleaned in between each sitting.

Cleaning

Our fantastic cleaners Mrs Ash and Mrs Mcleod continue to do an excellent job cleaning the school. Please be reassured that staff at lunchtime clean all tabletops and touch points within the classroom in addition. Rooms are always well ventilated.

PCR Testing

I can only thank you so much for your support with this! Our school community has been most sensible following school recommendations to have PCR tests for all household members when there is a confirmed case in the household. We encourage all members to stay at home pending a PCR test.

Equally if you are identified as a close contact of a positive case we would ask that you have a PCR test.

Vaccination

All staff at Birches First School are fully vaccinated.

Before and After School Club

Club will continue to operate as usual, collect and drop off as you need to. Children will be able to play with one another in their bubbles.

Breakfast and snacks can still be had. Children will sit in their bubbles.

Tables and resources will continue to be rotated and wiped.

Pre-Summer Covid-19 Controls

Birches First School will continue to monitor cases within school and step measures up/down as necessary to ensure we are doing all we can to limit the spread.

I fully understand that there is a lot of information to digest. I am happy to answer any questions, comment, concerns etc. anyone has. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you so much for your support and cooperation during this time.

Best wishes

S Varricchione

Headteacher