



Birches First School

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

11th February 2022

Dear Parents,

I am writing to celebrate the staff we have here at Birches and how resilient the children have been this week.

Many of you are aware that this week has presented challenges which a large school would have struggled with let alone a small school.

This week I have had up to 7 staff off each day for various reasons (not all Covid, thankfully). Due to the lack of staff in school, Sunday evening discussions were in place for children to receive the remote offer and children be home-schooled for the week.

Thankfully Mrs Bell, Mrs Bleakley and Mrs Barbe have 'stepped up' and continued with the teaching and learning planned by the teachers to ensure they have had limited disruption. I am sure you would fully agree with me that this is by far the best solution and has limited the impact on their learning and enabled the children to continue to be educated at school rather than home.

All the staff have worked together as a team and helped each other through the week to ensure the children are still cared for, educated, and fed (even Mrs Blakeway was off too!). Mrs Lawley has been incredible in the office, I don't think she has stopped! We have even continued with our plans for Online Safety Day and had an amazing afternoon on Wednesday working across classes on Children's Mental Health. The children thoroughly enjoyed this, and it was a joy to see all ages working together and supporting one another.

I cannot thank the team enough for this week and I am sure you would join me in thanks to the staff for ensuring school could still be accessed for Years 1, 2 and 4.

Finally, I wanted to write regarding the first week back to 'normal'. The children have been a delight! Having assemblies, playtimes and lunchtimes together has been fantastic. Children have been mindful of one another and played beautifully. It has been a very

special week watching the children learn each other's names and having siblings playing with each other once again.

Finally, thank you so much for working with us at collection time I know it takes time to embed new routines, but I hope that you are finding the flexi drop off and collection points for each year group a little smoother.

Thank you for your support, as I say a very tough but rewarding week thanks to the wonderful staff here at Birches working with your amazing children.

Have a good weekend.

S Varricchione

Headteacher