

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well during this difficult time.

As it currently stands, we do not know if school will be open again for Year 4 or if all parents will wish for their children to return. I understand that you and your child will be disappointed that transition may not be as hoped but we all appreciate the reasons why. With this in mind, I have been taking a lot of time to think about how best to celebrate and commemorate your child's time at Birches.

Therefore, I am currently trying hard to plan some alternatives so we will still be able to mark their time with us, even if we cannot all be together.

Leavers Hoodies

These will be purchased by our wonderful PFA for your children to keep. Please log onto your Parent Pay account to select the size (9-11 years or 12-13 years) you would like to order and to confirm that you give permission for your child's first name to be included on the back of the 2020 Leaver's Hoodie. The hoodies have a large 20 on the back which will include the first names of all the Year 4 children who have given permission. Once these are ordered and arrive at school, we will organise the collection in a socially distanced manner.

Leavers Performance

We are very sad not to be having a leaver's performance. This is due to the new regulations to keep everyone safe due to COVID-19. To replace this, I would like to produce a video year book. Each child will need to submit 3 photographs if possible – one of their first day of school, one of them in Year 4 and another of their choice. I would also like each child to tell us their favourite memory from Birches explaining why it is their favourite and a good luck message for their Year 4 friends. These can be sent as videos or they can be written if some children are camera shy!

Signing T-shirts

It has been a long standing tradition that when children leave a school, all of their friends and the staff sign their t-shirts! It would be lovely to honour this but as it stands we can not currently have all children in school to sign t-shirts. As guidance continues to change we will inform you if there is a way for the children to do this.

Leavers Picnic

Again with the guidance changing, we do not know when it will be possible for all of us to be together again. However, if we find ourselves in a position to do so, I will endeavour to organise a socially distanced picnic over the summer for those that would like to come and say their goodbyes. Fingers crossed for this one!

Your children are never far from my thoughts and I hope this letter reassures you that we will still try to make their departure from Birches a memorable one – for all of the right reasons!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Cain