



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed



June 2020

Dear children,

As we begin to open up some of our classrooms for some children, I wanted to write to you again, just as I did when we had to close our school on 20th March 2020. 10 weeks have passed since then and I can hardly believe it has been so long since we have all been together. **I am so very proud of you all.** You have dealt with being at home and away from family and friends so well. It's ok if you have found it hard sometimes and if you have felt sad, or worried, or cross, or confused (us grown-ups feel those things too sometimes!).

For some of you it isn't the right time to come back to school yet. Please remember that you are still a very special and important part of our school – even if you are not coming to school each day. **We miss you lots.**

When the time comes for everybody to return to school (whenever that may be) I know my heart will be bursting to see you all together again! For some of you who are moving onto new schools in September, we don't know if you will be able to come back to Birches. However, you have exciting adventures ahead of you!

To our Year 4 children who are moving onto middle school; Mrs Cain and I are trying to think of ways we can still say goodbye even if we don't see you in school before the end of July and how we can make the end to your time at Birches as special as you are.

If you are staying at home, please remember the teachers are planning lots of lovely home learning challenges for you. Sit with your grown-ups and choose what you think will help you most with your learning. The teachers and I love to hear what you have been up to at home so please carry on sharing your news with us!

For those children who are coming back to school next week, I know from your grown-ups that lots of you are very excited to come back and to see your teachers and friends. When you come back, things will be very different;

The playground and classrooms have changed.

Grown-ups will drop you off to school in a different way.

You will see lots of markers on the floor – these tell people where they should stand to make sure they don't get too close to each other.

You won't need to bring many things with you (we actually want you to leave as much as possible at home!)

You will see some of the grown-ups and other children you know but you won't see as many as usual because you will be working in a special group. We call these groups 'bubbles'.

Your bubble will help to keep you safe, you'll look after each other and help make sure your bubble doesn't pop! There won't be many children in your bubble – there may be 15, there may be less! You will stay with your bubble all day.

You will have a special space in your classroom which is just for you! There will be a tray and packet with all the things you will need for the day at school. On your first day you can make a special name card so everyone knows it is your special space.

The grown-ups will be working really hard to keep your bubble room clean.

When you come back there are some really important things I need you to do.
Can you...?

Please try and give your friends and grown-ups lots of space. Don't get too close or touch each other.

Wash your hands really carefully and lots of times during the day – your grown-ups in school will give you lots of reminders!

Keep things out of your mouth and try not to touch your face.

Use a tissue for your coughs and sneezes and wash your hands afterwards.

Listen really carefully to what your grown-ups (in school and at home) tell you to do.

Walk in and out of school with your grown up, following the path and markers.

By doing these things you will be like **SUPERHEROES** helping to fight coronavirus!

All of these new things are not there to scare you (although we often feel a bit nervous when things are different), they are things we have done to help keep you, your teachers and your grown-ups as safe as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing those of you who are coming back to school soon. We know that you can be sensible **SUPERHEROES** and follow the rules to help keep everyone as safe as can be. If we can all do that we can have a happy and healthy return to school.

Take care all and stay safe.

Mrs Ferretti ☺