

Newsletter

Dear parent/carers

COVID Update

As many of you know, we are now in a countrywide lockdown. The difference between the first one and this one is that this time the decision has been made to keep all places of education open for all students.

This decision has no doubt caused much anxiety amongst some of you. In times of crisis, it is only natural to want to keep our loved ones, especially our children, close to us.

Based on the current situation you are still legally required to send your child/children to school unless they are ill.

Birklands, like other schools, have a very detailed risk assessment in place. This along with our procedures and protocols are reviewed constantly.

You can access this via our school website. We are more than happy to discuss our RA if you have any concerns or feel that there may be something else we can do to refine our approach to minimizing the possible risks.

Within each of our classes/phase bubbles we are working hard to making being in school as normal as possible and providing the emotional and academic support needed for all of our pupils.

On your part, we would ask that you:

- Follow the regulations linked to the countrywide lockdown
- Remain socially distant (at least 2 meters apart from people you do not live with) when on school grounds
- Do not congregate in large groups when waiting to collect your child/children
- Wear a mask/face covering when on school grounds, unless medically exempt
- Limit the amount of time you are on the school grounds
- Only one adult per family to be on the school grounds when dropping off/collecting your child/children

Please remember this is about keeping you, your family, our children and staff safe.

Breakfast club/ After-school wrap-around care

Under the current guidelines, we will continue to offer our breakfast and wrap-around care clubs to those parents who are still working.

A polite reminder that you should only access these clubs when

- **You need to be in work before the start of the school day and have no alternative child care**
- **You finish work after the end of our school day and have no alternative child-care**

To ensure contact is kept to a minimum please collect your child/ren as soon as possible after you have finished work.

In addition, a little reminder that you need to pre-book your child/children's place for the breakfast club and wrap-around care using the tabs on our school website.

Parent/Teacher Conversations

Earlier this week your child should have given you a letter about how we will be doing our parents' evenings this half term. If you have not received the letter please speak to your child's class teacher.

I would strongly urge you to make this appointment so that we can continue to work together to close any attainment gaps and ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Tax Free Childcare scheme for working parents

It has been brought to our attention that some parents who use our wraparound care are not aware of the government's Tax Free Childcare scheme where the government will contribute towards paying registered childcare providers. For example if a parent pays £8 into the scheme, the government will contribute £2. The scheme is aimed at working parents. To see if you are eligible for the scheme, please visit <https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Ftax-free-childcare&data=04%7C01%7COffice%40birklandsschool.co.uk%7C5a90413868c64d18571508d880ce99b0%7Cf4ebe22eb55344f388563e0d84908eb8%7C0%7C0%7C637400972118919370%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBtil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=aAeOA55JfH5XIb3v4WTHc6C6YzrtgsGuXI167%2FiAnc0%3D&reserved=0>.

If you decide to use the scheme, please inform the school office.



School Office Hours

Please remember that school office hours are 8.00am to 3.30pm. If you ring before or after these times please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Vaping and Smoking

A polite reminder that smoking or vaping is not permitted on the school grounds. We also request that if you are smoking or vaping this is done away from the two sets of gates and not near the school perimeter fence.

Children in Need

Don't forget that on Friday 13th November Birklands will be creating the Ultimate Feel Good Friday Feeling, as we support this worthwhile charity.

We are sure your child will be buzzing with excitement at the end of that day.

We can't wait to see the costumes.

Poppies

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, the school will be selling poppies until next Tuesday. If your child wishes to purchase something from their merchandise, please send a donation of 50p for a poppy or £1 for the other items.

Remember:



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask them.



Mrs Smith (Head of School)