

27th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Access to technology and devices

Thank you to the families that have completed the Nova Trust survey around remote learning access. It has been really useful for the Trust. There is still time to complete the survey, as the closing date is the 28th January.

Reading some of your responses we can see that some of our children still have issues around access to a suitable device or the internet. If you are one of these families we urge you to contact the school to discuss how we can support you.

Remote Learning

The teachers that have responsibility for remote learning are impressed with the engagement of our children. The standard of the work is amazing from those that are submitting this to the teachers.

Frustratingly, we do still have a small handful of children who are not accessing their remote learning and this is very concerning for all of us. If there is an issue around this, please contact the relevant teacher or school to discuss and resolve this.

Reading

Please remember that to support reading and enable our families to access books at home the school has subscribed to an online reading resource. You should have received a link for this. If you have not please contact your child's teacher.

School provision for key-worker children and vulnerable children

The staff in school have also been impressed with the quality of the work the children in school are producing. Their standards have remained high and their attitude to learning is outstanding.

Some of you have asked if school will be open to key-worker children over half term. Yesterday evening the DfE produced guidance on this. See below for what has been communicated to schools:

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

Based on the guidance Birklands will not be open over half term.

Be reassured if their guidance changes we will communicate this to you at the earliest opportunity.

Positive comments

Staff across the school have received some wonderful feedback from you about their children's work, the hard-work staff are putting into the learning activities set, the support they are giving our children.

We would like to say a big thank you for this recognition.

From our side we would like to say a big thank you to you for your support and commitment. As we have said previously we do recognise that the Government have added to your pressures by closing schools to most pupils and asking you to do remote learning. We appreciate this is not an easy time for anyone so please do contact us if you feel we can support you in any way.

Benefits Entitled Free School Meals

A little reminder that if your child is in reception, year one or year two and receives universal free school meals, you can still apply for benefits entitled free school meals.

If a child is in receipt of benefits entitled free school meals, they could have access to a laptop to support remote learning, along with meal vouchers and a breakfast pack to support feeding your child during lockdown.

If you feel your financial situation has changed and that you might now be eligible for benefits entitled free school meals you should apply by ringing 0300 500 8080 or via the Nottinghamshire County Council website.

Please get in touch if you do have a question or need something clarifying.

Remember to stay home and stay safe.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.A. Smith'.

Mrs C.A. Smith (Head of School)

