

Dear Parent/Carers

It feels very strange being in school today and not hearing the chatter and enthusiasm of all of our children.

I would like to thank all of you for working with us, especially considering how quickly the situation changed last week and the school only receiving information at short notice from the DfE and Government.

## **Critical Workers**

As you know from today, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 school is open only to those children who have a parent classed as a critical worker during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a school, we have received strict guidance on this and key principles we have to apply too. If you feel you fit into this category, please complete the Education Provision Registration on our school website asap.

We will of course continue to monitor the support we can offer, especially as the school experiences more staff needing to self-isolate.

## **Home-School Distance Learning**

All the staff have been busy adding school closure sections and daily overviews to their class pages on our school website.

It is crucial that all of our parents ensure that their child/children complete the daily tasks set. Learning is key to opening many doors and we cannot stall this simply because children have been asked to stay at home.

You need to set aside quality time for your children to do their learning tasks, at least 5 hours. If you need equipment such as pencil, ruler, paper please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The learning tasks set will not always require sitting down or be paper based. All staff are trying to make their classes home learning fun too.

## **Contacting Staff**

Some staff are happy for you to contact them via their work email. For others you may need to do this via the school office.

All that we ask is that the email communications link solely with your child's learning. You might not get a response straight away, as staff have been tasked with other school based activities, as well as being in school supporting critical workers' children.

## **Free School Meals Packages**

Schools will continue to provide support for those families whose children are entitled to a school meal either because they are Universal Infant Free School Meals or Free School meals. Please complete the relevant section on our school website.

Birklands Primary School | Appleton Street, Warsop, Mansfield Nottingham NG20 0QF Telephone: 01623 842163 | Email: office@birklandsschool.co.uk | Website: www.birklandsschool.co.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Helen Duffy BA (Hons), QTS, NPQH | Head of School: Celia Smith BEd (Hons)

