



'Where a love of learning grows'



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Birch Wood Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I understand that this may be a worrying time for many of you, particularly if your child has an underlying complex health condition. I want to reassure you that as a community Birch Wood & Birch Wood Vale School will do everything possible to keep you informed about how we are managing the situation and will do everything we can to continue to support you through this period. I am acutely aware of the wider support network that our school community provides in terms of our daily contact with you and our understanding of your child's needs. **Following national government guidelines, both sites at Birch Wood are open;** however, we support any parent or carer whose child has an underlying medical condition and feels it is necessary to keep their child at home. Equally, we will seek to give the best support and supervision to those students with complex medical needs who do come in to school.

If your child seems unwell and has any of the symptoms associated with the Coronavirus you may wish to keep them off school as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus. Current guidance is that if you have either a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature please stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days. Please let us know if this is the case, student absence due to self-isolation should be reported by phone to the school office. Out of office hours the school answer machine will be able to record these messages. Letting us know will also mean we can provide appropriate learning activities for use at home if your child is well enough. We will naturally contact you if we feel your child is symptomatic and request that they are taken home. Decisions of this nature are difficult for school and parents, but I'm confident as a community we will all act in the best interests of each other.

We are mindful of the fact that closure may be inevitable in the coming weeks; in order to prepare for such an eventuality, we are in the process of collating appropriate online and hard copies of learning material, including revision resources for students about to embark upon external examinations. We will stay in contact with families and young people in the event of a closure and provide as much support as is possible, more details of which will be shared with you in the coming days. However, for the time being there are no plans to close.

We have created a special school email address for parents and carers which is dedicated to responding to any of your concerns in relation to school and the Coronavirus. (advice&support@birchwoodschool.co.uk), this will be activated tomorrow and will be monitored daily. If you have any urgent queries, please call the main school office as usual. You can also continue to use the school diary or your usual method of contact with your child's class teacher or form tutor.

I will write to you again to in the coming days as I receive more guidance from Public Health England and the Local Authority. In the mean time we will endeavour to continue to provide the best possible education and care for our young people and work collaboratively with you, our parents and carers.

Yours sincerely,
Rosalind Hopkins.



Head teacher Rosalind Hopkins



