

Birchfield Community Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mr Richard Culham B.Ed Hons

'One school, learning together'

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice. As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open, as child care facilities, for the children of families where **BOTH** parents are key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. The Government want us to keep these numbers as low as possible so as to reduce the chance of spreading the virus.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. It would also be helpful if you could give us information on the days worked and any shift pattern. Please send this information to the school office on Friday 20th March. This will help us establish how many children we can expect each day. If one parent is a Key worker then the Government expect the other parent to have their child at home. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to. **All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. The notion behind this is to isolate as many people as possible hence why those who will be allowed to make use of the child care service will be limited. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by email.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.



All school trips, breakfast club, tea time club and sports clubs will be cancelled along with any invitational events the children may have received. KS1 and KS2 SATs, Year 1 phonics tests and the Year 4 times tables assessment have also been cancelled.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Culham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small red dot at the end of the last word.

Richard Culham
Head Teacher