



# Birchfield News

## Message from Mrs Thewlis

Happy new year to you all. I am sure for many of us, we are extremely glad to welcome a new year and the thought of more hopeful and positive times ahead. I know that each of us and our families have been through such a difficult time since this all began and that the challenges we continue to face are tough. I want to pay tribute to the entire Birchfield team for their response to this lockdown. The level of commitment, effort and skill taken to turn things around so quickly for a school our size is immense. I also want to say thank you to those parents who have taken time to pass on feedback and support. It is greatly appreciated.

### Home Learning

Home learning is tricky, particularly with children of different ages working from home at the same time. As parents, we can put a huge amount of pressure on ourselves because we all want the very best for our children but the reality is that some days will be better than others, and some days it may all just be too much! We will continue to be in contact with our families and if you need to talk, we are here. We know that children are sharing devices and yet we are still so pleased with the numbers of children who have been able to access some or all of the learning on offer—just do what you can. Well done to everyone for doing their best under very challenging circumstances!

## FSM Vouchers

The government have now released a plan for FSM vouchers. As soon as vouchers are available, we will issue them to parents however the earliest vouchers will be available is from the week beginning Monday 25th January.

If you have requested support with food, or need additional support, we will continue to provide this for children entitled to FSM until the vouchers arrive with you.

If you believe you are eligible or need any support with FSM, please email [enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk)

## Devices

Understandably, many of you have contacted school requesting devices for your children. So far we have been issued with 21 devices for the whole school and this means that we will not be able to help everyone who has asked for a device—we wish we could.

We will continue to provide paper resources for children and I know that some parents, mindful of hours of screen time, will continue to take a blended approach—mixing both online and paper work for their children. We will continue to offer your children daily contact with their teacher and try to make things as easy for children (and parents!) to access as possible.

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