



Birchfield News

FSM Update

During this period of school closure, we are pleased to be able to continue to offer eligible parents and pupils access to free school meals by supplying supermarket eGift cards, that can be spent locally to you.

This is in line with updated guidance from the DfE and Edenred who provide the eCodes and eGift Cards. Hopefully all families will now have what they need but please get in touch if this is not the case.

All the information you need is in the latest news section of the website.

Message from Mrs Thewlis

Dear Birchfield families,

It seems a long time since we were all together and the world feels like a very different place for us all. I hope you are all staying well and managing the challenges as well as enjoying the time you have with your families. By now you should have received phone calls from a member of staff. The Birchfield team have really enjoyed making these calls and will continue to check in with you while we are closed. Unfortunately, we have had some families that we have not been able to contact. Please remember that these calls will show as 'caller id unknown'. If you think you have missed a call from school

or your contact details have changed, please email us at schoolclosure@birchfld.bham.sch.uk.

It remains unclear when schools will reopen and how this will be approached however I certainly feel that the amount of speculation can be confusing and overwhelming. Please remember we will always update you so keep an eye on our website for news and updates.

Ramadan Mubarak to all of you who observing Ramadan this month. May it be a peaceful, restorative and happy time.

Take care and best wishes

Mrs Thewlis

Follow us on twitter to keep up to date with the latest Birchfield news.



@Birchfield_Sch
@thePA_CT

While school is closed, please use schoolclosure@birchfld.bham.sch.uk if you need to contact us. We will ensure that your enquiry is passed to the relevant person who can help you.

Home Learning

We are continuing to add to the home learning section on the website and many resources have been added over the past few weeks. These resources are not intended to add pressure on to you or your children, they are simply there for when you need them.

For children studying Mandarin, you will find home learning resources so that you can continue to practice at home. The Oaks national academy have also released some high quality learning resources for all year groups which cover Maths, English and the foundation subjects. We have also added links to daily phonics lessons and the BBC have launched online lessons and programmes to

support children who are learning at home—[bbc.co.uk/bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize).

We are also mindful that where some children may have access to electronic devices, this is not always the case. Our recently added home learning projects can be found in the respective year groups and have lots of ideas and activities that DO NOT have to be completed online.

Please also remember that reading a book, helping to make dinner and playing a game are just as worthwhile. Home learning whilst working and/or looking after a household and a family is hard work. Do what you can and enjoy being together.

Coronavirus - the current guidance remains unchanged.

Staying at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms

Government Guidance for Schools:

We have asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible, and for schools to remain open only for those children of workers critical to the COVID-19 response who absolutely need to attend.

The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, will protect the NHS and save lives by reducing the risks of spreading the virus.

*Schools, and all childcare providers, are therefore being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and **cannot be safely cared for at home.***

Year 6 Transition

For all of our pupils, we are acutely aware of the impact of the school closure but perhaps it is most pertinent for Year 6. Next week would have been the SATS week when I'm sure they would have done themselves and us proud. The Summer term always brings with it excitement, nervousness and nostalgia as the children start to think about next year and what lies ahead. I remember my last year of primary school vividly and fondly and want to let all our Year 6 pupils know that we are thinking of them. If you look in 'Home Learning' on the website there is now a tab for Year 6 Transition. We are in contact with the secondary schools and will post any information we receive on our website under latest news and in this home learning area. We are also putting together a booklet that

will be shared with you shortly. It will aim to help our children think through any concerns or questions that they may have in preparation for secondary school and provide some support and reassurance. Don't forget to look on the websites for the secondary schools too.

The Year 6 staff will continue to call you at home so if you do have any questions or you need any advice, please use this opportunity to ask. We want to make the transition from Birchfield to Secondary school as easy as we can. We are here for you Year 6! Parents you can also email us if you need any advice or support.

And finally...

Even though we are closed, we are of course thinking about September. Time marches on and we will all be back together soon I hope. We have Nursery places available for September—the information is all on our website under latest news. If you, or anyone you know has a nursery aged child, we can offer 15 hours free provision, full time places for working parents and a kind and caring staff team. Our school is going from strength to strength and we would be glad to warmly welcome you. Get in touch via en-

quiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk if you'd like to know more.

Finally, I want to say a HUGE thank you to the Birchfield staff team who are working so hard at the moment. Teams are in constant contact and continuing to work through all the demands that are being asked of them as well as caring for their own families and loved ones. They are currently also working on a little surprise for the children that will be on our website as soon as possible. To my wonderful team, thank you for all you do. Take care and stay safe everyone. See you soon.