19th March, 2020

Dear parents/carers,

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from my last update, I am 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 for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

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.

Please complete the attached form to see if you meet the current criteria. The form will also be available on our School website. 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. School will telephone you at least once a week to check on your well-being.**

**Please ensure that the School Office has your up to date numbers.**

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. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when we have more news.

**What we will 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.
Parents and pupils can find work set for them on the Schools' websites. This will be updated every Monday morning.

Parents and pupils will be able to contact the schools via the Class Dojo system for the Junior School and via the School Office for the Infant School.

The telephone numbers for each school is as follows:-

Infant School - 0121 464 4310
Junior School - 0121 373 3457

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.

What we won’t be able to go ahead with

School trips
Events
Internal exams or tests

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 via the School Office on 0121 464 4310 or Junior School 0121 373 3457

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,

Mrs. Anna Stevenson
Head teacher - Birches Green Infant School
Interim Head Teacher - Birches Green Junior School