

Brinsley Primary and Nursery School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

While I have seen many of you at the beginning and end of the school day, I would like to welcome you all back to school.

It has been a brilliant start to the school year, especially given the times we are all living in. I have been so impressed with the way people have adhered to and supported our processes for the safe return of children. For the most part people are using the correct gates and socially distancing outside the school. The children have been an absolute credit to us all. They have taken the different rules and expectations in school in their stride and I do believe that actually there are certain things that are running even better than they were before Covid-19.

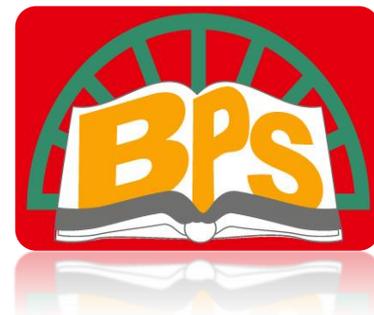
Recently we were asked by the Nottinghamshire Local Authority to be a pilot school in the Ofsted interim visits regarding Covid-19 and the return of all children. This was a very positive experience and allowed us to share with Ofsted all of the different things that have worked for us over this period of time (since March 2020), as well as those things that we found challenging. Ofsted were very appreciative of our time and our experience.

Finally, I would like to take this time to reassure parents about school in the near future and for the upcoming year. It is without a doubt a period of uncertainty however, we will continue to let you know as soon as we can of anything that affects you and your children. We are all at the mercy of events around us, but we will continue to balance health and safety with mental health and the positive day-to-day experience of your children at school.

Stay strong and keep smiling.

Kind regards

Jason Osprey



Upcoming Events

25.09.20 Governor strategy day

2.10.20 Individual photos day

9.10.20 Hello Yellow – mental health day (wear something yellow)

13.10.20 Y2 Victorian WOW day

15.10.20 Y4 Roman day

16.10.20 INSET day

19.10.20 - 30.10.20 October half term

19.10.20 – 23.10.20 Probable holiday camp (Next Level Sports) – more to follow

2.11.20 Full governors' meeting

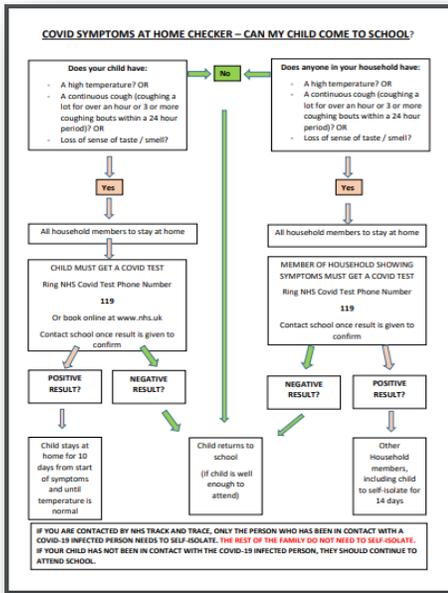
9.11.20 Sponsored Reading week

18.12.20 INSET day

21.12.20 – 1.01.21 Christmas holidays

2.01.21 Children return to school





Colds, flu, Covid-19... What do you do?

Currently in school we are experiencing a higher than normal rate for absence due to colds, flu like symptoms, etc.

While it is completely understandable why parents may want to err on the side of caution and keep their child off if they are displaying any cold-like symptoms, please do refer to the flow chart on our website:

COVID SYMPTOMS AT HOME CHECKER

A general rule of thumb is that if you recognise the symptoms as from previous colds i.e. runny nose, then it is in all likelihood a cold. We will continue to maintain as much distancing as we can at school while insisting on hand hygiene, “Catch it - Bin it - Kill it,” etc.

Parent survey results

You may remember completing a survey for school on your experience of school closure and particularly the home learning. Please see below for a summary of the results:

- Nearly 90% of parents reported not having direct experience of Covid-19, others reported symptoms, or working with patients with it.
- General experience of closure was 3.23 stars out of 5.
 - Many enjoyed the extra time with family
 - Many said communication from school was good.
 - A lot said it was hard balancing home education with work.
 - There were some who lost jobs.
- Generally, there were mixed feelings coming back to school: excitement, relief, but anxiety also about transmission, second waves, etc.
- 86% of parents said they have been happy with the way school has managed the return for children, with 14% stating ‘maybe.’ No one said ‘No.’ Suggestions were made about:
 - Extra signage (done)
 - More homework (we will review our homework policy in the coming month)
 - More club options (we have secured Next Level Sports for October half term)
 - One-way systems (considered, but decided against)
 - Lunch in classrooms (this will happen when wet)
- When asked about the home learning there were positives and negatives (summarised the most common) i.e.

BPS school closure survey- PARENTS

IN DOING THIS SURVEY YOU WILL HELP US TO PLAN FOR ANY FUTURE HOME LEARNING AND ALSO HELP US IDENTIFY ANY CHILDREN THAT MAY NEED EXTRA HELP SETTling BACK IN. The survey will be closing Wednesday 9 September. Thank you in advance.

* Required

1. What is your name? (optional)

Enter your answer

2. Did you have any direct experience of Covid-19 during this time? *

Yes

No

- a. Positives:
 - i. All worked well
 - ii. Work packs being sent home
 - iii. My child learned great practical skills – cooking, painting, etc
 - iv. Loved the face to face, Zoom, etc
 - v. There was constant communication with teachers through Class Dojo, etc
- b. Negatives:
 - i. More face to face time with teachers, more input from the teachers, Zoom
 - ii. Online material was very hard to access through a mobile phone.
 - iii. More paper home learning
 - iv. Problems with internet

Home learning – Contingency Plan

Having listened to parents, children and teachers the main things we can learn from our previous experience of school closure and home learning are:

- There was a feeling that the children benefited from a regular face-to-face opportunity, bit with their teacher and with their friends.
- It was very difficult to balance the demands of parents' work and children's' schoolwork.
- Sometimes accessing the work was difficult due to the limited nature of devices.

We have also been directed by the Department for Education to try and maintain and continue to actually teach if children are working from home, therefore avoiding any further potential academic slippage.

With all of this in mind should your child be unable to access school in person due to Covid-19 i.e. isolating (not unwell), then:

- They will receive a weekly plan of what would have been covered in class and what needs to be covered in home.
- There will be a daily 'connection' opportunity i.e. video meeting, phone call, video lesson, video quiz, video story, etc.
- There will be links on either Class Dojo (Early Years to Year 3) or SeeSaw (Years 4-6) to online lessons, and resources.
- There will be the opportunity to upload work on Class Dojo/SeeSaw.
- There will also be paper packs for all to supplement this. These will be collected in at the end of the week and feedback given.
- There will be an expectation for all children to take part (if they are well) daily.

There will be the opportunity for children who qualify for Pupil Premium and do not have access to devices at home to borrow a device from school (under certain conditions).

More detail would be sent to parents as soon as an individual, class, bubble, etc. was in a situation where they had to isolate.

We have tried to take the best features of what we have done in the past and incorporate them into our plans for the future.