



'Helping Young Minds Grow'

Much Birch Church of England V.C. Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs B Davies BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Monday 5th March 2018

Dear parents,

I am delighted to let you know that school will be open tomorrow, Tuesday 6th March 2018. I would like to say thank you to you all for being so understanding about school closure during the recent extreme weather we have had. As always in these circumstances, the safety of children and staff is always our highest priority and this is always at the centre of our decision making. I visited the site on Sunday morning and stayed for approximately 3 hours to assess the safety of the site before making the decision to close for the reasons that were given to you.

Mr Dukes, along with myself and other members of staff that live locally, have done a wonderful job to clear the pathways, fire exits and other areas of school to help create a safe site for children and staff to return to work tomorrow. We would also like to thank all the governors for their continued support during this difficult time. A very special thank you to Mr Petkus for clearing the school car park for us. Mrs Tweddell has worked hard to ensure the heating is working again. What a great team we have here!

We are still without a working telephone line and this is currently being given priority by our equipment provider. In the meantime, we have been advised by Property Services' advisor that we can offer the following emergency interim number without breaching safety regulations:

01432 760408 – St Mary's CE Primary School, Credenhill - Please only use this number in an emergency

St Mary's will in turn contact Mrs Tweddell with your message(s)

Please note our internet connection is operating as normal and you can alternatively send an email to admin@much-birch.hereford.sch.uk

There is still snow on the playground but we would like to allow the children to play outside and so they need to be appropriately dressed. Please can you ensure your child comes into school in warm, home clothes (no uniform required), wellies/boots (some younger children already have a pair in school) and a warm coat, hat and gloves. Children will need to make sure they also bring their school shoes so they can change into these to wear when inside school. It would be advisable to send your child in with a change of clothes, just in case they get wet during playtime/lunchtime.

We will be doing a staggered opening and closing tomorrow to allow children to get to and from school safely and to avoid congestion.

We will be open to receive children from 8.15am but registration will be open until 10.30am and children will not be marked late in the register. We hope that this will give families extra time to travel safely. As there is still a

large amount of snow around the roads, we would ask that all children arriving by car are dropped off using the following system as parking is still not possible on the school road because of the snow. We also encourage families to car share where possible to help ease congestion.

- Parents can drop off between 8.15am and 9.00am.
- Please avoid dropping off between 9.05am and 9.30am to prevent confrontation with local public transport.
- Drop off to continue from 9.30am until 10.30am (registration will remain open until 10.30am).
- When dropping off by car, parents are to drive into the school car park from the Kingsthorpe end and exit by the A49 end. Staff will be in the car park ready to help children out of the cars and to promote a quick as possible exit by parents.

If you are walking to school please take great care on the pavements and pathways.

This is the plan for end of the day. We have made the decision to have a staggered exit plan for the end of the day to ensure all children can get home safely. There will be members of staff on hand to help children into cars as they pull in. Please can parents/carers drive into the car park in the same way as the morning drop off by driving into the car park from the Kingsthorpe end and exiting by the A49 end.

The timetable for collection has been devised to help ease congestion due to the issues with parking outside school.

- Parents of Reception children + siblings for these cohorts will be asked to collect at 2:15pm until 2:30
- Parents of Year 1 + siblings at 2:35 until 2:50pm
- Parents of Year 2 + siblings at 2:55 until 3:10pm
- Parents of Year 3 + siblings at 3:15 until 3:30pm
- Parents of Year 4, 5 + siblings at 3:40 until 3:50pm
- Parents of Year 6 remaining at 4:00pm

We look forward to seeing you all back in school tomorrow. We will assess the situation during the day on Tuesday and let you know the plans for school drop off/pick up on Wednesday.

Kind regards

Mrs B. Davies
Head teacher