



Brinsworth Whitehill Primary

Part of Wickersley Partnership Trust

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with deepest regret that I am having to inform you that following the announcement made by the Government on Monday 4th January 2021, Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School will be closed from Tuesday 5th January 2021 and will not reopen until further notice. The spread of the new variant of COVID-19 has led to rapidly escalating case numbers across the country and accordingly the government has made the decision to close schools to the vast majority of students.

The Government announced that schools, colleges and early years' settings, nationwide, will be closed to the vast majority of students as part of the country's ongoing response to the new variant of COVID-19. It is our intention to be open, in line with Government recommendations, providing provision for the children of key workers and those requiring additional support from Wednesday 6th January 2021. School will be closed to all children on Tuesday 5th January in order for school to respond to this situation.

It is very important to reiterate that children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home until further notice.

It is our civil duty to continue to provide an education to all of our students. We will continue with providing remote learning provision for all students whilst they have been asked to remain at home. We have prepared a bank of work for your child to complete whilst absent from school to ensure that student education can still continue.

Students will follow their existing curriculum in line with their school timetable. With this in mind, we are now preparing to provide work for your child. We are well-prepared for the situation, with excellent systems in place. Children will receive a pack of activities and work including writing and maths tasks and research projects. There will be continued access to our online website resources and class pages and these will be updated regularly by teaching staff.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure the safe education of their children by encouraging them to complete the work set for them online. Their teachers will send work to your child directly via your e-mail address. Teachers have had guidance on the various methods of setting work remotely, and in most cases this relies on the teachers and students using online resources in some way. Given that the majority of students, or families, have some access to internet enabled phones, we believe this to be the best method of communication.

A reminder that our remote learning code of conduct for all students is as follows:

- All pupils should ensure they are on time for their remote lessons to ensure it can start promptly.
 - You must only take part in live lessons if your member of staff is present.
 - You must ensure that your camera is turned off at all times unless directed by a member of staff.
 - ~~Pupils should ensure they are dressed appropriately for learning~~
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At Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School we aim to create a supportive learning environment where everyone is encouraged to grow, develop and achieve their full potential

- They should interact with their classmates and teachers as directed and do so appropriately.
- They should ensure they are working from an environment that is quiet and free from distractions.
- All students must ensure they never record any interactions during remote learning.
- All students must ensure they leave the lesson as soon as it has ended.
- All students must ensure they only use their video conferencing tools (camera and microphone) if directed by your classroom teacher.
- They should continue to follow the school code of conduct in line with their on-site learning.

We have already identified a number of students who may not have suitable online access at home and are in the process of supporting this. If you feel you require additional support to ensure students access their learning, please inform staff where possible, and we will try and accommodate that in any work we set. We ask that you ensure your child completes the work to the best of their ability and we ask parents to support the school by ensuring all students participate in their remote learning. Students have already missed a significant amount on site education and complete engagement is the only way we can mitigate any further learning deficits.

Their teachers will update these work platforms regularly and communicate feedback with your child directly, either through google platforms, via their email address, class dojo or phone calls.

This is not obligatory, but if your child currently has free school meals and you wish your child to continue to access a free school meal, you will need to email the school office@brinsworthwhitehill.org so that suitable arrangements can be made.

We hope you understand that the welfare of both our students and staff has to be our first priority and by taking early action, we will be able to return to 'normal service' as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

C Oxborough

Mrs C Oxborough