



10 January 2022

Dear Parents

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. I hope that despite the ongoing challenges you were able to enjoy the holiday period.

Thank you very much for the support you showed Mr Leighton in his role as Acting Head last term. He and the rest of the staff team did a fantastic job. I am delighted to be back at school; the ankle is making good progress.

This term we welcome Mrs Lambert as Deputy Head (Academic). In addition to her role on the Senior Management Team she will be the form teacher for Prep 4L and take over Mr Oakey's teaching commitments. Mrs Oakey's teaching commitments will be covered by Mrs Miles. We also welcome Mr Aynsley Williams as Teaching Assistant/After School Care Assistant to replace Mr Leighton (Junior) who leaves us to pursue other ventures.

### **Making history**

For the first time in 117 years Girls at Birkdale Prep will be playing Netball fixtures this term. I am sure the under 9 girls will have a great time at Barlborough Hall on 25th January and 8th February.

### **Charity**

I am delighted to say that Mr Hollings will be the new charities Co-ordinator.

Mr Hollings' writes:

A huge thank you to everyone for your support with the Charities Fair - an amazing £1104.27 was raised for our school charity this year, Toilet Twinning. The charity estimate that the average cost to lay foundations and equipment for a toilet is £60, therefore your support of this event only has raised the equivalent of more than 18 toilets for people who have no access to clean water and safe sanitation around the world. If you would like to know more about the charity, please follow this link: <https://www.toilettwinning.org/what-we-do/>

### **Form Teacher/Tutor role**

Please do remember that for both pastoral and academic queries your first port of call should be your child's Form Teacher/Tutor.

### **Covid updates**

#### **Self-isolation period**

I am sure that you will have seen in the media the updated government guidance for the management of pupils return to school this month but I wanted to provide you with specific details related to us.

The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test

results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFT testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7. Anyone who is unable to take LFT tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

People in England with a positive Lateral Flow Test but no COVID symptoms will no longer have to take a PCR test from 11 January 2022. Individuals should self-isolate as per the above guidance on the basis of the LFT alone.

Where pupils have symptoms that could be COVID-19 they need to get a PCR test, even where the LFT result is negative, then self-isolate until the PCR results are received.

Please can we ask that you continue to report positive LFT and PCR results to the school via the following dedicated inbox [covid@birkdaleschool.org.uk](mailto:covid@birkdaleschool.org.uk)

### **Face Masks**

In line with the current government guidance, parents and visitors will continue to be encouraged to wear face masks whilst inside the Prep School buildings.

### **Hand hygiene**

We will continue to encourage frequent and thorough hand washing and sanitising.

### **Ventilation**

We will be maintaining good ventilation around the school.

I hope that following these measures will enable us to minimise the disruption to our pupils' education.

### **After School Care**

After school care is running as normal this week until 6 pm, please remember to **rebook your requirements** using the email address [afterschoolcare@birkdaleschool.org.uk](mailto:afterschoolcare@birkdaleschool.org.uk)

### **Clubs**

All Clubs will start **this week** - Please ask if you are unsure of anything regarding the after school clubs.

### **Dates for Diary – please also see the calendar and weekly bulletin**

Tuesday 25th January - 11+ Sports Scholarship Day

Wednesday 26th January - 11+ Music Scholarship Day

Friday 28th January - 11+ Academic Scholarship Day

Tuesday 1st February - P1H Beyond 4 Walls Adventure Day

Friday 4th February - National Science Quiz Semi Final

Thursday 10th February - P4 Space Centre Trip

Friday 11th February - School closes for half term

Monday 21st February - School re-opens

Tuesday 22nd February - P1M Beyond 4 Walls Adventure Day

Tuesday 1st March - P2T Beyond 4 Walls Adventure Day

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day – come dressed as your favourite book character

Tuesday 8th March - P2S Beyond 4 Walls Adventure Day

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March - 9:30 am - Prep School Open morning

Tuesday 22nd March - P3C Beyond 4 Walls Adventure Day

Tuesday 29th March - P3HM Beyond 4 Walls Adventure Day

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 10:00 am - Prep School Easter Service

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 12 noon - End of Easter term

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Burch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chris Burch

Head of the Prep School