



LEARN TOGETHER

*'Let's learn to enjoy, achieve, respect and nurture together'*

19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, schools in Wales will close on Friday 20th March until further notice. We are anticipating hearing about how schools will provide learning / childcare arrangements for children who have parents in the government defined keyworker category. We are waiting to hear this definition and will communicate this to you as soon as we get the information.

All our communications, including when school will fully open again will be made via the website, school app and email.

### Arrangements for Home Learning

Each class teacher has prepared initial activities which your child can do at home. Some of these they will be able to do independently and some may need support from yourselves.

We have provided a range of optional activities for the first two weeks which are the Easter break. After this teachers will provide further learning / activities through Seesaw for our younger pupils and in addition through Hwb and Google Classroom for older pupils.

The coming weeks are going to be extremely difficult for all of us and we recognise that home learning is not easy for families to implement. Teachers have worked hard to develop activities with the children and provide things that we hope are motivating, thus making this easier for families. However, please do not put yourself under pressure to complete all tasks. Your child can do as much as you can manage as a family. There is no judgement from school. We understand that everyone will have different circumstances.

Something we would recommend is varying activities and taking regular breaks if your child is undertaking online tasks and could be using a screen for longer periods than normal. Try to break these up with creative / physical activities. Establishing a routine to the day may help so that your child knows when they are expected to learn and when they have free time,

**Every child needs to be encouraged to read a little every day if possible.** Teachers will allocate books on the Active Learn Bug Club which we would encourage you to use. However, the children may have other reading materials at home / that they would prefer to read – all of these things are fine. Keeping up and fostering a love of reading is what is most important.

In addition to the many activities that you will naturally look to do with your children e.g. board games, baking, helping with chores, school will provide:

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| Nursery   | Letter Formation and Number Formation Packs have been sent home and will be placed on the class page on the school website.<br>Ideas for activities and online apps / activities will also be shared on Seesaw.             |
| Reception | Letter Formation and Number Formation Packs are on the class page on the school website.<br>Additional reading books and sounds have been sent home.<br>Ideas for maths and other activities will also be shared on Seesaw. |

- Years 1&2 A new Home Learning sheet will be displayed on Seesaw and on the class page on the school website.  
Maths and reading tasks will be allocated on Active Learn and Bug Club.  
Further activities and suggestions will be posted on Seesaw.
- Years 3-6 A new Home Learning sheet will be displayed on Seesaw and the class page on the school website  
Maths and reading tasks will be allocated on Active Learn and Bug Club.  
Further activities and suggestions for a range of learning areas will be posted on Seesaw and in Google Classroom through Hwb.

In addition classes will be sharing free access that we have been granted for parents to 'Real P.E' Activities. These are physical activities and games that your child can do indoors / outdoors which in addition to supporting physical health, will also support creative thinking and emotional health.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT LINKED TO YOUR CHILD'S SEESAW ACCOUNT AND DO NOT HAVE THE REMINDER INVITATION SENT HOME. PLEASE EMAIL THE SCHOOL OFFICE:**

[mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)

**From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April**, if you have any questions or are unsure about anything, please message your child's teacher on Seesaw about the work and they will get back to you. If your message is not responded to within a few days, although this may be frustrating, please bear with your child's teacher as they may be poorly themselves or be caring for a sick family member.

Your child may become anxious during this time, particularly as things escalate or you become aware of people that have been poorly. There is support for families on this website: <https://youngminds.org.uk>

I would also like to draw your attention to a frightening experience that was reported to us earlier this week. One of our pupils was groomed online via Instagram over a few weeks, which cumulated in obscene messages and a video call from an adult. Fortunately the messages and call were made in the evening whilst the child was in bed and parents intercepted the messages and call. In the situation we are in, we are going to be making use of social media and other group chat more than ever as this will be an important part of keeping in communication with family and friends, more than ever. I fear that these individuals who choose to groom young people will also recognise that there is greater scope for their criminal and harmful behaviour. **Please regularly check your child's privacy settings.** Lots of information on <https://parentzone.org.uk/home>

Seeing many children and staff leaving school over the last week, not knowing when we will see them again in the coming weeks has been very emotional for all.

I am incredibly proud to be the headteacher of Barker's Lane and never more so than in the last week.

The dedication and care for your children and each other in our staff team, the superb attitude of the children, the way that they have conducted themselves, the support of governors and yourselves as parents have enabled us to keep things running as smoothly as possible. We could not have done this without each other.

I also wish to thank everyone on behalf of Barker's Lane who is working hard on the frontline to fight this outbreak, and those maintaining other essential services and business.

As soon as it is possible and safe, we look forward to seeing all of the children back together again in our Barker's Lane family.

Look after yourselves and other family members. Stay safe.

Very best wishes



Mrs Edwards