



LEARN TOGETHER

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

27th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I often begin letters, particularly at the start or end of term with 'how time flies'! This week however for many, I am sure, has felt like a very long week with many more ahead.

Almost all families are adjusting to a very different way of life ensuring that we adhere to social distancing, only making essential journeys and other guidelines issued by the government, our staff at Barker's Lane included.

As we adjust, it is important to look after your own **mental health** as well as that of your children. Mr Hill posted some links on the school app / website last evening which you may find helpful.

Home Learning – You may already have begun to establish a routine at home and access some of the activities provided by school. Don't forget though, this is the Easter break for the children. Please **do not** put pressure on yourselves or the children to complete these. It is an anxious time for all, spending time getting used to things as a family, is as, if not more important in these first few weeks than the tasks. They are there to use if you want them, if the children do nothing other than read, we will be happy. For those, who are bored already, I am sure that you have seen that there are many other activities and ideas all over the internet. Amongst many others, some famous celebrities offering their services include:

- P.E with Joe Wicks live on Youtube at 9am each morning
- Maths with Carol Vorderman www.themathsfactor.com
- Audio stories with David Walliams <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

There are also daily shows, relating to Science on <https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/live>, including Professor Brian Cox. **Please view these first on Catch Up yourself as they are aimed a wider age range.**

Real PE at home – online learning resources - We have been fortunate to have been offered the opportunity to provide you with FREE ACCESS to REAL P.E at home. This is an online programme which supports families to be active, play and learn together. This programme is great for family play and fun for all ages.

There are so many benefits to being active, not only to our physical wellbeing but also to our emotional and mental health, especially in such testing times for all of us. We hope that the ideas help support you and your family to stay fit and healthy in the coming months. The website address is: home.iasmineactive.com
The user name / parent email and password will be texted to.

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals – WCBC have arranged 'grab and go' packed lunches on normal school days which can be collected by a parent / carer between 11.30am and 1pm. You need to give staff the name of your child/ren and the name of the school that they attend. There are ten locations. The nearest places to Barker's Lane are Caia Park Estate Office, the Memorial Hall, Wrexham and Gwersyllt Estate Office. Full details can be found in <https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/category/council-services/>

Seesaw – We are more than happy to see pictures / videos of the things that your children are doing at home on Seesaw. However please **do not** message teachers via Seesaw unless this is urgent **before 20th April**. Some school staff are working to provide care for the children of critical workers, some are working from home and some are in self isolation, in addition to caring for their own children. Also please **do not** message school staff on other forms of social media, as we have clear directives from the Local Authority to adhere to.

Critical workers, bookings for care can not be taken via Seesaw. Please do not send messages to teachers about this. Diolch yn fawr.

Refunds – We hold some monies in our accounts for snack and residential visits. Mrs Bayley issued refunds for monies paid towards transport for swimming before school closed. We will be making refunds via SchoolMoney for snack and residential visits if necessary after Easter.

Critical Key Workers – As you are aware, school staff are providing essential care to ensure that the children of critical workers whose work is crucial to the COVID-19 response.

Thank you to everyone for looking at alternative ways to care for your children, keeping numbers of children who are accessing the care in the school building to the very minimum.

Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education's statement is clear that where:

- Parents working from home, even if a critical worker, your child should remain at home.
- If you are a critical worker and the other parent is not, the other parent should provide safe alternative arrangements.

This is to ensure that the highly limited places are prioritised only to those the need this care as a 'last resort'. This minimises risks to the safety of the children and our school staff.

More information on <https://gov.wales/5-things-you-need-know-sending-your-children-school-or-childcare-coronavirus>

As the email sent out earlier this week to critical workers who have been in contact with school, bookings must be made in advance by emailing mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk by 11am on Friday of the week before.

The email should have the subject 'CRITICAL WORKER BOOKING' and state which days are required. Where your child can be brought in later / picked up early due to shift patterns, please do so, limiting the time that they are in contact with others. *We are expecting to have information to provide about care between 6th-20th April early next week.*

Please note:

- **NO bookings will be taken via Seesaw, other channels. They must be made to the school email address.**
- **Please DO NOT attempt to drop your child off if you have not booked or confirmed with school that there is space, if you are called into work at short-notice.**

From Monday 30th March, in addition to a pencil case, reading book / device and water bottle, your child will need a healthy snack that they can open themselves please. *If you have paid for school snack, this will be refunded to you.*

A reminder also, that your child must be able to open items in their lunchbox themselves. We had a few occasions last week where packets could not be opened independently.

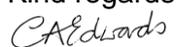
Also **no other toys / items must be brought in from home.** Our staff do not have access to PPE and are working hard to maintain the highest level of hygiene and reduce risk of transmission of the virus for the safety of all.

Public Information – If you are not already keeping up to date with the situation, these sites are key:

Public Health Wales <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>
Welsh Government <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>
Wrexham <https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information>

I hope that all of our families over the weekend and next week will be able to have some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine.

Kind regards


Mrs Edwards