



LEARN TOGETHER

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

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Not our usual welcome back to a new term, more a new way of working for the start of the Summer.

I hope that your children, yourselves and extended family members are safe and well. Many school staff are supporting childcare in school, with some working from home, isolating to keep themselves or other family members safe. A couple of our staff have been poorly but are all thankfully now well.

We are very limited ability to answer telephone calls at school. If you need to contact teachers, please do this through Seesaw or for general queries please email [mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)

### **What will distance learning look like?**

During this week and every week after until we return to school, class teachers will be posting a learning grid on Seesaw for your child. This will have a balance of digital, paper based and practical activities to choose from. There may be activities embedded in Seesaw, links to the Hwb, Google Classroom or other websites.

Distance learning is as new to us as it is to you as a family. We have set some ground rules for ourselves, parents and the children so that we are all aware of the expectations:

- **Each class teacher will post a range of work on Seesaw once per week which your child can choose from.** The day may vary from class to class so don't worry if one of your children has new work on Monday but the other not until Wednesday, for example. This is because, most of our teachers are also still working on a rota in school which changes each week.
- **Teachers will be looking at any work / items that the children share back with them and commenting to celebrate this.** It would be inappropriate for us to give constructive feedback in the way that we normally do in school, as this relies on face to face discussion and the sharing of good examples in the class.
- **Teachers will be available to respond to any queries you may have about the work however please do not expect an immediate response.** Queries / questions will be responded to at the teacher's discretion. Please bear in mind that they may still be working in school, be distance learning with their own children, have caring responsibilities or be poorly themselves.
- **Teachers may need to send you / your child a message from time to time.** There no pressure to reply to this immediately, like teachers, your response can be sent at a time that is convenient to you.
- **If you require any additional work for your child,** please look at the pupil section on the school website. There is a vast array of learning material here which can be accessed by anyone. Additional items are added regularly to this.

Hopefully we will not be in a position where one of our teachers or a close family member becomes poorly. However, if this is the case, please be aware that this may affect the way that we deliver distance learning at that time, meaning we may refer your child directly to the activities on the school website.

### **How can you implement distance learning in your home?**

There is a huge amount of advice on the internet about this, almost too much! We've come up with a few key tips which will hopefully help at this challenging time:

1. **Don't try to do too much.** You might start with 30 minutes / an hour a day and then build up. We would advocate no more than three hours in any one day.

2. **Try to keep a routine.** This doesn't mean a 'school day timetable'. This is a routine that works for your family and with older children would be best agreed with them. It might involve setting times for 'work' during the day and times for 'recreation / relaxation'. *If you want any help with how to set a routine, please contact your child's teacher through Seesaw.*
3. **Build in plenty of breaks and make sure your child drinks lots of water.** The children are used to having short 'outdoor play breaks' / healthy snacks regularly when they work.
4. **Learning doesn't have to be at a table.** Depending on the task, there may be a much more suitable place for your child to do an activity.
5. **Be kind to yourself.** Lots of us are anxious and still trying to adjust to this new way of living. Lots of us are also still working and trying to balance this support for learning. Don't feel guilty if you miss a day, or just decide to spend a day having fun as a family, just do what you can. This time as a family is valuable and will hopefully be one of the positive things that we are able to take away from this experience.

### **Childcare**

The WG advice is that where children can be cared for safely at home, even when parents are critical workers, they should be. It is a privilege to be continuing to provide essential 'last resort' childcare for the children of critical workers. This however needs to be booked by 11am on Thursday of each week for the next week by emailing [mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk](mailto:mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)

It is essential that this is booked as we have to limit places to meet social distancing measures. We really appreciate the messages that we have had for providing this service and when parents have let us know that requirements have changed. Many thanks.

It is important to remember that your child can not attend if they or anyone in your household is showing symptoms of COVID-19, a continuous cough and / or a high temperature.

Wrexham Family Information Service have also been widely publicising the WG free childcare offer for pre-school children of critical workers. More information is available here:

<https://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/childcare/critical-workers-get-free-childcare>

### **Free School Meals**

At the moment, 'grab and go' packed lunches are still available 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://beta.wrexham.gov.uk/service/school-meals/covid-19-coronavirus-free-school-meal-collections>

As soon as we have any further information about how support for pupils entitled to free school meals will be continue to be provided, we will let you know.

### **Refunds**

We have been looking into how we can refund / credit monies in our accounts for snack and residential visits. We are unable to just refund monies, only credit accounts via the SchoolMoney app unfortunately. As per the email sent to Y5&6 last week, we do not want to credit accounts with large amounts of money paid for residential visits but would rather refund these. We do not have internet banking facilities as a school, therefore Mr Hill and Mrs Bayley will be looking at the best way to do this over the next week or so and we will be back in touch. Please be reassured, they will be working hard to get monies back to you.

### **School Policies & Documents**

Some of our school policies have to be adapted dynamically at this time. We will not be updating all of our documentation to reflect this. However we will be continuing to update these and publish them on the school website. The governor's annual report for parents was recently published on the documents page.

Please look after yourselves and your families. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or require any further support. We hope to see you soon. Stay safe. Cadwch yn saf.

Kind regards



Mrs Edwards