



LEARN TOGETHER

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

15th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I trust that you are well. Diolch yn fawr once again for all of the support that you have given to school, for sharing your views with us and your patience and understanding whilst we confirm plans. Despite the complexity of the task we are faced with, working together is making this as smooth a process as possible.

School Reports

Your child's report will be shared via their personal Hwb account **by Friday 19th June** at the latest. The report looks different from previous years for understandable reasons. You will receive two sections:

- A sheet which summarises where your child **was** at with their learning when schools were repurposed in March. This is a summary which states where your child was at in relation to expectations for their year group and the effort they put in / growth mindset that they have for learning. This is a new format. **Please bear in mind that it may not accurately reflect where they are now with their learning as we will need to reassess this in the Autumn Term.**
- A sheet which shares strengths, attitude to learning and targets. You may recognise this from previous years and is the section where teachers capture a very personal summary of your child.

All user names and passwords for your child's Hwb account have been shared across school earlier this year. If you have any problems accessing your child's Hwb account to view the report, please contact your child's teacher through Seesaw (not the school office). Diolch.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's report **only**, please reply to the email which has been sent with the report, to your child's teacher, and they will telephone you from school after 29th June discuss this.

Transition

Diolch yn fawr to anyone who responded to our questionnaire. We have considered all of your views alongside those of our own.

In September, whatever format schooling takes, all of the children will be returning to their current classroom with as far as possible, their current teacher and support staff. There will be some slight exceptions due to staff retirement and returns from maternity leave.

Mrs West who has dedicated her whole career to children at Barker's Lane will be retiring at the end of this term after teaching here for over twenty years. Mrs West will be very much missed at our school by pupils and her colleagues. We have always been able to rely on Mrs West to know a family! We will be sending all our love and best wishes with her in her retirement. ❤️

Miss Emily Thomas, who Y5 pupils and parents know from this year will be joining us as Y6 teacher from September.

Mrs Humphreys is returning from maternity leave at the beginning of July and we are expecting Mrs Langford back from maternity leave part-way through the Autumn Term. They will be teaching in Reception.

Over those first weeks in the Autumn, we will continue to support your child's wellbeing and continue to make some face to face assessments of learning to ensure that we have an accurate picture of where your child is at. We will also provide opportunities for them to see their new classroom and meet staff, with an aim to transition part-way through the Autumn Term. *We will provide more details about all of this nearer the time.*

The table below outlines which teacher your child will be returning to and the name of their new teacher:

Class:	Teacher your child will be returning to:	New classteacher after transition from part-way through the Autumn Term:
Dosbarth Alwen (N)	Mrs Gargan	Reception - Mrs Humphreys & Mrs Langford
Dosbarth Tegid (R)	Mr Dodd	Y1 - Mr Hayes
Dosbarth Dinas (Y1)	Mr Hayes	Y2 - Miss Taylor
Dosbarth Vyrnwy (Y2)	Miss Taylor	Y3 - Miss Brunskill
Dosbarth Brecon (Y3)	Miss Brunskill	Y4 - Mr Williams
Dosbarth Cadair Idris (Y4)	Mr Williams	Y5 – Miss Evans & Mr Penk
Dosbarth Yr Wyddfa (Y5)	Mr Penk & Miss Thomas	Y6 - Miss Thomas

Check In Sessions

After receiving all of the responses back to our survey, we have been busy planning 'check in' sessions for over 200 children. At Barker's Lane, these will take the form of two consecutive morning sessions. Specific dates and times will be shared with you next week allowing for staggered start and finish times.

Although you may be disappointed that your child is unable to be offered more sessions or come to school every week, what is important for our school community is that over 92% of children at Barker's Lane will have the opportunity to access 'check ins'. This may not be the case in all schools.

You may hear about other schools where children are attending more sessions or for longer periods and vice versa, less sessions and shorter periods. Each school will have different challenges within their building and different take up for the sessions offered.

This is because **each individual school has to assess the capacity** they have and balance this with logistics within the building. Nearly all parents will have been in our building at times and you may or may not have noticed what I can only describe as 'bottle neck' areas, like our junior cloakroom, toilet areas and pathways around the building. We have to consider how best to manage these and are also mindful of being very fair and equitable as much as is possible.

We have kept groups small to ensure quality time to **focus on health and wellbeing and age-appropriate study skills** in preparation for a 'new normal' for the foreseeable future. In Nursery and Reception, groups are no bigger than 6 children and in Y1-6, no bigger than 8 children. All groups are with the same small group of children in their own classroom.

Where possible, we have tried to arrange for siblings to come in on the same day. However with the scale of organisation involved and ensuring safety before anything else, this has not always been possible in all cases. We have however been able to ensure that where siblings can not attend on the same day, they will have the opportunity to attend in the same week.

You will receive a text message for each of your children on Wednesday 17th June which will detail the dates of your child's check-in and the drop off and pick up time. These have been staggered to manage traffic and entry onto the school grounds.

We will be unable to change any dates that your child has been offered due to the strict parameters within which we are working. I would ask that you please do not put us in the position of requesting this please.

Further details will follow over the couple of weeks. At the end of this letter, is information in the form of a list of questions and answers which we can share from our planning so far. There may be other questions we can not answer just yet, but as soon as we can, we will share further information with you.

Now you have more information, if after further consideration, you decide that you do not want your child to attend the 'check in' sessions, we would be grateful if you could **inform us by email by 9am on Monday** to enable us to move groupings around to ensure children are still with friends where we can.

I would like to reassure you that much thought and consideration has gone into the very challenging planning involved, with the health, safety and wellbeing of your child and our staff at the forefront.

Kind regards

CA Edwards

Initial questions you may have about the ‘check in’ sessions that we can answer and hopefully support you to have confidence in our planning:

Should my child be coming to school if they are shielding?

If your child is shielding they should not return to school at this time. Shielded children will continue to be supported by school remotely.

What if someone in my house is shielding, my child or someone in our house is deemed clinically vulnerable?

If you are a shielding parent or carer, there is no expectation to send your child / children back to school at the end of June. Parents will not be fined for keeping their child / children at home. We will continue to support children with distance learning. WG guidance states that *‘people who are deemed clinically vulnerable can go out to work but they should work from home if possible. If staff or learners do attend, extra care must be taken to ensure vulnerable individuals, and those around them adhere to strict social distancing guidelines. In the case of learners, we would only expect these to attend where parents/carers consent to this’*.

Can you guarantee that my child will always be able to keep a social distance from others?

Although we will be encouraging this and endeavour to do our very best, doing what we can that is practicable but we can not guarantee this. Classroom areas have been set up to facilitate this, no more than two children will be allowed into toilet areas at any one time, when moving from indoors to outdoors and vice versa we will be practising leaving an appropriate ‘gap or space’. There will be no unsupervised movement of children around the school building. However, children are sociable and are likely to want to be close to their friends, particularly very young children. Our task is to strike a supportive balance between social distancing and ensuring that children do not feel more anxious due to the guidance that we have to implement.

Will you be ensuring that my child has plenty of opportunities to wash their hands?

Yes, soap and hot water will be available in all hand washing areas. This is something that we were doing at the beginning of March and have continued throughout whilst we have been open for critical childcare. All children and staff will wash their hands:

- on arrival at and when leaving the school or setting
- before and after handling food
- before and after handling objects and equipment that may have been used by others
- where there has been any physical contact
- after people blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing.

Why has my child not been asked to come to school everyday or for a full-day?

Schools have been instructed to build up to admitting up to a maximum of one third of the school population at any time to ‘check in’. To organise this safely balanced alongside the critical care childcare commitments that we still will be covering, at Barker’s Lane, we have taken a very cautious approach to maintain the safety of all children and evaluate all our procedures.

Why are my children being asked to attend on different days? This doesn’t make sense to me!

Where we can, we have organised for siblings to attend on the same day. As you will appreciate though, we are working within very strict parameters around pupil numbers balanced with covering childcare. Different year groups are attending on different days so this has not always been possible. We have however organised for siblings to attend during the same week if not on the same day.

How will my child know what to expect?

We will be sharing videos and social stories on Seesaw before your child’s check-in date. These will show your child their classroom and share any routines and rules that may have changed.

What will happen if I change my mind and decide not to send my child?

If you change your mind for whatever reason and do not want your child to attend a ‘check in session’, please email to let us know as soon as possible. We could then offer to organise a video conference or telephone call. The Minister has stated that parents will not be pursued or penalised if their child does not attend.

Will my child be with the same children in each session?

Yes, your child will be grouped with the same children from their own class for both sessions. In nearly all classes, the class teacher and TA will be taking the sessions for all of the children in the class.

Who is in my child's group?

For obvious privacy reasons, we will not be sharing information about other children with you. Each group has been structured to group every child with at least one of their friends. In some groups there may be more than one friend. **Please be mindful though that some parents may decide not to send their child into school, this situation would be outside our control.**

If my child has a 'check in' on a day they are booked into key worker childcare what will happen?

At the end of the 'check in' session they will join the childcare group in the school hall and have their packed lunch that they have brought from home and remain there until they are collected at the end of day.

What if my child does not or other children do not follow the rules?

Rules will be shared with all children in an age-appropriate way. We will be making sure that the sessions are as nurturing and reassuring as possible, this is the business that we are in. However for the safety of all, where rules are broken which compromise the health and safety of the individual, other children or school staff. Parents will be contacted to collect their child and the check in or childcare place will be forfeited.

What will my child wear to come to the session?

Your child can wear their own clothes or school uniform as long as it is clean on that morning. Clean clothes must be worn each day, **Clothing and footwear needs to be suitable for outdoor activity (no flimsy sandals)** as we will be intending to spend as much time outside as possible, as we know that the transmission of the virus is significantly reduced outdoors. Whilst we have been open for just childcare, children have worn their own clothes.

What will my child need to bring with them?

Your child will need to bring a shower proof coat, a water bottle and a healthy snack. They need to be able to peel / open their snack independently. This may require a little practise at home for younger children prior to them coming in.

What is my child not allowed to bring?

Nothing other than the above items. Children must not bring toys, teddies, etc from home into the school building. This is based on Welsh Government H&S guidance that we have used throughout the pandemic whilst providing critical worker childcare.

What about my child's medication e.g. asthma inhaler, adrenaline auto-injector?

Medication is the only exception to what can be brought from home to the session. If your child's inhaler or other medication is at home, they must bring this to school with them.

What can we I do to prepare my child?

- Talk to your child about how we can keep safe if you have not already. There is lots of support in the Parent Section – Support & Safeguarding, on the school website.
- Teach your child how to sneeze and cough into their elbow or a tissue and dispose of it
- Ensure your child knows how to wash and dry their hands thoroughly and independently
- Practise social distancing through games. We appreciate that this is difficult for very young children, almost impossible. Therefore use language like 'don't forget, we need a gap or a space'.
- Practise peeling fruit and opening packets / tubs for snack.
- Support us by talking to your child about following rules.

What shall I do if my child is upset when they arrive or does not want to leave me?

We recognise that for many children, it will be daunting coming back to school setting after this time. Younger children may struggle with attachment and older pupils may be anxious about the virus, for example. Hopefully the social stories and videos that we will be sharing on Seesaw will help with this, use them as much as you can prior to your child's session. We will try our best to help, whilst appropriately social distancing from your child and you. For the safety of all, staff will not be able to give their usual hug or cuddle and parents will not be able to come into the school building. However we are very creative and will do our best to come up with solutions to support you with this.

What happens if my child falls for example, and requires first aid or they have intimate care needs?

Staff will use appropriate PPE as advised by WG to ensure that your child's needs are met safely.

What if I am late?

Short windows of 'drop off' time will be organised for the safety of all. Late arrivals will not be able to go into class for the check in session. It is vital we are all punctual – us and you.

Will my child be able to walk to and from school on their own?

All children must be dropped off and collected by an adult, including Y5&6 pupils. No child is to walk to or home from school unaccompanied by an adult.

Will I be able to pop into school to speak to my child's teacher or the school office?

Face to face access to the school building will not be available for parents. There will be reduced telephone cover between 8.30am and 11.30am however any parental request / query will need to be directed to your child's teacher via Seesaw or emailed to mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk wherever possible. Discussions with teachers will be conducted by telephone or video conference and not within the school building at this time. We will be reviewing this as we proceed with our plan based on health and safety guidance.

What if my child, another child or staff member displays symptoms of Covid-19 whilst in school?

If a child shows symptoms, WG direct us to keep the child under supervision from a distance of over 2m in a separate in area / room away from others. Parents would be contacted to collect their child which should be done as soon as possible.

Will all children and staff be tested for Covid-19?

All symptomatic members of the public, including critical workers and children are now able to book a test for coronavirus. Information about this is available on <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test#section-43088>

What is the Test Trace Protect programme?

This strategy which was launched on 1st June sets WG's next phase in the approach to tackling coronavirus; testing people with symptoms in the community, tracing those who have come into close contact with people who have tested positive for coronavirus, and protecting family, friends and the community by self-isolating. More information is available on <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-your-questions>

Will my child be able to come to school over the Summer Holiday?

The Minister has stated that school will not be covering childcare during the Summer Holiday. The Local Authority are gathering information about this at present. At Barker's Lane, Wraparound Care Holiday Club are planning on opening with a restricted capacity. More information about this will be circulated when we have it available.

What will happen in September?

Indicators are that potentially there will be a blended approach of face to face contact teaching in school and some distance learning at home for the foreseeable future. Having the face to face contact with your child will be invaluable to maintain progress with learning and help keep them motivated, which we know has been difficult for many families. However as with everything else during this unprecedented situation, this is still unknown. Welsh Government will be releasing further information before the end of term regarding September. This will be shared with parents as soon as we have it.

When is the extra half term week?

The Minister has stated in her FAQs published on 10th June that this will be conformed as soon as possible. We will share these dates as soon as we are informed.

What if my child does not have access to a digital device?

Information was shared in May regarding WCBC policy for the loan of digital devices where children do not have access to a suitable device (a mobile phone is not deemed a device to access distance learning). There is eligibility criteria and a loan agreement is drawn up. We have a limited supply and some are already on loan, but if you would like any more information about this, please contact the school office.

We are still looking at how best to facilitate drop offs and pick ups. This will be communicated, well before your child's session.

If you have any other questions, please email the school office on mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk and we will endeavour to include them with some answers where we can, in our next update.