



LEARN TOGETHER

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

11th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

After almost six months, it has been a delight to welcome nearly all of the children back to school over the last week. Walking around, listening to chatter and joy in classrooms, seeing children playing with their friends and hearing how well they have settled back into school is fantastic.

I can't thank our staff enough for the tremendous amount of hard work they have put in to ensure that the children feel happy, safe and ready to learn back at school. I also would like to thank you as parents enormously for your support with ensuring all the changes we have made have gone smoothly and that your children were prepared for their return to school. We really appreciate how important and valuable our all-round partnership is. Most of all though, diolch yn fawr iawn to the children, the resilience they have shown and the way they have adapted to some significant changes amazes me everyday. We should all be extremely proud of them.

All of the procedures and measures that we have put in place will remain under review. Already since we have been back, the situation in the country is changing rapidly. Please be assured that anything that we do, has the safety of the children, our staff and the community at the forefront.

Our full risk assessment is on the school website along with updated booklets and other links. These can be found in our Parent section under Covid-19 Information, <https://www.barkerslaneprimary.co.uk/covid-19-information/>

There are a few things that have cropped up over the last week that we would appreciate support with:

- **Bringing things to school** – Children should only be bringing their water bottle, a healthy snack (Y1-6) and a packed lunch if they are not having school dinners please. No hand sanitiser should be brought to school, we have ample supplies which the children are supervised using. Early Years children do not need a snack. Fruit is provided for a small charge of £8.50 per half term for Nursery and Reception children only. This is payable online on your SchoolMoney app. *Mrs Bayley is in the process of adding any credit from last year onto accounts.*
- **Hometime**
  - **Main yard** - Please look out for your child coming to the top of the steps on the main school yard at hometime. Infant parents, please come forward to collect your child. Please leave the yard as quickly as possible after collecting your child and move away from the school gates.
  - **Parking at the back gate** – Please try to park well back from the gate and areas where parents are waiting to collect the children. Where possible, please can you avoid parking in Fernham Close itself as this then gives plenty of space for adults to socially distance and us plenty of visibility. If you are turning your vehicle in the close, please do this before pick up time or please wait until the area is fully clear.
  - **Y4, Y5 & Y6 children walking home** – Please email the school office if you wish to give permission for your child to walk home unaccompanied and have not done so already. Only children who walk to and from school unaccompanied are permitted to bring a mobile phone.
- **Clothing / Footwear** - Please ensure that your child can be independent as far as possible with the clothes and footwear that they are wearing. Younger children should only be wearing laced shoes / trainers if they can tie the laces themselves or you have done them up with a double knot in the morning.
- **Asthma Inhalers** – If your child has an inhaler, please ensure that we have this sent in to remain in school. Occasionally for a short period, some children only have one for home and school whilst waiting for another from the GP. If this is the case, please ensure we know about this to arrange home-school handover. As soon as possible, an inhaler (and spacer) to kept in school should be provided. Thank you.

We really appreciate all of your support with everything and empathise that some things are more difficult when you are rushing to / from work and managing a family. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

### Increasing Capacity on the School Site

Further to my letter at the end of August, you may have seen in local press that the planning applications are in the process of being made for increasing the size of the school building. As soon as we have any further information from the Local Authority to share with you, we will do.

### Wraparound Care and Free Breakfast Club

I have also been asked by Wraparound Care Club to provide you with some further information regarding booking and provision.

Due to restrictions on space within our hall and keeping class groups on tables together where the staff can, places at free breakfast club are much more limited. Please **only book your child in for a place if this is essential care** that you require to enable you to get to work. If you have alternative childcare or can make flexible work arrangements, please do so. Unfortunately we have families who really need the care who have struggled to book a place already.

### **Only children who are booked into free breakfast club can attend.**

Frustratingly, there have been cases of places being booked and then not used by families. If you need to cancel a place, please inform Mrs Brand as soon as possible as she is operating a waiting list. The place can then be released to another family. **In cases where places have been booked and the child does not attend on two occasions, without very good emergency reasons, future opportunity to book will be forfeited.**

If you are contacting school to say that your child will be absent because they have woken up that morning poorly, please let us know if they are booked into free breakfast club and we will pass the message to Mrs Brand.

Wraparound Care Club will be keeping this under review and if necessary may have to look at restricting use to groups of specific workers if this issue can not be resolved through families booking **essential care only**.

### Illness - Coughs, Colds, Flu and Covid-19

We all know that the season of coughs, colds and flu is descending upon us. **It is essential that if your child is unwell, for example coughing / sneezing, that they do not come to school.** We are not referring to a 'few sniffles' which require them to wipe their nose regularly, just coughing and sneezing.

Although this may appear frustrating and inconvenient, the aim is for schools is to ensure as many children as possible can attend as much as possible. One child coming into school, coughing and sneezing all over the place is highly likely to infect many others and our staff. Although this may just be a common cold, some other children or staff may then have to be away from school because they do become more poorly than the first child coughing / sneezing. Much of the evidence around Covid-19 suggests that many children are asymptomatic, so whilst we may think 'it's only a cold' - each cough or sneeze could be spreading other infection. **One child taking a couple of days off could prevent a number of other children and staff becoming poorly with a cold and having to be off school or prevent a class contact group having to isolate at home for fourteen days.**

If your child wakes up in the morning 'full of cold' and is coughing / sneezing regularly, firstly check their temperature, if this is 37.8°C or above, please book a test. If not just keep your child at home for a couple of days or until this passes. Please report any absence on the contact form on the school website or leave a message on the answer service. Please try to give us a little bit of detail about why your child is absent. If you are unsure about whether to send your child in, please give school a call just after 8am and one of our admin staff will help you.

Families have already been following these measures this week. Thank you for your support with this.

Early next week, consent letters will be sent home for the flu immunisation programme for Reception to Year 6 children. Full details will be emailed to you and shared on our school app and website news.

### What would happen if there was a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 reported in a class?

You may already have seen articles in the media about this. At Barker's Lane, at present, if we were informed that a child or staff member had tested positive for Covid-19 and had been in school within at least the previous 48 hours, parents would be contacted to collect their child from the class. Each child and staff member in the class would begin isolating at home. We would not be informing you about who has tested positive or any other personal information. Any other necessary contact would be made by the Track Trace and Protect service (TTP). Our understanding is that siblings / others in your household would not need to isolate unless your own child becomes symptomatic. There would be no need to close school unless we were informed to do so by Public Health Wales.

In these situations, class staff will be providing remote learning and be in contact on most days providing that they are well. *More information about how this would work will be coming home next week as we practise skills with the children.*

Please bear in mind that this is a rapidly changing situation and information is updated by Welsh Government and the Local Authority almost daily. Decisions have to be made very quickly and we appreciate your support and patience with this. I am expecting further information from the Local Authority early next week and will keep you updated.

I have had to tell myself many times since March, what I say to the children on a daily basis, 'we are only in control of our own actions and behaviours'. As a school, local and national community, what we all do is vital to keep others safe as well as ourselves, particularly those that are vulnerable and will be crucial to keeping services and schools open.

Thank you once again for all of the support that you show to us and the many, many kind words that we have received as you have brought your children back into school. They truly have meant so much to all of us.

Very best wishes



Mrs Edwards