



LEARN TOGETHER

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

24th November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you so much for the messages of support for the school and good wishes for our staff member who tested positive for coronavirus at the weekend. I don't have the words to express to you how much this means to us all, in this extremely challenging climate. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Wearing of face coverings – Updated Welsh Government Guidance

The Welsh Government has updated its guidance yesterday on the use of face coverings in schools. At Barker's Lane we already have the support of many parents with this at our request.

However Welsh Government have issued the following information below, now too:

'To reduce the risk of transmission amongst parents and relatives, please wear masks when visiting school, and at drop-off and collection areas. Maintaining clear social distance at the school gates will also reduce risk and set a good example to pupils'.

Please follow these guidelines and encourage your child to follow theirs too.

Along with regular hand washing/sanitising and social distancing, this will reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 at school as far as possible.

They have been made stronger to keep you and your families as safe as possible. They are based on new advice from Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Group, as we learn more about the way COVID-19 is transmitted.'

Drop Off / Hometown

As a school, please can we also ask that parents keep a close look out at hometown for handover, particularly with infant children to enable us to clear the site quickly and safely.

At hometown please wait on the main yard / on the waiting spots until your child is brought up to the yard for collection. This is also applicable for afternoon Nursery. Please **DO NOT** wait near the railings or allow older children to do this. Many thanks for your support.

Please **DO NOT** stand in / around the entrance or exit gates at any time. Please **DO NOT** be offended if you are standing in these areas and our staff or other parents ask you politely to move on. This is for the safety of us all – children, yourselves, school staff and our wider community.

Heating / Ventilation

Ensuring a balance between a warm, comfortable classroom and one which is well ventilated at this time of year is challenging. However, in our usual Barker's Lane way, we are doing everything that we can. Our heating is on fully and we are at times only cracking windows open to let fresh air in or ventilating the room when the children are outside.

Every year we have the problem of children sitting near blow heaters 'baking' and those near windows being a bit colder, however the need to keep some fresh air flowing exacerbates this.

Although we are complying with a reasonable working temperature which is defined as at least 16°C or more, some of us are warm, where some of us still may feel chilly (myself included!).

As the weather is getting colder, we ask that if your child has said that they are chilly at any time, **please send your child in to school wearing an additional layer over their sweatshirt if this is the case e.g. dark hooded jacket or fleece**, which they can pop on / off when they feel the need.

We do not want children being cold or asking to put their coat on if they are a bit chilly, particularly as the weather will also be getting wetter with coats being damp. Please send a fleece or another layer if your child would like this.

Wearing a vest or under layers would also be good, we would much rather children took their sweatshirt off rather than not have another layer to add if they were feeling a bit chilly at any point. Diolch yn fawr.

Illness - Coughs, Colds, Flu and Covid-19

We are extremely grateful for how vigilant you are with looking for any symptoms of covid-19 in your child or anyone in your household. Also for keeping school informed about what is going on.

Thank you also for your support in ensuring that **if your child is unwell, for example coughing / sneezing all over the place, that they do not come to school.**

Much of the evidence around Covid-19 still 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.

Please report any absence by emailing mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk or leave a message on the telephone absence 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.

Only by doing this together can we help to keep ourselves and others safe. As always, diolch yn fawr iawn for everything that you are doing to support our Barker's Lane family.

Kind regards



Mrs Edwards