



LEARN TOGETHER

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

10th December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds all of you well. We are all aware that these are extremely difficult times for all members of our community in Wrexham and we know that Covid-19 has impacted on many aspects of our lives.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the impact of Covid-19 on the end of term arrangements.

As you are probably aware, many pupils across schools have continued to experience disruption to their education during this time and we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases of Covid 19 amongst children and adults in Wrexham County Borough. As a result, many children and young people have been required to self-isolate. I am sure that you will join me in extending thanks to all of our school staff who have worked very hard to implement rigorous and robust safety measures and to do as much as they can to provide quality learning experiences. Your continued support and understanding in this situation is greatly appreciated.

All members of the Education Community are concerned about the rise in cases and the impact this is having on children and families. It has therefore been agreed with the Local Authority that **face to face learning will cease for all pupils at the end of Wednesday 16th December; and remote learning will be provided for all pupils on the 17th and 18th December.** The Local Authority has also agreed that on the basis of the circumstances of some individual schools, it may be necessary to make a local decision to move to remote learning earlier than Wednesday.

Having considered all of the factors with the Local Authority and our Chair of Governors, Barker's Lane **will close to pupils at the end of the day on Wednesday 16th December.**

We will be open to pupils on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. However in light of what has been published in the scientific report to Welsh Government <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-statement-regarding-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-pre-christmas-period> this week in relation to limiting contacts with others, I am happy to authorise absence for your child/ren next week if you choose to keep them home.

I feel that by offering to do this, I hope that this provides parents who need it with the security of knowing that school is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday but also affords others the opportunity to make any decisions that you need to or are able to depending on your work commitments.

If you choose to put provision in place for your child/ren to isolate and limit their contacts ahead of any celebrations you are having to keep older and vulnerable family members as safe as possible, please just email the school office on mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk stating this as the reason as soon as possible.

This will enable teachers to ensure that your child/ren can still have the opportunity to access education through a daily video from their teacher and some fun learning activities that we will be doing in school.

This is a very fast changing situation across the country. Most of you will know that throughout this challenging period since March, we have tried to be pro-active and communicate as much as we can to you as soon as we possibly can. If anything changes, please be assured, we will update as soon as we have the information.

Many of you may not be aware that schools are responsible for informing staff and parents on behalf of Track, Trace and Protect in the event of any positive cases.

I have to be honest and say that it fills me with dread that I may be in a position over the weekend, next week or at the beginning of the Christmas break where I have to contact families to ask your child or our staff to ask to isolate.

We do appreciate that there will be families who do not have the capacity to make any choices around limiting contacts due to work commitments both in the run-up and over the Christmas period.

The local authority and our school community are absolutely committed to offering the best provision under increasingly difficult circumstances and we recognise how worrying this situation must be for you.

For all of us though, I really hope that by as many people as possible in our communities following guidelines that we can get to the Christmas break and spend some time relaxing safely at some time over the season, protecting vulnerable members of our family and the community.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy a safe, family Christmas and that we can all look forward together to an improving situation in the New Year.

As always, diolch yn fawr for your much appreciated support.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Edwards".

Chris Edwards