



24th February 2021

Years 3 - 6

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you are all well and the children had some time to relax and have fun last week despite the current restrictions. Thankfully the numbers in Wrexham have continued to fall and we are in a position as a Local Authority to begin welcoming the Foundation Phase children back to school in a phased way from Friday.

You may also have heard during half term at the Welsh Government review that providing case rates continue to fall that schools will be able to begin phasing back junior pupils from 15th March. We will be beginning our planning for this next week in a staggered way similar to September.

We will be communicating this to you as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, please encourage your child to keep learning and to do what you can as a family. Whatever you can manage is enough. We're all tired out with this situation and thankfully a step towards normality seems to be on the horizon.

We want to get our junior children back to school as soon as we can safely do so, the WG review relies on the safe return of Foundation Phase children and the behaviour of everyone in the community. Our Minister, the Local Authority and schools need the support of parents / carers for this. The main messages we are communicating around school return are:

- Not to car-share when dropping off or picking up children.
- Move away from school premises quickly. Please do not congregate at the gates or wait around any longer than is necessary.
- Please do not let your children meet up with individuals / groups of children from other households outside of school, even children from their own class.
- Keep your child home from school if they are unwell – even if you do not think that it is coronavirus.

Check In and Catch Up Appointment

Once we know what is happening, you will be offered the opportunity to book a short virtual appointment with your child's teacher if you feel that you would like this. This will be a short catch up to see how your child is and will support us with our planning. More details will follow about this over the next week or so.

Risk Assessment

As you will appreciate we have had to review all of our measures again. The main messages in our Welsh Government guidance remain mostly unchanged but just ask schools to be as robust and consistent as possible.

There are some new measures set out by Welsh Government:

- Parents / carers should wear a good quality face covering when coming onto the school premises at all times.
- School staff have been offered twice weekly lateral flow testing to detect asymptomatic cases.
- Where social distancing is not possible in the classrooms, school staff may wear face coverings whilst teaching.

All of this is detailed in our updated risk assessment on the Covid-19 section of the school website:
<https://www.barkerslanepri.wrexham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Risk-Assess-V5-Feb-21.pdf>

Over the last half term, like many of you, I have read and heard such a mixed bag of praise and criticism for schools across Wales. However I can honestly say that at Barker's Lane we have received nothing but support from you as families which we have greatly appreciated.

The many messages of empathy for the lack of information we sometimes have had and the support we have received when having to make very difficult decisions and complex plans has been immense. This really has made all of the difference to our staff and me personally. Thank you so much for this.

Although we are all looking forward to welcoming children back to school, some of us will be a little anxious like some of you and your children. Please be assured that we will be continuing to do everything that we can to plan to settle your child back into school when it is safe to do so.

We are so proud of the children and are really looking forward to telling them this face to face before too much longer.

As always, thank you for your support, your confidence and trust in us.

Warm wishes



Chris Edwards