



LEARN TOGETHER

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

23rd March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of this term, I would like to thank you wholeheartedly once again for your support throughout the last year.

The children have settled back into school well, reconnecting with their friends and school staff. Our focus on well-being is vital to aid recovery from this past year. Thank you to parents who were able to complete the online questionnaire, your feedback is valuable to us.

Almost all parents who responded said that their child/ren felt as happy and settled back in school as they would expect them to be after this period at home and all parents who responded felt that the school was doing the very best it could in terms of well-being, learning and safety for their child/ren.

Diolch for putting your trust and having confidence in us to do the best we can for your children.

Our questionnaire with junior pupils reflects a similar picture, with overwhelming responses of *'seeing my friends, teachers and having fun'* to the open question *'What are you looking forward to about coming back to school?'*

Recovery Curriculum

The Education Minister has made it very clear that undue pressure should not be placed on the children to 'catch up' in a short space of time. As parents, you will know that terms like 'lost learning' and 'being disadvantaged' which are shared on news and social media, will not help a generation of children grow up with the positive mind-set that they are going to need as adults.

At Barker's Lane we will not be looking at this as 'lost learning' but will be continuing to develop our growth mindset culture to ensure all efforts, motivation and perseverance are aimed at the same goals for every child achieving as best they can in all areas of their learning.

Additional funding that is being provided to schools will be utilised to support our recovery curriculum with additional staff resources.

Building Update

Work continues to progress on the first part of our extension. Steel structures can now be seen and block work has commenced. Work is progressing on our new MUGA area which we are hoping to be able to use again sometime in early May.

Reads Construction are sharing progress on the following two sites for the community:

<https://www.facebook.com/Barkers-Lane-CP-School-Extension-Refurbishment-100258218759320>

https://www.readconstruction.co.uk/sectors/view/barkers_lane

PTA

Diolch to everyone who was able to join the virtual Easter Bingo last Friday. It was a great evening and a welcome event at this time. The Bingo raised a fantastic £460.

We still have the Easter raffle tickets on sale until 1pm tomorrow (Wednesday). The raffle will then be drawn during the afternoon. So far the raffle has raised an amazing £482.

The PTA still have a limited number of the knitted Easter chicks for sale which contain a chocolate egg. These are £1 and can be ordered by emailing mailbox@barkerslane-pri.wrexham.sch.uk with the subject line 'EASTER CHICKS'.

Thank you for all of this support. We recognise many families have been affected financially during this last year and that raising money of any amount is an additional pressure. All of the funds raised will be going towards digital and outdoor equipment for the children at school.

Is your child entitled to free school meals?

For many of us, our lives have changed emotionally and socially but also financially. Your child may now be entitled to free school meals. Your child is eligible if you or they are receiving the following:

- *Income Support (IS)**
- *Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)**
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Income-related Employment Support Allowance (IR)*
- *Child Tax Credit - providing you're not entitled to Working Tax Credit with an annual total income below the HMRC set limit*
- *Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*
- *Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit*

More information about how to apply is available on <https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/school-meals/free-school-meals>

If your child is receiving free school meals or you apply and they are eligible, you can also access the Pupil Development Grant which gives parents £125 towards school uniform, equipment, sports kit and other activities outside school.

These have been extended to new school years and to include laptops or tablets.

You can apply for this grant if your child is in:

- a Reception class
- in school years 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
- in a special school, special needs resource base or pupil referral unit and are aged 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15

For Year 7 learners the grant is £200, recognising the increased costs associated with starting secondary school.

Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year.

Funding for the 2020 to 2021 scheme is available **until the 30 June 2021**. The new scheme for 2021 to 2022 will be open from 15 July 2021.

More information on: <https://gov.wales/pupil-development-grant-access>

And finally....

One year ago today the country were told to 'stay home'. Our children had gone home from school the week before on an extended Easter holiday. Little did we know what was ahead of us. Terms like 'unprecedented', 'key workers' and 'bubbles' have become a common language we all understand.

All of us will have been affected by the last twelve months in different ways. Many of us will have missed the connections we have with others, been disrupted in our personal and work lives, affected financially or found balancing family life, work and home schooling a challenge at times.

For others, this last year has brought tragedy and heartbreak, losing loved ones. Our love and thoughts are with all of these people today.

I am so proud of all of our children, the staff and our relationship with you as parents which without a doubt has brought us through to this point together. We will all be anticipating there are still bumps in the road ahead, however hopefully the light we are being given at the moment will continue to see us through to better times ahead.

I hope over the Easter break, we get some sunshine and everyone gets some time to relax doing things that they enjoy and have time to spend together with loved ones.

Very best wishes



Chris Edwards

Please note: School is open on Friday 26th March. This is not a training day. Our training day has moved to Thursday 6th May due to the school being used as a polling station. School will be closed to pupils on Thursday 6th May.

Remaining Term Dates 2020-21 at Barker's Lane

Event	School Closes/Closed	School Opens
Easter	Friday 26 March*	Monday 12 April
May Day	Monday 3 May – school closed	
Polling Day	Thursday 6 May – school closed* <i>Staff training day in lieu of 26th March.</i>	
Half term	Friday 28 May	Monday 7 June
Summer	Wednesday 14 July	
<i>Training Days</i>	<i>Thursday 15, Friday 16, Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 July – school closed</i>	

** Please notice change of dates noted above.*