

Barrow Hill Primary Academy



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Thursday 27th August 2020

Plans for reopening in September

Dear parent/ carer

I hope this letter finds you well. The summer break is almost over, I hope you have all had opportunity to enjoy some sunshine, visit some lovely places and most importantly, spend quality time with your family.

Prior to the summer holiday I sent you all a letter detailing our plans for full reopening. All the plans remain the same. It is important you familiarise yourself with the procedures we will be following from next week. The letter is on the school website, under the parent's tab and is called '**Letter to parents regarding full reopening in September**'. Within this letter are specific details regarding start and finish times for all year groups and information related to the school day.

Staff will be attending school on Tuesday 1st September for an INSET day. During the day we will cover the usual beginning of the year training (safeguarding, staff handbook, policies) and we will also ensure our operational plan is ready for the following day when we welcome all children (reception to year 6) back to school. Before the holidays, teachers made phone calls to parents of vulnerable children or those with additional needs (SEND) to formulate a 'return to school' plan. If you were unavailable to receive this call we will be contacting you again on Tuesday afternoon.

I understand that many of you will have concerns and anxieties regarding your child's return to school. We hope to alleviate many of those concerns through careful planning, preparation and communication. We need your support to ensure these measures are implemented. The measures we have put in place are to protect your children, the community and staff. A home school agreement form will be sent out via text message later today for you to discuss with your child. This will make it clear the expectations we have in school.

In the meantime, if you have any specific concerns then please email them to response@barrowhill.derbyshire.sch.uk and a member of staff will call you on Tuesday afternoon.

Returning to school

All children and staff will be expected to attend school at the beginning of the new academic year. There is a letter on the school website under the 'Parents' tab with term and INSET day details. Please remember that school is open to children Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd September. Both Tuesday and Friday are INSET days. Nursery children will begin their staggered start from the week beginning 14th September. Children will experience the full national curriculum, although the delivery of this may differ from what children were previously used to. Expectations regarding behaviour, uniform, attendance and commitment to learning will remain the same. Detailed risk assessments have been carried out based on the DfE and DCC advice to ensure the safety of all children and staff. These will be published on our school website for parents to access under the 'COVID 19 Information and



Safeguarding' tab. These procedures are based on the most recent government guidance and are still subject to change.

We look forward to welcoming the children into their new classes next week. This is so we can practice the routines from the first day back. We appreciate how difficult this might be for some children, especially those currently in nursery, reception, year 2 and year 4 because they will experience a change in rooms and a new teacher. We will support this transition by moving adults around throughout the day. Children who are currently in reception and who are due to be Year 1 will still access Early Years every afternoon. We know how important that foundation stage curriculum is and we are keen to ensure that our children have the opportunity to develop those foundation skills further. Mrs Casson-Kenyon spoke with many families before the summer break but if you were unavailable we will try again on Tuesday discuss any concerns you might have and formulate a plan which will suit your child's needs.

Some children, and parents, may find it distressing to leave one another at the beginning of the school day. We ask for your support with this matter and for you to encourage your child to be independent. There will be both myself and Miss Ketton available in the morning to guide and support your child as well as your child's class teacher and teaching assistant. In reception and nursery Mrs Groves and Mrs Casson-Kenyon will ensure your child is met with a smiley face and a positive attitude. Our past experience has taught us that whilst children often find the initial separation from parents/ carers difficult they quickly become distracted with toys, their friends and exciting learning opportunities. If your child remains distressed for longer than we would expect we will contact you and look to find alternative solutions.

Personal Hygiene

Throughout the day, children will be reminded to practice safe hygiene. On entry to the school site, children must use the hand sanitiser provided. They must also sanitise on entry to every classroom space. Children must wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before and after eating. This is the biggest factor in reducing the spread of the virus. Children will be supervised sanitising at the start of every lesson. There will be plenty of signage displayed around school to remind children to do this. We will also use the EBug educational resources from Public Health England to share videos and lessons with the children about good hygiene practice. Tissues are available in all classrooms and children will be reminded about the importance of 'catch it, bin it, kill it.'

Attendance

As previously mentioned, all parents must send children back to school on a full-time basis from September. If children are unwell, parents/ carers should notify the school office by telephoning 01246 472494. Parents/ carers of children who are expected to attend will be contacted by a member of staff if we have not had any communication from you.

IMPORTANT

Under no circumstances should children, staff or adults attend school if they:

- Are unwell with a new persistent cough or a high temperature, or have a loss of, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- They have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- They have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period. They must restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms
- Live in a household (including any siblings) with someone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 14 days. These individuals should self-isolate for 14 days when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If a child shows symptoms of COVID-19 or is otherwise ill whilst at school then:

- They will be kept separate in a designated isolation area and supervised from a distance of 2 metres until they can be collected and taken home. If 2 metres cannot be safely achieved then the staff member will wear PPE. Children will need to be collected from the main playground entrance.
- Parents/ carers will receive a phone call from school informing them that their child is symptomatic. **It is important we hold up to date contact details in the school office.** When you arrive at the school gates we ask that you ring the office so that we can bring your child to the gate.
- Parents/ carers will receive clear guidance from the school on the next steps and will be provided with an information sheet to be taken home
- If clinical advice is needed, we will ring 111 immediately
- It is expected that you arrange a COVID-19 test for your child and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing coronavirus website or ordered by telephone via NHS 119. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.
- You will be expected to provide details of anyone you or your child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace

Breakfast, lunch time, snacks and water dispensers

As mentioned in my earlier letter, breakfast club will be unable to resume in September. All children will receive a free breakfast in their classroom (toast or bagel). Fruit and snacks will be available for children who require them at playtime – we request that parents do not send in snacks from home. In line with guidance, water dispensers will remain out of use. It is essential that all children bring their own water to school to drink during the day. Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms under the supervision of mid-day staff and teaching assistants. The two bubbles will remain separated during the lunch period and a staggered time will allow all children to receive a hot, fresh meal. Children will be able to choose their meal option at the beginning of the day. This may be limited initially. Children are welcome to bring a packed lunch from home.

Face coverings

Based on current evidence, Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in nurseries or primary schools.

This is because:

- children, young people and staff are mixing in consistent groups
- not using them correctly may accidentally increase the risk of transmitting the virus
- there may be negative effects on communications and therefore on your child's education

The guidance on face coverings will be kept under review. If your child wears a face covering to/ from school then please ensure the following:

- reusable face coverings are given to the parent/ carer to take home
- disposable face coverings are disposed of by the child in a bin liner on the playground before they enter school

Following government guidance, we do not expect children to wear a face covering in school. Children will not be permitted to wear, touch, play with face coverings within school unless agreed in advance between parents and senior leaders (Mrs Vodden-Page, Mrs Mappin, Mr Hall).

Public Transport

We understand that some of our families live out of the Barrow Hill village. Up to date information is provided by the government using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>. If you have concerns regarding your child's start/ finish time and public transport timetables then please contact school on Tuesday 1st September.

Visitors and parents on site

No visitors will be allowed in the school building during the school day unless an appointment has been agreed. Parents wishing to speak to someone in school should contact our school office who will support you and get somebody to contact you back, if necessary, within 48 hours. If your call is urgent, please let us know and we will endeavour to get back to within the school day. Parents/ carers are asked to avoid congregating outside the school gates. We expect our school numbers to be over 100 in the autumn term -the largest we have been for many years. The paths and pavements are all narrow and we only have 1 main entrance. For the safety of all children, staff and the community we ask that once you have dropped your child at the gates you leave the school premises. Please arrive to collect your child at your allocated time. Again, we request that parents do not meet outside the school gates before the end of the day.



Parent Pay and Cashless System

From the 1st September, Barrow Hill Primary will be moving to become a cashless school. This is in line with other schools in the area. This will reduce risk of transmission from home/ school and will ensure that money management of the school is easier and more efficient. An information sheet will be sent to parents next week regarding setting up Parent Pay.

Daily Mile

Every day, every child will participate in a daily mile walk/ jog/ run around the village. This will take place in the morning with a staggered start to ensure bubbles do not mix. Children in reception and nursery will have a shorter route initially. We believe that this daily exercise will help to create a positive start to the day as well as helping children maintain a healthy lifestyle. Children will not need to change clothes for the daily mile. Suitable footwear in the form of school trainers or well fitted shoes will be sufficient with school uniform and a jumper/ coat/ jacket. Please ensure your child is suitably dressed every day – we expect to complete our daily mile whatever the weather! PE kits will not be required for the first few weeks of term. Plenty of outdoor and fitness activities will be planned into the weekly teaching schedule. A letter regarding PE days will follow in due course.

Home Learning

We have been incredibly impressed with the response from some of our families with home learning during the last few months. Whilst some have found it stressful, others have enjoyed supporting their child with their learning. The use of Seesaw and Dojo will continue in September and should the need arise once again for home learning, we hope to be fully prepared and you fully supported. Letters will be sent to parents early in the new term with information regarding apps and website you need to download and access. These platforms will be used in classroom learning and children will be trained in their use.

and finally ...

Thank you for your continued support. As I have mentioned in my previous letters, it has felt like we have worked as a community to work through this pandemic. We have appreciated your comments and messages of support and we are grateful for your patience as we have worked through the guidance to provide the safest educational provision for our children and staff. We are all eagerly looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. Whilst the new term will be like none other ever faced we know you will continue to support us in making it the best it can be for the children. Please enjoy the rest of your holiday,

Kind regards

RSVodden -Page

Mrs Vodden-Page

School mobile numbers: 07518044820, 07518044764, 07592315067