

Barrow Hill Primary Academy



Address: Station Road, Barrowhill, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 2PG
Telephone: 01246 472494 **Email:** info@barrowhill.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website: www.barrowhill.academy **Twitter:** @hill_barrow

Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Plans for full reopening Monday 8th March

Dear parent/ carer

I hope this letter finds you well. Following DfE, government, local authority and CLT guidance; I am now in position to share with you our reopening plans for next week. This letter is quite long but I hope to cover all the main questions you have in relation to how we plan to fully reopen, safely. If you need further support, information or have any unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the usual communication methods – phone 01246 472494, message via Class Dojo, email headteacher@barrowhill.derbyshire.sch.uk, email info@barrowhill.derbyshire.sch.uk or ring the school mobile number during school hours. Further details regarding risk assessments can be found on the school website. <https://www.barrowhill.academy/>

Attendance

Every day of learning counts. If your child is going to achieve their very best they need to attend school every day. Attendance will once again be compulsory for all children. Derbyshire County Council have already issued guidance to school for us to follow should a child's attendance fall below a satisfactory level or if a child is absent without authorisation. If your child has underlying health conditions and you are concerned about them returning to school we suggest you contact your health care professional or GP to discuss these concerns. If your child is unwell and is displaying coronavirus symptoms, it is important they remain at home and you inform school. If someone within your household displays symptoms, it is important your household (including children) isolates and you book a test using the 119 booking system. Further information can be found at the end of the letter. If your child is unable to attend due to other illnesses then please report this absence through the school office by 9:30 am.

Bubbles

Children will form two bubbles in school. These bubbles remain unchanged from autumn term.

Bubble 1: Children in Chesterfield Class and Sheffield Class

Bubble 2: Children in Manchester Class and London Class

Wherever possible we will avoid these two bubbles mixing. Under DfE guidelines staff are able to work across bubbles in school to ensure our full timetable can be delivered.

Start and end times

To reduce the number of parents/ carers arriving at school at the same time we have implemented a staggered start and finish time to the school day. Please see the table below for the start and end times for your children. If you have more than one child in school, you need to arrive at the earliest time for the beginning of the school day. Older children can enter their classroom early. At the end of the day please collect your oldest child first from the playground. If your youngest child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 they will be waiting for you at the top playground door.

	EYFS Chesterfield Class Mrs Casson- Kenyon and Sam	Y1/2 Sheffield Class Miss Kershaw and Miss Hindle	Y3/4 Manchester Class Mr Hall, Mrs Smitheman and Mrs Davis	Y5/6 London Class Mr Szadura and Miss Ketton
Start Time	08:55	08:50	08:45	08:40
Entrance	Early years playground	Main playground top door	Main playground, through the office gates and down the side of the school	Main playground, classroom doors
End time	15:15	15:10	15:05	15:00
Collection from	Early years playground ** unless there is an older sibling in school in which case collect from the main playground, top door at the earlier time of their sibling	Main playground top door	Main playground, office gates	Main playground, classroom doors

Lateness

It is vital that children are punctual and arrive at their allocated time. There will be nowhere for parents/ carers/ families to wait so please do not arrive early. If you are likely to be late we request that children arrive at school after 9 am to avoid mixing with other parents/ children.

Contact with staff

Unfortunately, there will be no opportunity to speak with your child's class teacher either before or after school. Miss Ketton will be available in the morning if you have any significant concerns you need to make school aware of. If you wish to contact your child's class teacher then please ring the school office to make a call back appointment, send a message via Class Dojo or send an email to one of our school email addresses.

Uniform

Our uniform policy will once again apply next week. We understand that clothing and footwear shops are not currently open so we will be relaxed in our approach. We do ask that where uniform still fits, children wear it. If your child is unable to wear their uniform, please let us know. Children will be expected to wear:

- Grey/ black trousers or skirt
- White t-shirt/ shirt
- Royal blue jumper/ cardigan
- Black shoes/ trainers
- Blue and white gingham dress



Our regular logo uniform supplier, ACE sports, is not currently open. Blue jumpers are available to buy in local supermarkets.

PE and the Daily Mile

With spring around the corner bringing warmer, drier weather we will be restarting our PE curriculum. Your child will be expected to arrive at school and spend the day in their PE kit on their designated PE days. Please ensure that PE kits provide enough warmth throughout the day. Jogging bottoms, tracksuits, jumper, hoodies will all be needed to ensure that children are not cold. All PE activities will take place outdoors. Please see the table below for the day your child will need to wear their PE kits with trainers.

Class	PE Day – need to wear PE kit all day at school
Chesterfield (reception)	Monday
Sheffield	Thursday
Manchester	Tuesday
London	Wednesday

Every day, the children will begin the day with a daily mile exercise around the village accompanied by their class teachers. Children require suitable footwear but will not be expected to change clothes.

Swimming lessons for year 5 and year 6 continue to be suspended.

Classroom doors and windows will remain open throughout the day to ensure there is a constant supply of fresh air. This may result classrooms feeling cooler than usual. Please ensure your child has a jumper/ cardigan in school and a suitable rain coat. They are welcome to bring an additional layer e.g. hoodie, zipped jacket. Please ensure that clothing items which are not part of the school uniform policy are suitable for school.

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.'

Book Bag, personal items and water bottles

Children will not be required to bring any equipment into school. Each class developed a system for sending reading books home and quarantining before they were used again. Your class teachers will provide more information via Class Dojo and in their class letters. Children will not be allowed toys or teddies from home so we appreciate your support by explaining this to your child.

The shared water fountain will be out of use for children. Your child **must** bring a filled water bottle to school with their name clearly labelled. Tuck shop will reopen, each class will have a selection of



items. It is £1 for 5 items. Please send the correct change at the beginning of the week. Once paid, the children can then choose their items on each subsequent day.

School meals

Children who are free school meals will continue to be provided with free school meals. We hope to return to a hot meal choice each day but there may be occasions when options are reduced due to our catering company. Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. If your child has a packed lunch they will need to bring their dinner in a lunch bag with their name clearly labelled. Packed lunch children will also need to bring their own cutlery as this will not be provided by the kitchen (e.g. a spoon for a yoghurt). I hope to share with you the new spring menu from Caterlink shortly.

Settling in

We appreciate how difficult next week will be for many children. The children who have been accessing school-based provision will be supported this week in preparation for full, normal classes next week. The children who have been remote learning from home will have lots of support from their class teachers, support staff and learning mentor, Miss Ketton. Staffing will be the same as before Christmas. Mrs Groves is still absent from work due to a long term illness, but Sam and Mrs Casson-Kenyon will continue to support and work with our Early Years children. Our first week of learning will ensure that children have time to talk about their feelings, worries, concerns and share their experiences of learning since January. I am sure most children are eager to get back to school to see their friends and their teachers and I am sure that within a few hours, those nerves will settle and all will enjoy being back at school. Please remember that this is also an anxious time for staff. We are looking forward to having all children back but staff are worried about the challenges COVID continues to present us with. Your continued support and understanding is greatly appreciated. We might not get all of the systems right to begin with and where needed, we will change what we are doing. Your feedback, as always, is welcome.

Breakfast

Daily breakfast will continue to be served in classrooms. All children have the offer of a free breakfast at school. We thank Magic Breakfast for supporting us with this.

Fareshare

Fareshare have continued to provide our school and wider community with a wide range of food over the last few months. We will continue to receive their deliveries on a Tuesday and set an outdoor stall on the playground for you to collect. Further details will be sent each week via text message.

Curriculum

We are committed to providing our children with a broad and balanced curriculum. We appreciate that children will have had mixed learning opportunities over the last few months, but we want to be clear about our school position – we do not believe that any child has 'lost' any learning or require an intense programme to 'catch up'. There will be skills and knowledge that we would have expected the children to acquire over the last few months had they been in school each day and this may not have happened. As skilled teachers, we will adapt our plans and teaching style to ensure our curriculum moving forward enables our children to make the most amount of progress possible. I hope to share plans with you later in the term about how we plan to use some additional money from the government to further enhance and enrich the experiences of our children.



Over the next few weeks, time will be spent supporting children's mental health and wellbeing. For all children, it will take some time to readjust and settle into their new routines. Miss Ketton is currently undertaking mental health training which she will share with staff in school.

Cashless school

In September, we started our journey to becoming a cashless system for school dinners and educational visits. Our aim is to use Parent Pay to pay for all school items. If you are not yet set up with Parent Pay or you require any further support, then please contact the school office.

Asymptomatic Testing

Up to one in three people who have the virus have it without symptoms (they are asymptomatic) so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. Rapid asymptomatic testing means that staff in school are able to test themselves at home twice a week. It is believed that this approach will help to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmissions. Along with staff testing, we continue to put in place a range of protective measures to minimise the risk of infection spread. In addition to staff testing, the government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. This will begin on the 8th March. The government statement can be found using the link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=813f5236-80a6-4440-bd45-db9f6692837d&utm_content=immediately

I will provide you with further information about how you can order testing kits for your families when it is released. **There is no current plan to introduce rapid testing to primary age children in school.**

Laptops

We were fortunate to receive 25 digital devices from the Department of Education to support with remote learning over the last few weeks. The devices need to be returned to school next week so that we can prepare for their use during learning time in school, and also have ready in the event of a bubble closure. Please can you send the device with your child along with the charging cable, case (if one was provided) and any other equipment you were issued with.

Lockdown

Whilst it is reassuring to see the rate of infections, deaths and hospitalisations decrease; we still must remember we are in a national lockdown. We appreciate your co-operation in following the lockdown rules. The return of children to school means that now, more than ever, we must work as a community to keep one another safe. Dropping off and collection from school is an essential journey but should not be used to socialise and meet with friends, family and neighbours. We politely request you follow our previous policy:

- 1 adult accompanying the children to and from school
- maintain strict 2 metre social distancing from other families
- move away from the site as soon as you have dropped off/ collected your children

- Wear a face covering unless you have a medical exemption
- Arrive at your allocated time

These measures are here to protect the community and following them keeps us all a little safer.

Miss Ketton

I am delighted to tell you that Miss Ketton has been successful in securing a new position within Cavendish Learning Trust. After Easter, she will begin her new role as Early Help Manager. This is an exciting opportunity for Miss Ketton, managing Early Help provision across all 4 schools in the trust; Barrow Hill, Gilbert Heathcotes, Dunston Primary and Netherthorpe. The skills, expertise, care and dedication that Miss Ketton brings to her role as learning mentor at Barrow Hill will now be used wider to support more families and children. Whilst it will mean change for Barrow Hill, it also means we keep a talented practitioner in our trust. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Miss Ketton and wishing her well in her new role. We will all miss not having Miss Ketton working every day at Barrow Hill and she is going to be missed by staff, children and many families. Further details of what her new role involves and how we plan to fill some of the current roles Miss Ketton has at Barrow Hill will be sent out in due course.

And finally...

Well done for getting to the end of a very long letter. I hope all of your concerns have been alleviated and your questions answered. If you need any further information, then please just get in touch.

I feel very proud and honoured to have led Barrow Hill Primary Academy over the last few months. Your support has made an enormous difference to what we have managed to achieve. We understand that it has been challenging, stressful and for many, lonely but we hope now that the worst is over and we are on our way to a normal way of life. Whilst there are many negatives as a result of this pandemic, there are also positives to be recognised; increased time spent with families, quality home learning time with children, new skills learnt and new technologies embraced, a sense of community grown, an appreciation for the things we took for granted prior to lockdown – these all should be celebrated and I hope, continue.

We understand that there is a way to go and the next few weeks and months will no doubt throw further challenges our way, but as always, we will face and overcome those challenges together. Please enjoy the rest of the week, Sunday evening will require and early night ready for what is set to be a very busy week. We look forward to seeing you all and welcoming the children back to school on Monday morning.

Kind regards

RSVodden-Page

Mrs Vodden-Page

School mobile numbers: 07518044820, 07518044764, 07592315067

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 10 days. These individuals should self-isolate for 10 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