

# Barrow Hill Primary Academy



**Address:** Station Road, Barrowhill, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S43 2PG  
**Telephone:** 01246 472494 **Email:** [info@barrowhill.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@barrowhill.derbyshire.sch.uk)  
**Website:** [www.barrowhill.academy](http://www.barrowhill.academy) **Twitter:** @hill\_barrow

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear parent/ carer

## The new academic year 2021-2022

I hope you have had a restful and safe summer holidays and have managed to spend quality family time together. With the new term approaching, I wanted to update you on a few matters. School is open tomorrow for staff (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September) but we will be training in the morning so unable to answer the phone or respond to any queries. Please ring in the afternoon if you would like to speak with a member of staff. **Children are due to return on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.** I understand this is an unusual first day back but this is due to the term dates set by Derbyshire. An additional bank holiday to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee has been granted to schools. We have placed this at the end of Autumn term allowing an earlier break up for Christmas than the Derbyshire dates. Please add these dates to your calendars, they have been amended slightly since the last time I wrote to you.

### Attendance and term dates

It is expected that all children will return to school at the beginning of the new term. Previously shielding adults and children are no longer expected to shield under the current guidelines. We appreciate this may create anxiety and worry in some households and we are happy to talk through any concerns you may have.

If children are unwell, parents/ carers should notify the school office by telephoning 01246 472494 before 9am. The school office will ring if we have not received any communication explaining an absence. Holiday's during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Further details can be found on the Attendance Policy which is located on the school website under the policies tab.

Summer 2021	
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	School closes for the summer holidays
Autumn 2021	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021	School opens – autumn term 1
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	INSET Day - school closed to all children
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	School closes – half term
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	School opens – autumn term 2
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	School closes – Christmas holidays
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021	School closed (in lieu of Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday)

<b>Spring 2022</b>	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	School opens – spring term 1
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	School closes – half term
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	School opens – spring term 2
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	School closes – Easter holidays
<b>Summer 2022</b>	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	School opens – summer term 1
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	School closes – half term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	School opens – summer term 2
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	School closes – summer holidays

### **School Uniform**

A letter was sent out prior to the summer holiday detailing changes to our uniform policy to include unbranded jogging bottoms and hoodies. This will help children during the cooler weather and PE days. A copy of this letter can be found on the parent's tab on the school website. It is expected that all children return to school wearing the correct school uniform. It is an important part of our culture and unites us as a school team. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### **School Routines**

From September, schools are no longer required to group children into smaller bubbles. This means we are able to return to some of our more 'normal' routines. Please see below details regarding our routine changes:

#### Start of the school day

08:25-08:45: Breakfast club reopens in the hall, free of charge, to all children from reception up to year 6 (nursery children receive their breakfast in the classroom). Parents/ carers must bring children to the playground gates no later than 08:40 to ensure children have time to eat their breakfast before the start of learning time. Children will say goodbye to their parents at the school gates and will be supervised by the Breakfast Club staff in the hall. If you do not want your child to attend Breakfast Club then please arrive at the school gates for 08:45. Children in reception may join the Breakfast Club and enter via the playground gates. Alternatively, they may go to Early Years gates at 08:45 and receive their breakfast in the classroom. We are unable to provide Breakfast Club to nursery children due to staffing ratios.

Registers close at 08:55. Children who arrive after this time will be marked as late. If you are unable to arrive at school on time due to public transport or a different reason then please speak to a member of staff.

#### End of the school day

The school day will finish at 15:15 for all children. Please wait outside the main playground gate where a member of staff will ensure that all children are collected safely by a trusted and familiar



adult. If you would like your child to walk home by themselves or with a friend, please inform the school office and your child's class teacher. As part of our safeguarding procedures, we will only send children out of the gates to adults we know. If a different adult/ carer is collecting your child at the end of the day, please inform a member of staff or contact the school office. We may experience a delay the first few days when dismissing the children as we get used to the new routine.

## PE

PE lessons will once again resume indoors during wet and cold weather. Children should arrive at school wearing their PE kits on their class PE days. More information will follow. Full details of our uniform can be found on the school website under the parents tab. Clothing must be unbranded and suitable for the PE lesson. Children with pierced ears must remove their earrings or apply medical tape (supplied from home). Children in Y5 and Y6 will start swimming later this term. A letter will be sent to parents next week.

## Letters and money

We continue to be a cashless school. Payment for dinner money and school visits should be made via Parent Pay. If you require login details or support with the system, please contact Lynne in the school office. We will also continue to communicate via electronic letters using the email address we hold on the school system. If you do not currently receive emails or would like to add/ change the email address we store for you, please contact the school office. Letters will also be sent via Class Dojo and uploaded to the school website. Electronic forms will continue to be used to reduce administrative duties and paper use.

## Tuck Shop

Year 6 prefects will be appointed to operate our healthy school tuck shop. This service will restart next week. Tuck items can be purchased for 20p each or £1 for the week. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to add this to Parent Pay. Children who bring £1 on a Monday can then choose an item each morning.

## Lunch Time

Children will continue to be offered a daily meal provided by Caterlink or bring a packed lunch. For children ordering a school meal, selections are made each morning when their class teacher completes the daily register. A menu will be sent home next week (one is displayed in each classroom). The children can choose from a hot meal, a freshly prepared sandwich with a filling of their choice or a hot jacket potato with a filling of their choice. Meals will be eaten in the hall with their class friends.

## **Staffing Updates**

We are looking forward to welcoming new members of staff to our team this term. Miss Crawford will be supporting children in Y3 and Y4 in a morning then Y1 and Y2 in an afternoon. Mr Dutton will work with Y5 and Y6 in a morning then as our HLTA every afternoon delivering RE and PE lessons. Miss Benson also joins us to work with children who have additional needs. Mrs Lawes will continue to work in Early Years supporting children and teaching on Thursday afternoons and all-day Friday.

## Safeguarding and Early Help

I am pleased we were able to offer additional support to families over the summer holidays via our Fareshare deliveries, Amazon Magic Breakfast food parcels and weekly open playground. Thank you to the staff who supported with this, especially Miss Ketton, Miss Hindle and Sam; I know how much the local community have appreciated this support throughout Covid and I would like to reassure you all that we will continue to find ways to offer this service moving forward.

## Covid

Whilst many of the measures we previously had in place have now been reduced, in line with government guidance, we are still aware that Covid-19 is a serious illness effecting the lives and health of so many. Our plans and procedures remain flexible and should further measures need to be reinstated, we will not hesitate to do so. We will continue to follow the advice given by the DfE and Public Health England and hope that the future is healthier and safer for us all. Children will still be encouraged to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene throughout the school day, staff continue to take part in twice weekly testing and classroom doors/ windows will remain open to improve ventilation and air circulation. We will continue to minimise the number of visitors to the school site during the school day. Children under the age of 18 are no longer required to isolate if a member of their household tests positive for Covid-19. Test and trace are responsible for tracing positive cases and contacts following positive cases related to school. If you require specific guidance, support or advice, please visit the government website using the link below.

The latest government advice for parents and carers can be found [here](#):

### **If you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test**

Do not send your child to their nursery, childminder, school, college or to an entry test for a selective school if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)

You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

If you insist on your child attending nursery, school, or college when they have symptoms, they can take the decision to refuse your child if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Their decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.



## **Devices**

Please return loaned devices for remote learning back to school next week. These will be used during learning time.

**And finally**, thank you. Last year was incredibly challenging. We are all optimistic about what this year will bring and look forward to resuming some of the activities we have been unable to take part in due to Covid. We are, however, in the words of Mr Johnson 'cautious' and as a group of staff, nervous. We may not get everything right straight away and we ask for your patience and continued support as we try to establish our routines. Parent forums, virtual meetings and surveys will be used this year to ensure those lines of communication remain open and for you to share your ideas about how we can be even better. We look forward to seeing more of you and sharing the successes of the school and your children.

Enjoy the last part of the summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all on Friday morning.

Kind regards

Mrs Vodden-Page