

Barrow Hill Primary Academy



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Friday 12th November 2021

Dear parent/ carer

I hope this letter finds you well. What a great return to school we have had since half term. Following our brief period of remote learning due to Covid related absences, the vast majority of children and staff have returned to school fit and healthy; ready to learn! As I am sure you are aware, this half term is usually the busiest of the year so I have tried to inform you of all the events we have scheduled. At present, we are unable to say with certainty how all the events will operate but we will risk assess everything we plan to do and implement measures to keep the community safe. We understand how difficult it was to miss nativity plays and special Christmas events last year so we are working really hard to find ways of inviting you in to enjoy Christmas with us.

We are also mindful of how many extra-curricular activities and educational visits that our children have missed the last two academic years. Our aim to plan as many special days and events as possible to ensure our children continue to #DreamBig and learn through real life experiences. Your support in paying for these events via Parent Pay and completing digital consent forms helps us to plan more efficiently. If you are having difficulties with Parent Pay, please contact the school office. Cavendish Learning Trust is a cashless organisation and all families across the schools are expected to pay for events and items using Parent Pay.

Play Together

Play Together is back! It has been so nice to welcome the youngest children in community and their parents into our group. The group is aimed at children who have not yet started reception (full time school) so please share with friends in the community who may be interested in joining the group. Everybody is welcome. Sam and Mrs Smitheman will continue to host the sessions on the following days: *(please not a later start time for the next two weeks due to Bikeability in the hall)*

Tuesday 16th November 2021: 1:45 pm-3:00 pm

Tuesday 23rd November 2021: 1:45 pm-3:00 pm

Tuesday 30th November 2021: 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Tuesday 7th December 2021: 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

NO Play Together on the 16th December or 21st December due to Christmas events

Please arrive at the school office for 1:25 pm. Lynne will then take your details for fire evacuation purposes. We ask that adults/ children do not attend the sessions if they have any of the three main Covid symptoms, have tested positive within 10 days, are awaiting PCR test results, have tested positive via a lateral flow device or have been asked to isolate via test and trace. It is advisable to take an LFD test before entering school as an added layer of protection for those in the group.



Head of Academy: Mrs Rebecca Vodden-

Covid Safety Measures

We are still ensuring that rooms are well ventilated, children are regularly sanitising and we are cautiously starting to invite visitors into school again. Classroom windows and doors remain open so please ensure your child is wearing their school hoodie/ jumpers/ cardigans in school. It is expected that all children are wearing their **school uniforms** apart from PE days when they should be wearing **PE kits**.

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.

Trainee Teachers

Starting Monday, we will be having trainee teachers visiting Barrow Hill on teaching practice placement from Sheffield Hallam University. Miss Whiteley will be working in Lowry class and Miss Cooper in Sir David Attenborough. This will be their first placement and we look forward to giving them a warm welcome

End of the school day

The end of the day causes much stress to Miss Hindle who tries incredibly hard to ensure that all children are dismissed safely to their parents. In the hope that we can try and be more efficient, from Monday we are going to trial opening the gates and inviting parents onto the playground at 3:15pm to wait for their child to leave their classroom. Miss Hindle will stay at the gate to ensure that children do not leave the site unsupervised and class teachers will ensure that children go to their adult. If the new system does not work we will review and make changes.

Important Dates for your diary

Autumn 2021	
Tuesday 16 th 23 rd November 30 th November and 7 th December	Play Together 13:45-15:00 Play Together 13:30-15:00
Tuesday 16 th and 23 rd November	Bikeability – reception children
Tuesday after school football club	Y5/6– 15:15–16:15. Consent forms must be filled out.
Thursday 18 th November	Reception to Year 6 Educational visit to Magna (no nursery provision for the day)
Friday 19 th November	National Kids Take over the Museum Day Year 5 and Year 6 will take over the Roundhouse for the day. All children will visit in the afternoon. Y5/6 will need a packed lunch
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need Children may dress in non-uniform and wear any Children in Need merchandise they already have such as headbands, badges, t-shirts. There will also be a colouring competition to design a bandana or complete some mindfulness colouring. The entry fee for the competition is £1. Prizes will be awarded by the school leadership team for the winning entries
Friday 26 th November 2021	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Thursday 2 nd December 2021	Friends of Barrow Hill Christmas Fayre 2:00pm-3:15pm Further details will be provided closer to the time
Thursday 9 th December 2021	KS2 Christmas Carols Performance PM
Friday 10 th December 2021	Pantomime Reception to Year 6 visit to watch Beauty and the Beast and Chesterfield Pomegranate. Please wear your Christmas Jumpers!
Tuesday 14 th December 2021	EYFS parent's morning 09:00-11:00 - Parents of children in nursery and reception are invited to join with Early Years celebrating Christmas. There will be Christmas songs, crafts snacks and play.
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	EYFS and KS1 Performance 09:15-10:00
Thursday 16 th December 2021	EYFS and KS1 Performance 13:30-14:15 – Children may go home afterwards
Friday 17 th December 2021	Christmas Dinner Day All dinners must be ordered in advance. Christmas Film Afternoon
Monday 20 th December 2021	Christmas Party Day Children will have class parties to celebrate Christmas. Lists of suggested food items to bring along will be sent by class teacher via Class Dojo

Tuesday 21 st December 2021	End of term Celebration Assembly 13:30 start. We hope to invite parents/ carers to the assembly but will risk assess closer to the time.
Tuesday 21 st December 2021	School closes - Christmas holidays
Wednesday 22 nd December 2021	INSET Day - school closed to all children
Thursday 23 rd December 2021	School closed (in lieu of Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday)
Spring 2022	
Monday 10 th January 2022	School opens - spring term 1
Friday 18 th February 2022	School closes - half term
Monday 28 th February 2022	School opens - spring term 2
Friday 8 th April 2022	School closes - Easter holidays
Summer 2022	
Monday 25 th April 2022	School opens - summer term 1
Monday 2 nd May 2022	May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
Friday 27 th May 2022	School closes - half term
Monday 6 th June 2022	School opens - summer term 2
Friday 22 nd July 2022	School closes - summer holidays

Staffing

It is with sadness that I must inform you all that Lynne has taken the decision to leave Barrow Hill. She has worked at our school for over 4 years and over that time, has made relationships with our families and all of the staff. Lynne is kind, hardworking, supportive, a wonderful colleague and a great advocate for our school. I will miss Lynne's stories and the fact that she somehow seems to know or be connected to every visitor who enters our school. I know many of you will miss Lynne's friendly voice at the end of the phone and she leaves her position with big boots to fill. Before Lynne's time at Barrow Hill, she worked for many years in the civil service. She has always worked hard to support her family and thoroughly deserves to enjoy every minute of her retirement. Lynne has promised to keep in touch and I am sure that if we ever need cover in the office, Lynne will be there. We are yet to appoint a School Business Assistant to take over Lynne's role; once I have more information I will update you.

And finally, I know we have been sending out lots of letters and information asking for money for trips, visits and special events. We are going to be sending out some more next week but for events due to take place after Christmas, some in the summer term. If you are experiencing difficulty in paying for school visits, please pick up the phone and speak with us. We are unable to fully subsidise trips but we are working hard to raise funds from charity events and local businesses to support our families. We aim to have our visits on Parent Pay several weeks/ months before payment is due so that families can pay little and often. Our goal is to enrich the lives of the children by taking them to special places and events and we appreciate your support in trying to make these events happen.

I hope you all have a relaxing weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Vodden-Page