

*Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson*

## Barley Lane School

*Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork*

28th January 2021

Dear parents and carers and colleagues, governors and supporting professionals,

Demand for more schooling is growing and we are meeting it as best we can but a few things to consider.

- We must prioritize those who are most vulnerable at home and in their communities and safety and safeguarding are a greater priority than learning and we have to be transparent about this.
- We may be able to offer some limited outreach and again children's safety comes first that said we recognize all our children's wellbeing matters and will do all we can to accommodate those who are safe at home but would benefit from more access to exercise and fun stuff and some 1-1 care.
- In school it may have to be a different teacher or work-space to offer more time and it is simply not possible in some cases to meet the requests of some children for example for only a female or particular and specific teacher or teachers.
- If a child or young person persistently doesn't take up the offer of time in school and or outreach we will have to offer it to other children because there is no legal requirement for children to be in school at this time and we must encourage and facilitate attendance for all those who want to attend.
- It remains true that the tiny minority of young people persistently and habitually breaching the lockdown and so the law and freely associating with others in their local communities will not be welcome in school to protect the large majority of children and their families who are behaving responsibly and safely but we will look at pragmatic ways to support and keep them safe.

Our overall attendance is around 55% and that compares with 30% nationally in special schools and 59% in Devon so we are doing ok but can always and want to do better.

*Michael*

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