

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

10th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

In such tough times and with retirement at the end of the school year any natural tendency in me to be sometimes unhelpfully candid and open is of course going to be encouraged further.

I want to be clear with you all I have not directed or told the team here to do anything but instead consulted with them in all things and we have found common ground and agreement on how to respond throughout the period of Covid crisis as both a group and individuals.

The team is a diverse one in every way and each one of them has a voice and is heard and this in a context where cleverness too comes in many different shapes and sizes: we have people here who are very capable and clever with degrees from top universities and GCSEs and A levels to die for but equally we have incredibly capable and clever people with little or no formal qualifications and everything in-between and people's worth and contribution and abilities are not defined by their role or experience but the quality of their ideas and that contribution.

Put them all together and they make one big and very powerful brain and so I talk with and listen to all of them: we meet most often as a whole group albeit socially distanced twice daily and there are few layers of management but a very flat structure so everyone is consulted with and everybody heard.

Why am I sharing this? Most of the team have now received their first vaccination and in a week or so they will have some limited immunity and I have asked them can they accommodate more children as a result and if at home could they return to work sooner?

Theirs is a rational response "based on the science" and the emerging feedback is no but that does not change what I have shared throughout with you that we will work creatively to keep accommodating more children more of the time and the message is still keep talking to and sharing with your child's teacher and HLTA and as we say here "work the problem" and together agree a doable solution.

Michael

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Andy Guy	07860846279
Kitchen/PR	07860846281
Vicki Parr	07860846285
Vicki Sessions	07860846270
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