

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

30th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We need both your help and to give you all a heads up.

I wrote to you all (please see the letter 09.09.21 in Headteacher updates on the website) about internet and online safety and must write to you again now to reinforce our reasonable expectations around mobile phones: They have no place in school.

The children can make poor decisions with their phones and it is for this reason and many others we hold our position that they are not allowed in school. What is the point in secure filters on our own IT systems if children can access the internet on their phone? Phones are not needed and create all kinds of risks and mischief and distractions in school.

We make exceptions again for exceptional circumstances, for example children who travel independently to school for their safety and security; they hand then in to the office on arrival in school. Children with a close relative seriously unwell in hospital have for example had their phone held in the office so they can be reassured mum or dad can keep in touch easily and they can check in with and update them throughout the day.

The bottom line is what the children and young people bring to school is wholly out of our control and the responsibility of parents and carers; please then ensure your child does not have a mobile phone when he leaves the house each morning.

Decisions in school are based on the notion of “on balance of probabilities” and if we believe a young person has a phone we will first remind them they are not allowed to have one and then ask them to hand the phone over; we will alert you on the first occasion to allow you to intervene and so avoid any repeat and so escalation from us.

From then on any repeat will lead to a fixed term exclusion of one day with any further repeats in any term leading to an increase of a day so the second time will be two days and so on...We will continue to negotiate on which day the exclusion is applied to help parents and carers make childcare arrangements and to help avoid any difficulties in their working lives.

The decision to exclude is not something we will discuss or negotiate and if we decide there has been a breach we will act on it.

This letter is our clear and fair notice of the consequences of allowing your child to bring a mobile phone to school.

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

Mr Jones and team at Barley Lane School