

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



## Barley Lane School

*Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork*

10.09.21

Dear parents and carers,

Another letter early on, however I feel it is important to share some significant news with you and to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

September is always a busy time and indeed this is the case for every school. Currently, we face innumerable and significant staffing challenges so please bear with us while we seek to rectify them. Despite these challenges, nearly all the children have returned and it is fantastic to see them happy and smiling; anxious in some cases as well of course and this is wholly understandable. Changes, however small, affect us all in some way and we are here to help. 😊

As you know, the staff here are an amazing group and we have some excellent new additions to the team, having said goodbye to some equally brilliant and committed and retiring staff (and friends) in the summer, and others enjoying new experiences. We wish them all the best for the future and miss them!

Unfortunately, there is some bad news as well. We have some staff who are absent and quite ill and we are doing all we can to support them and help them to get better and return to work when the time is right. We have also lost key staff to serious injury incurred over the summer break that will take weeks and perhaps months to resolve; their privacy and long-term well-being is all that matters to us as a community and we wish all absent staff a rapid return to full health. Recruitment is ongoing and as you know recruitment in the wider community has become a huge challenge for employers and requires patience, skill and sensible caution amongst all the urgency.

As a small organisation, this can impact us greatly, but rest assured staff here are, in typical fashion, 'taking up the slack' by absorbing additional workload and responsibility. There is a limit to what we can do sometimes, yet we are all going those essential extra miles to ensure that the children are blissfully unaware and come to school, experiencing 'normality'; it is the least they deserve and the last two years have impacted them that perhaps is too early to measure.

If you have any anxieties, questions or concerns, please do get in touch with us and we can provide the clarity you need. There is also the school website where there is plenty of information

[www.barleylaneschool.org.uk](http://www.barleylaneschool.org.uk). Thank you for your support and understanding; here's to a happy, healthy 2021-22.

*Mr. Jones and the team at Barley Lane School*

[Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides | NSPCC](#)

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