

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

10.12.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Special Thank You!

Firstly, thank you for all of your support this term; it goes without saying that positive relationships are key to all of our collective happiness and success and we are delighted and fortunate too, that we are a happy community of people both in school and beyond and long may it continue. Please continue to communicate with us - your tutor or LSA should be in touch at least weekly to provide informal updates. Please take a moment over the next few weeks to recognise their efforts and achievements however big or small.

It's terrific to see school life thriving at school and pupils enjoying the return to some activities as well as familiar routines. Sporting opportunities are in abundance as well as quieter opportunities with the likes of Chess and Uno games to name just a few.

It has been a fantastic term for the whole school community across the range of school life with attendance improving, productive learning taking place, sporting opportunities that saw us win a special school tournament amongst 9 different schools and the successful integration of 17 new pupils who we have been delighted with alongside the rest of the pupil community.

Covid Update

Following recent updates from central government and from Public Health and DCC it is clear that Covid rates are increasing again in Devon. As a result we need to ensure:

1. Wearing of face coverings (where possible) in indoor communal areas must continue to be prioritised by pupils and staff.
2. Twice weekly lateral flow testing for Covid for students and staff should continue.
3. If displaying symptoms do not come to school and a PCR test should be taken **as soon as possible**
4. Regular handwashing/use of hand sanitiser on entry and exit to school, at start and end of every lesson, lunch and break.
5. 2 metre social distancing for adults wherever possible.
6. Ventilation – open windows and doors, use of appropriate air conditioning
7. Schools continue to inform appropriate agencies of Covid absences etc

The symptoms of Covid 19 are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

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Medications

We are always more than happy to assist in the administration of medication via a competent and suitably trained staff member during the school day if a top up or dosage is required. We cannot be responsible for administering medications that are required to be taken before the school day and this is a parental responsibility to both ensure that this has been administered, but also you have ample supply of medication in order to avoid running out.

If children arrive at school unmedicated, this can create health and safety risks around behaviour and mental health and we would then seek to work with families to find a sensible and acceptable solution.

Please see the following guidance from the DFE;

Advice on the role of school staff: Any member of school staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with medical conditions, including the administering of medicines, although **they cannot be required to do so**. Although administering medicines is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with medical conditions that they teach. School staff should receive sufficient and suitable training and achieve the necessary level of competency before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. Any member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.

Above all, as we approach the Christmas break, all the staff at Barley Lane School, wish you and your families a restful and peaceful break and a happy new year also

The team at Barley Lane

Key Dates Reminder

- Last day of Term for Autumn is Friday 17th December 2021
- First day of Spring Term is Thursday 6th January 2022 – Pupils return. Term dates are on the website under the 'parent' tab