

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

05.01.22

Dear parents and carers - Happy New Year to you all!

Firstly, I hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and that the children are feeling ready to come back to school tomorrow!

I also wanted to say thank you for your support in our first term as a new (albeit interim) leadership team and wider team also, we had a fantastic first term and we are hoping that our collaborative approach continues to help the children to continue to thrive or overcome difficulty in the most sensible way. Staff really do appreciate your positive feedback of all they are doing to make learning as valuable as possible during these challenging times.

Face Masks, testing and Covid safe behaviours

I would really like to stress to families the importance of getting the basics right as we return this term. So that teachers, tutors and pupil have a safer return to school, without needing to pick up persistent minor issues.

The government is strongly advising that face masks are worn in schools to battle the Omicron variant. Whatever your position on the virus, please ensure that you are fully informed so that where possible masks are worn. We will encourage those that wear them to change them regularly throughout the day. If they have their own, please ensure that they are cleaned regularly; daily if possible.

Thank you for ensuring pupils come to school wearing face coverings where possible and using hand sanitiser. Helping young people take personal responsibility is valued by us, and the pupils have responded very positively to the start of the year.

All pupils who have consented to being tested will be offered a box of lateral flow tests to enable them to test twice weekly as requested by the Government and Public Health to help keep schools open and our families and community as safe as possible.

We will also be sending lateral flow tests home with students in the next few days. However, please let us know if you'd like a further box of tests.

Covid safe behaviours are also key to a successful return.

Uniform and Expectations

Please can families ensure that they support the pupils to take responsibility and pride in their day to day organisation. When we return to school, we will be revisiting uniform again and robustly on the following:

- No Hoodies and non-school jumpers unless in year 11
- No bags please (rucksacks)
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY** no phones or internet technology unless your son is an independent traveller that hands it in upon arrival.

Kind regards *Dave Jones (interim Headteacher)*