

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

23.03.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you well with the spring emerging alongside some much-needed sunshine finally emerging!

This half term has begun as positively as possible but not without the challenges that we have come to familiarise ourselves with and Covid still looms, but we are working hard to stabilise routines that support the pupils learning.

Over the last few weeks we have been without a significant amount of staffing due to illness and Covid and as usual, have worked extremely hard to carry on through and provide the best opportunities we can. We avoided shutting down classes although regrettably, college suffered as both our staff were off at the same time amongst some other key staff.

With this comes additional challenges and so we are asking for your continued support through these challenging times. We also have key staff leaving us at Easter and in the summer term and so recruitment is a significant priority for us in the coming weeks and months.

Parent Feedback questionnaire

I also want to thank those of you who completed the parent feedback. We received some stunning feedback from you and this is just the tonic of our hardworking staff. 44 parents replied and so here are some figures;

89% of parents fed back that their child feels safe at school. 0% answered no to this question

84% of parents felt we were meeting needs. 16% disagreed

64% felt that academic progress was being made. 7% disagreed. Hopefully our recent online parents evening may have positively helped those unsure or undecided?

Whilst we are proud of the positive feedback, a very small minority of you had some concerns and we would like to know and understand more about these concerns in order to help and address them and so please get in touch so that we can support you and your family in overcoming any niggling anxieties or worries and concerns.

admin@barleylane.devon.sch.uk or to make contact with the interim headteacher djones@barleylane.devon.sch.uk – 07848 457025

Covid Update - Please can I take this opportunity to remind you all of some key information;

Please ensure that the children continue to test twice weekly. Government guidance still urge sensible caution in special schools especially. Rates are on the increase again.

1. Twice weekly lateral flow testing for Covid for students and staff should continue.
2. If displaying symptoms do not come to school, instead isolate until two consecutive negative lateral flow tests on day 5 or 6. Failing that the full 10-day isolation and a speedy recovery!
3. Regular handwashing/use of hand sanitiser on entry and exit to school, at start and end of every lesson, lunch and break.
4. Ventilation – open windows and doors, use of appropriate air conditioning
5. Schools continue to inform appropriate agencies of Covid absences etc

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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

Medications

Medications for some pupils is essential to their wellbeing and that of the wider community. Please ensure you consult your GP regularly and attend critical appointments.

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 is dosage is required during the school day. 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 avoid running out.

If children arrive at school unmedicated, this can create unavoidable 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 Easter break, all the staff at Barley Lane School, wish you and your families a restful and peaceful break and the excitement that the spring and summer brings.

The team at Barley Lane School