

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

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

05.07.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you!

Thank you for all of your support this year; The team continue to work incredibly hard to keep improving and amidst all the distractions around what a school should be, nothing actually matters more to our community than the children's happiness well-being and safety; those basic and psychological needs that scaffold positive behaviour, readiness to learn and then progress. Without safety and security, a sense of identity and belonging the children won't care for example, about when the fire of London started and how it started, communicating this to us in their diverse and ever complex ways.

I would also like to thank you for recognising the value in the positive relationships between us and because of this, those that matter most – the children - continue to be the beneficiaries. 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.

As we approach the end of the academic year the teaching profession and schools like ours are bracing ourselves for those staff members who are leaving us

Mrs O'Riley leaves us after 10 wonderful years to pursue another career and will be greatly missed by all. Not only does she bring a huge amount of emotional support to the whole community, she personifies and embodies the school's values of Friendship, Optimism and Hard work along with no little humility and kindness. You can never predict exam results, but this year, we have our fingers crossed that as a result of some outstanding teaching and learning by her, the leavers are rewarded with the outcomes they deserve.

Ms. Townsend-Green (Patrisha/TG2) leaves just shy of 16 years-service due to retirement and has again provided huge levels of emotional support to many children (and adults) over the years. Like me, she arrived when the school was in special measures and she has made a huge contribution to the schools' development over time. Many of the school leavers destinations are followed up by her and therefore we are able to keep tabs on those who left us as far back as 2014 because of her tenacity in seeking updates.

ICT teacher Mr Credginton has secured a new position in a school in North Devon – closer to home - and we wish him all the success in the future. Mr Credginton has developed elements of the careers provision at Barley Lane over the last couple of years that has seen some of the young people access opportunities in catering, bike repair, youth work, mechanics and leaves us with a platform to develop this even further in the future.

Miss Wellum leaves after her second temporary stint, to go and travel parts of Europe and we thank her for her contribution to the school over the last couple of years in supporting the children and Mr Richards.

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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.

We currently have a handful of staff off of work with COVID and other long-term absence and illness. As a small school we always have to manage the balance of health and safety and risk. **We will do all we can to keep classes open until a point where the risks outweigh the safe running of the school.** Any disruption will be kept to a minimum as usual and we will be in touch only if necessary.

1. Twice weekly lateral flow testing for Covid for students and staff should continue.
2. If displaying symptoms do not come to school and a LFT test should be taken as soon as possible
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

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

The team at Barley Lane

Key Dates Reminder

- Last day of Term for Summer is Tuesday 26th July 2022
- First day of Autumn term is Wednesday 7th September 2022 – Pupils return.
Next years term dates are on the website under the 'parent' tab