

12/03/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely week with all of the children in school and most have settled back into the routines better than we could have anticipated.

Staff understand that making the transition back to school can be incredibly difficult for some children and be assured that we are committed to addressing the particular needs of each of our pupils at this time. It is important to ensure that the lines of communication are open to allow concerns to be voiced between home and school should they arise. We appreciate that many pupils have suffered through a lack of social contact over the winter months and many have been feeling anxious for a variety of reasons. In response, for the remainder of this term, our curriculum will be adapted to focus on the health and well-being of the children as well as ensuring that the essential knowledge, skills and understanding in English and Maths have been re-established.

Please note that our school's risk assessment has been updated as a result of the latest guidance and is downloadable from our website. To provide support in LFD testing for the Barrow 1618 community, a flow-chart has been included. Negative results only need to be reported to the NHS website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and do **not** need to be reported to the school.

Could I again draw your attention to the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Draft Policy on the website and thank those of you who have made contributions. From the summer term, the teaching of relationships is statutory. However, parents/carers are able to opt their children out of sex education if they wish. The form to do this is at the back of the RSE policy which is downloadable. RSE will be taught within the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum – also on the website. This curriculum area will be adapted for the remainder of this year, by teachers, to take account of current circumstances and focus on areas that are appropriate to what the pupils have previously experienced. We continue to appreciate your thoughts and suggestions.

Next Friday, 19th March, is Red Nose Day. This will be a non-uniform day where children will be able to wear what they like (so long as it's safe). We will be fundraising for Comic Relief and donations can be made by logging into your ParentPay accounts. During the day, pupils will undertake a variety of fun activities in their classes. Unfortunately, cakes and sweets cannot be brought into school to share just yet.

Please continue to wear face masks on the school site and adhere to social distancing procedures – we have to keep bubbles apart in school so help us by keeping your own children with you at home-time; please stand away from gates when collecting your child and leave the car-park promptly. We expect that the site will have been vacated by 15:40.

On behalf of our whole community, I would like to thank those of you who are supporting the school through LFD testing - a large number of parents/carers are now carrying out twice-weekly tests.

Following the high winds this week, you will probably be aware that our marquee was in a bit of a sorry state. A special thanks to the Toons and Gary Williams for rescuing it!

Let's keep our fingers crossed for better weather and sunshine to match the optimism that many of us in the Barrow Community are now feeling!

To mark our feelings of hope, we will be planting a pear tree which has been kindly donated to the school by the Budgens. We will enjoy finding a suitable plot and watching it grow.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)