

19/03/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been such a pleasure to catch-up with everyone again at the school gate over the last two weeks and watch so many children run happily to their classes to join their friends.

Since the end of last term many of the children certainly have sprouted! A common concern for a number of Barrow families is that their children, who haven't dressed for school since before Christmas, have grown out of uniform and, in particular, shoes! We understand the difficulties and the fact that it has been/is just about impossible to get to the shop to replace outgrown items. I just want to reassure you that, at present, sending your child/children to school in alternative footwear is not a problem if their school shoes no longer fit. Likewise, if you have as yet been unable to replace any other items of clothing, we understand. The priorities are ensuring that the pupils are well and happy.

With children having been isolated at home for so long and coming into contact with each other again, we have been experiencing increasing rates of illness in school. Please keep children at home if they are not well to prevent the spreading of infection within school. If Calpol is required to enable your child to get through the day, unless it has been recommended by a doctor to alleviate symptoms of an ongoing condition, they should be kept at home. To relieve the effects of common ailments, we are not able to administer Calpol or other medicines that lower temperature as these can mask other symptoms.

If your child is displaying Coronavirus symptoms, you will need to book a **PCR** test and isolate at home, along with other household members and follow NHS guidance. Please note that the **LFD** test, which is the rapid test, is **not suitable** for symptomatic testing as it can give false results.

For a small school, we are so lucky to have such brilliant facilities for cooking high-quality meals on-site. To future-proof this service, we need to increase the number of meals we provide and are looking for innovative ways to do this. Our starting point will be to discover what you as parents/carers would like to see on the menu to encourage your child to choose a school meal option. Next week, we will be sending out a questionnaire to parents/carers. Pupils in Oak class will help us with this process by providing ideas and suggestions. You may wish to take time to discuss with your child what they would like to eat at school.

Meanwhile, I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the unravelling of spring.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson (Headteacher)