

26/03/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week seems to have flown in school and we are fast approaching the Easter holidays. The last day of this term will be Thursday 1st April with pupils returning on Monday 19th April.

Who knows what the summer term will bring! We very much hope to be able to move forward and begin to open up our school again, with clubs gradually being re-introduced as well as some outdoor events for the children. When it is possible, we are keen to resume a variety of exciting after-school activities beginning with those that involve the children being outside.

It would be great to hear about anybody in the community who has experience and/or is willing and able to run a club in the future – whether this is outdoor or indoor based – subject to the usual safeguarding checks. Our wonderful environment provides us with a great deal of scope to think creatively and be innovative about what we are able to offer. We would love to hear your ideas.

After the Easter holidays, we will be in a position to welcome volunteers back into school to help with areas such as reading with the younger children. As you are aware, the pandemic has meant that pupils have experienced many interruptions to their schooling over the past year; this had a particular impact on the younger pupils in Key Stage 1, who have also missed out on many of their Early Years experiences. If you feel that you would be able to offer your support by giving some of your time to work with us, it would be much appreciated. Please contact the school office if you think you would be able to help.

As a community we must continue to remain vigilant and ensure that government coronavirus guidance is strictly followed. We cannot afford complacency. Colleagues in other schools continue to report that 'Bubbles' are having to isolate due to positive cases.

Parents evenings will be held during weeks beginning 10th and 17th May, via Microsoft Teams or telephone. You will be able to make appointments with your child's class teacher to discuss progress and share next steps in learning. We will be in touch after the holidays to confirm details.

There has been an excellent response to the school lunch survey that was sent out yesterday. Thanks to everyone who has contributed their ideas – there have been some brilliant suggestions; so far, likes and dislikes have been extremely varied. The survey will remain open until the end of next week and I will feedback the results as well as some of your suggestions in April.

As a staff, we are looking forward to being able to provide meals for the school and wider community; we are currently making plans for the future and exploring possibilities. We look

forward to being able to invite parents/carers and school governors into school to share meals with us. If things remain optimistic throughout the summer term, we may even be able to organise picnics outside.

This week I have had the pleasure of experiencing a very special event that has taken place in school: the pupils – and grown-ups - in Yew Tree class are privileged to be able to watch blue-tits nesting via a live camera feed into their classroom. What a wonderful sign of spring and new hope this is!

Have a lovely weekend - 'fingers-crossed' that the sun shines tomorrow (as I believe is forecast) on all of our Barrow families.

Yours sincerely,
Sian Stephenson (Headteacher)