



Barrow, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5BW

Tel: 01952 388640

barrow.office@taw.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Stephenson

School Business Manager: Mrs. A. Pitchford

Chair of Governors: Ms. C. Jones



14/09/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a huge thanks to all of you for your support in ensuring a smooth return to school for the pupils this term.

Clubs will begin next week with the current after-school care provision being 'Homework and Chill'. The clubs will be organised in a similar way to last term, and we will be making the most of the outdoors and light nights while we can. Clubs will vary throughout the school year and will be influenced by seasonal weather changes and sport events taking place at the time. If there is little uptake for a particular club, we reserve the right to change it and offer an alternative.

Twilight Care continues to be available from 4:30-5:30pm for pupils of working families in Elm, Ash and Oak classes only.

A booking form will be sent out via the office today. As a limited number of places are available, please book your child's place as soon as possible.

The start and end of the school day seems to be working well. Please ensure that you can be seen by your child's teacher at collection time. With clubs starting next week, it will be important to vacate the site promptly so that it can be secured. To support our safeguarding measures, as well as club leaders, children should not be on the school field at home time.

This year, we have continued to subscribe to the East Shropshire School Sport Partnership (ESSSP). Events will begin this term with an activity afternoon for Year 6 pupils and High 5 Netball at William Brookes. Mrs Hadley will be communicating with parents/carers of pupils who are interested in taking part. In the case of events taking place after school, parents/carers will normally be required to organise transport for their own children.

Our school mini-bus has seen better days; ensuring that it is roadworthy and maintaining it would require a great deal of work – and funding! Members of the school community are currently exploring possible affordable solutions. If you have any ideas, they would be most welcomed.

Elm Class will be visiting Ray's Farm on Monday 4th October as part of their 'On the Farm' topic this term. This will be the first theme-related class visit that has taken place for over a year. They are very excited!

Ash Class will be taking part in a workshop, 'Experience Harvest', due to take place at All Saints' Church in Broseley on Thursday 30th September.

A meeting for Ash and Oak Classes parents/carers about the planned residential visit to the Pioneer Centre in the summer term will take place on Tuesday 2nd November. We will be following local advice as to whether this meeting should take place at school or over an online platform.

Although some individual and small group meetings are currently taking place face-to-face in school, we remain wary about introducing larger indoor gatherings this half-term with COVID infection rates so high. We plan to re-assess the situation in October for the second half of this term when we hope to invite parents/carers in - a class-at-a-time - to join us for lunch and Celebration assemblies.

As more information has been released by the Local Authority regarding their response to COVID cases, detail has been added to the Outbreak Management Plan which can be found on our [website](#). I have also included Shropshire Council's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining how schools should respond to cases and outbreaks of COVID-19.

With local cases remaining high, the advice to parents/carers is as follows:

- **Do not send children to school if they are not feeling well.**
- **Parents and children should book a PCR test even if they are experiencing mild symptoms.**
- **If children experience one or more of the main covid symptoms, however mild (new, continuous cough; high temperature; loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they'll need to self-isolate until they receive their PCR test results.**
- **For other symptoms, they are not required to self-isolate until they receive their PCR test results.**
- **Do continue to social distance at pick-up/drop off.**
- **Parents should check for covid twice a week with a rapid test (even if they've been fully vaccinated)**

In addition, Shropshire Public Health recommend that all pupils in early years and primary settings take twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

Whilst the main symptoms remain those that require self-isolation and a PCR test, in cases of the current variant, that we have been made aware of, sore-throats, runny noses and headaches have been reported.

If your child is unwell, we will telephone contacts in order of numbers that have been provided. **Please make sure that there is always someone available to pick up your child within 30 minutes of a phone-call.** This person should be included as a contact.

In November, we are expecting delivery of a large number of saplings that have been donated by the Woodland Trust. Many of these will be used to provide hedging along the perimeter of the developing nature reserve separating it from the upper field. We will need parent volunteers to help with planting. The trees are due between 1st and 12th November and I have ear-marked the weekend of 13th November for planting. However, this cannot be done without the help of our Barrow families, children included! Please contact the office or speak to me directly if you are able to give up some of your time during this weekend to support the planting.

Over the next two weeks, school council elections will be taking place so look out for our new councillors on the website.

Thanks to the hard work, knowledge, skills and imagination of Nikki Swankie and the pupils, the garden has been a real success this year. Produce is currently being harvested and that which is not being used by our kitchen, is available on a Tuesday at the school gate for Barrow families. Please help yourselves to fruit and vegetables! Donations are appreciated.

We will be adding further events to the calendar on the website and will continue to keep you informed via email and newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson