



Barrow, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5BW

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Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Stephenson  
School Business Manager: Mrs. A. Pitchford  
Chair of Governors: Ms. C. Jones



26/01/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Barrow has seen some beautiful frosty mornings over the last couple of weeks. We welcome the longer days and wait in anticipation for spring to emerge – such a lovely time of year that is decorated by the abundance of daffodils in our school grounds.

### **Nature Areas and Gardening**

Many thanks to Jackie Cornish for all her hard work and making an excellent start with the planting of trees along what will become the hedgeline that separates the field from the area designated for the nature reserve.

Negotiations are currently taking place between Western Power and Hereford Diocese (our landlords) to take the overground power cables on the top field underground in order to develop that land for this purpose.

New furniture is in place in the outdoor classroom and more is due to be delivered shortly to facilitate whole class teaching across the curriculum.

Elm class will be joining Mrs Swankie in the garden on Tuesday, so will need to be well wrapped-up and ready to get to work preparing for the spring.

### **The Friends of Barrow**

Please join the Friends of Barrow and myself **this Thursday evening**, 27th January at 7.30pm, in the school hall. Please let us know if you are unable to attend the meeting but interested in becoming a member.

### **Photographs for Website**

Dave Liddle, school photographer, spent the morning with us yesterday capturing the children learning and playing around school, including in the forest. These photographs will represent many aspects of school life to be shared on the new website. He got some brilliant shots of the pupils and will be back soon, with his drone, to take some pictures from the air.

### **Art Competition – School Values**

The winners of the art competition were announced in our Celebration Assembly, on Friday, and all the pupils who submitted entries were congratulated for their superb efforts. The winning designs, representing the school values, will be reproduced in a range of media and displayed around school, both inside and out.

### **Parking**

I am aware of the continual difficulties posed by parking, particularly in the gravel car-park. Together with the Health and Safety Committee, we are working on providing long-term solutions to this problem. In the meantime, please continue to reverse into spaces taking up as little room as possible to allow others to park safely.

## Parent Governor Elections

We are due to be holding elections for another parent governor and relevant paperwork will be sent out shortly. If you are interested in becoming a parent governor but are not sure what it entails, I know that Liz Rhead, who holds the same position, would be happy to discuss it with you. Please contact Liz, via the school office, if you would like to arrange to speak to her.

## Music Lessons

In school we are pleased to be working with Shropshire Music Service (flyer attached) and plan to be able to offer small-group and individual lessons on guitar, violin and woodwind. Shropshire Music Service (SMS) are a non-profit council organisation dedicated to providing high quality music education. The lessons are not free, but substantial reductions in the cost are available for those in challenging financial circumstances. SMS also offer affordable instrument hire for most instruments, along with opportunities to perform in musical groups. You can enrol your children using this link, or search Shropshire Music Service to find out more.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=d9KNe5f8nUSmrAU16L-NafsATH\\_u3FJEhj5Ss2EWtfpURDBRSUs1SlpOMkJVWlQ4V0VTRjRCRVRUUS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=d9KNe5f8nUSmrAU16L-NafsATH_u3FJEhj5Ss2EWtfpURDBRSUs1SlpOMkJVWlQ4V0VTRjRCRVRUUS4u)

In addition, local music teacher, Alison Dodd, is able to offer peripatetic lessons in the ukulele and keyboard that will take place during the school day. Alison comes highly recommended as an excellent music teacher from members of our school community. If your child is interested in learning to play either of these instruments, please contact Alison on the following email address for more information, including cost: [longmyndmusic@outlook.com](mailto:longmyndmusic@outlook.com)

## Covid

Cases of COVID are rising again in schools with people also becoming infected who have previously had the Delta variant. A number of pupils from Oak class have tested positive. We are doing all we can, following current guidance for schools, to minimise the risk of the virus spreading. Please keep testing your children regularly before sending them into school. As well as the main symptoms, some common symptoms being reported to us are sore throat, runny nose, headache, and fatigue.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Obtaining cover for staff illness is proving to be difficult for all schools and we may have to make adaptations, where necessary, in accordance with our Outbreak Management Plan. We are extremely grateful to our wonderful staff, including volunteers, for taking on extra responsibilities when they can.

Barrow 1618 staff are really looking forward to welcoming parents and carers back into school to share assemblies and other events with us as soon as it is advisable to do so.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson (Headteacher)