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BARNBY DUN PRIMARY ACADEMY

Autumn Term 2020—First Half

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you and your children all enjoyed a lovely summer break and had lots of fun together, being able to re-introduce some activities that you had not been able to do for a while. The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and looking super smart. It is so nice to see them settle into their new classes and re-connect with friends, who they have not seen for a very long time, as well as make new friends. They have impressed us with how quickly they have adapted to new school routines and coped with the early mornings and busy days. Everyone has made a positive and happy start. Thankyou to those of you who have commented on how nice all areas of school and our grounds look for the children's return. Mr Harrison and our cleaners have done a brilliant job, as always, getting everything so clean and tidy. Teachers and teaching assistants have spent many days in the holidays getting the classrooms and shared areas ready for learning too. We are very grateful to staff for their hard work. **Thank you also to those parents who have commented on how well-organised the return to school has been—many hours, days and weeks have been spent over the holidays ensuring that school is a safe, happy place for all of the children, staff and parents.**

Punctuality

Thank you to all those parents who are ensuring that they are on time every day to drop-off and collect children—it is very much appreciated and means that teaching and learning can start promptly at the start of the day and cleaning and meetings can commence promptly at the end of the day. I am sure you will understand that all of these factors are vital, so if you are a parent who has had to be spoken to already about punctuality, you must ensure that you tighten up and are consistently on time. A few parents have stated that traffic has been the reason for them being late; however, this is an inevitable issue: therefore, 'set off' times need to take account of this—thank you. If people continue to be late for drop off or collection, you may need to wait for a considerable amount of time, as our diaries are getting busier and we don't have time to be waiting and 'ferrying' children to / from classes. **Thank you for your co-operation and, to repeat, thank you once again, to those parents who are always on time, regardless of how busy they are or traffic constraints.**

School Uniform Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name so they can be returned if misplaced. This is more important than ever, as we do not currently have a lost property area, due to current safety measures; therefore, items have to be instantly returned to children when they are found: if they do not have names in, this is not possible. Please remember the only jewellery permitted are small stud-type earrings and a wrist watch. These must be removed by children **themselves** for P.E. lessons. Children should wear black shoes, not flip flops or trainers please. If children do attend in inappropriate footwear, they will be given black indoor pumps to change into. Nail varnish/nail art and temporary tattoos are **not** permitted. Children's hair colour should remain natural please, and clip-in hair pieces in bright colours are not permitted. Thankyou.

PE Kit: You will all be aware by now that on your child's PE day, they are to come to school in their PE kit and remain in this throughout the day. A reminder that PE kit consists of the following: white t-shirt / polo shirt; black / navy / grey shorts or joggers; trainers. **If your child cannot tie their own shoelaces, please ensure they wear shoes / trainers with Velcro, as staff cannot tie laces for children at present.** Thank you.

Water Bottles / Hand Sanitiser

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school with them each day. We can no longer keep cups near the water fountains, so it is important that your child has a water bottle with them in their classroom. Please also remember to take your child's water bottle home each day and wash it thoroughly. Children should fill their bottle at home, ready for the new school day and they can refill their bottle at one of the water coolers when needed. **In accordance with our 'Healthy Schools Policy' children should not have bottles filled with juice.**

Thank you also, for ensuring that your child has hand sanitiser with them each day (year 1 upwards) —this is important as it speeds up the hygiene process at transition points, meaning that the focus remains on not losing too much learning time throughout the day. Please remember that if items are forgotten in a morning, they cannot be dropped off at the school office. Thank you.

Parent Pay

A reminder that all parents must pay for school dinners and breakfast club **in advance**. Office staff are in the process of setting up F2 parents on Parent Pay so they will be in touch in due course. Thank you.

New Reception Children It is an exciting time for us all to welcome our 38 new Reception children. Their induction has, of course, been very different to previous years, but the children have settled so well and parents have been great in encouraging their children to be independent, so thank you so much for this! We look forward to getting to know our new children and their families and ensuring they have a great start to their school life at Barnby Dun Primary. The whole school community will make them feel very welcome and look after them, as they always do. Our Reception classes are called the Butterflies and Hedgehogs this year. Mrs Wilkinson-Leigh is the phase leader in charge.

Transition Homework Thankyou very much to the many parents who supported their children in completing the Transition homework that was set on Class Dojo over the summer holidays and found time to read regularly. This will have helped them to make a flying start in their new class. Your time and effort is much appreciated and really does make a difference to your child's progress.

Class Dojo / Communication with home Class Dojo has become a highly beneficial resource for communication with families: we were really pleased with how this was used during the period of partial closure, to access and submit work set, as well as keeping us up-to-date with other lovely activities that were being done as a family during this time. We will continue to use Class dojo for setting homework tasks so it is important that if you are still not signed up for Dojo yet, that you do so as soon as possible. Please contact your child's class teacher if you need them to assist you with this. Although Class Dojo is a very positive resource, we do just want to make it clear that **it is not a replacement for other methods of communication, for example, if your child is ill, the protocol remains that you must contact the school office, rather than sending a message to a member of staff on Dojo. Class Dojo is to be used for communication about children's learning only, but staff will not be able to respond to messages late in the evenings or at weekends.** Thank you.

Updating Contact Details

It is vital that we hold correct contact details to be able to contact you when required. We need at least three contact telephone numbers on our records for each child. Please telephone the office to inform them if any of your contact details have changed. Thank you.

'Eco-Schools: The Great September Clean'

Keep Britain Tidy have launched the Great British September Clean on 11-27 September. We are supporting by asking our families to pledge at least 20 minutes to do a litter pick as a family group somewhere in the local community. Please then email a photo to the school office and we will promote your efforts on our website. We will also take a small group of our 'Eco warriors' to litter pick along the road from the school to the new community park in Barnby Dun. We have also spoken to the children about designing an A4 / A3 poster to encourage people to dispose of their litter responsibly or warn people about the dangers that litter poses to the environment and wildlife. During our virtual assemblies, we have already shown the ones that have been created and have been very impressed by the children's efforts! Well done so far and keep the posters coming, making sure they have your full name and class on the back. Thank you.

Kindest regards,
Miss C.E. Robinson Head Teacher.
Miss C. May Deputy Head Teacher.