

31/08/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and have managed to take at least a bit of time-out from normal routines.

The staff at Barrow are all looking forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday and the necessary measures have been put in place to ensure that we are able to do this in the safest and least disruptive way possible.

You may be aware, from news headlines, of some of the guidance set by the Department of Education for the full-opening of schools and the measures needed to have been put in place to minimise risk, whilst ensuring that all pupils are able to return to full-time education.

The school's Risk Assessment, detailing our school's control measures to minimise risk against COVID-19, has been updated to take account of the changes since July and will continue to be under regular review. This can be found on the school website.

It is impossible to please all of the people all of the time. I am available to discuss any problems you may have with current arrangements. However, whilst current plans may cause some difficulties due to individual circumstances, please understand that, as a school, we have to comply with the guidance and within this there are non-negotiables. The most important consideration has to be keeping the children and the school community safe. We hope that you, as parents and carers, will continue to support each other through the constraints that are in place to ensure the successful return of your children to a safe school that can remain open.

Should school have to close for some, or all, pupils, contingency plans are in place to resume learning from home through online platforms.

I have attached the letter that went out to parents/carers during the final week of last term regarding the opening in September. Collection and drop-off times are specified in this letter and we ask you to adhere to these times, arriving and vacating the site promptly, in order to avoid the mixing of groups. This is a crucial stipulation to minimise risk to the community.

Parents and carers of pupils just starting in Yew Tree Class will meet staff in the entrance from the top car park; pupils from all other classes will enter, via the gate, from the lower car-park where a member of staff will greet the children on arrival and hand them over on collection.

Parents will only be allowed on-site by appointment or invitation and should socially distance from staff at all times. When meeting with parents/carers, the school's regulations should be followed. Please contact the office to make an appointment to speak to a member of staff,

via email or telephone. Although they may not be in a position to respond during that day, they will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

It is vital that we have up-to-date contact details. If you are aware that you haven't been receiving communication from school, the likelihood is that we do not have the correct information. In this case, please get in touch with the office staff as soon as possible.

Should your child become poorly, you will be expected to make arrangements for them to be picked up within 30 minutes.

If your child is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, the guidance will be followed by staff in school; you will be required to obtain a test, either by booking at a test centre or using a home-testing kit. We rely on parents/carers to follow the guidance, including the need to contact the NHS Test and Trace service if your child tests positive. The identity of anyone who tests positive will remain confidential within school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>

'If you develop symptoms, you must continue to follow the rules to self-isolate with other members of your household and get a test to find out if you have coronavirus

- *if you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly about your recent contacts through the NHS Test and Trace service to help us alert other people who may need to self-isolate*
- *if you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS Test and Trace service advises you to do so'*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Although the guidance for the wearing of face-masks in secondary schools has been revised, this is not currently the case for primary schools. Young children are not expected to socially distance or wear masks as they are deemed to be unable to do so safely or effectively.

Children are required to wear school uniform. To avoid bringing excess equipment into school, pupils should arrive at school wearing PE kit on the days they do PE. Teachers will be in touch to inform you about the school week. Wellies can be kept in school. Pupils are able to bring a lunch box and drink in a bag as well as their reading book. Books that have been returned to school will be left in quarantine before being returned to the shelf for others to share.

As stated in my previous letter, hot and cold school meals will be provided for those children who require a school lunch (see attachment).

I have included links below to websites that you may find useful. Further links are available to direct you to useful websites within the Risk Assessment document.

https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/parents-leaflets/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_campaign=DfE+C19&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Breakfast club is planned to resume on Monday 14th September, to begin at 8am each morning. Further details will be sent out, by the office, at the beginning of next week.

It is also intended that an After-school Club will be in place before the end of this half-term. The pick-up time will allow for cleaning afterwards. Again, I will be in touch to provide details. In the meantime, please contact the school if you have any ideas.

Many of us will be feeling apprehensive about the return to school of all children. If you have any further queries, regarding the health and safety measures being taken by the school that cannot be answered by either these letters or reference to the Risk Assessment document, please contact me. I will keep you informed of any changes and provide you with any further links that may be of interest.

On a lighter note, Barrow school will look different when you arrive on Wednesday as the planned extension has now been built to provide a brand new reception and office area with more space for administrative tasks and meetings. We hope to have it fully operational by next half-term and are confident that we can create an impressive entrance to our school.

We will all be working very hard to settle the pupils into school this week and over this period. This is an absolute priority and the staff are committed to supporting the children and working with you to make the transitions as happy and seamless as they can be.

I am confident that we can work together to embrace the successful re-opening of Barrow school to all pupils – we are so lucky to have such a wonderful environment with so many outdoor spaces! I am so looking forward to working with all of the pupils together at long last. Let us do our very best to keep it that way!

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)