

16/11/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are managing during this period of lockdown.

Parents evenings were underway last week and will continue this week and next for some classes. I am aware of the fact that Yew Tree Class already have daily contact with Mrs Preston and Miss Ellis so may feel it unnecessary to have an extra meeting. This is absolutely fine as we only expect you make an appointment if there is anything further you'd like to discuss with regard to how well your child has settled in to school.

Last week the whole school celebrated Remembrance on Zoom. This worked well as a shared experience of poetry, readings, artwork and prayer delivered by pupils from all classes. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to get together virtually and even meet some of our youngest pupils. It enabled us, as a staff, to consider further opportunities for sharing celebrations as a school.

This week we are busy planning our Christmas activities and now have a better idea of those events that will be able to go ahead: we will be having Christmas lunch on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. On this day, pupils will wear Christmas hats and party clothes. They will take part in Christmas activities in their classrooms and enjoy a party in their bubbles after lunch when a special visitor is expected to make a virtual appearance! Emma Richardson is currently working on the Christmas menu and we plan to give the children a real treat to brighten what I'm sure will go down in history as quite a dismal period in time.

During the final week of term, virtual contributions to a carol service will be put together, Elm Class will be treating us to a filmed Christmas production and the children in Yew Tree Class will act out the Nativity. Videos of these will be shared with parents. We also plan to share the carols with residents of care homes in the local area.

Barrow 1618 will be taking part in fundraising for Save the Children with Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We will email you with more information and links to the website.

A huge thanks to Faye McDermott and Freya for the wonderful chocolates made for the staff and all of the pupils in Ash Class in support of Children in Need.

Reminders for events will be emailed out for parents/carers and can be seen on our website calendar.

Attendance is school is excellent under the circumstances and this largely a result of children not being in school if they are poorly. Please remember to keep your child at home if they are not well. This is the season where stomach bugs are prevalent and pupils should not return to school for 48 hours after a final vomiting episode.

Finally, another thank you for your cooperation and consideration at drop-off and collection times. I do try to be on the school gate in the mornings to greet pupils between 8:30 and 9:00. However, on occasions, if I am dealing with an urgent matter and a few minutes late to arrive, your children may walk to their classes where their teachers will be waiting to receive them.

Finally, I can reassure you that so far none of our pupils have tested positive for COVID-19. As soon as this is no longer the case, you will be notified and informed of what actions the school are taking.

Please remember that we are here to support you where we can so please contact us if there is anything we can do to help during these difficult times.

In the meantime, stay safe and we will keep showing the care and resilience that is the Barrow way.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)