

23/11/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you managed to get outside for exercise with your families and enjoy some sunshine at the weekend.

I'm sure you are aware that on Friday, Telford & Wrekin Council introduced precautionary testing.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKTW/bulletins/2ad922c>

Because of the high rates of infection in this area, people living within the Telford and Wrekin Authority are now able to book a test if they have one or more of the following symptoms and suspect it/they could be related to coronavirus: headaches; aches and pains; feeling very tired for no good reason; sore throat; runny nose; sneezing and stomach aches in children. Residents can book a precautionary test with one or more of these symptoms by completing an online form and selecting the option, 'My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms'.

Anyone with one or more of these precautionary symptoms does not need to self-isolate prior to the result of their test. People with the main symptoms of coronavirus: a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell are still required to self-isolate.

It is worth noting that stomach aches in children can be a symptom of COVID-19. To protect the school community, I cannot stress enough how important it is not to bring your child into school if they are feeling poorly. We really appreciate your cooperation so far to keep school safe.

On a lighter note, a Celebration Assembly took place, on Friday, by Zoom, involving two pupils from each class being awarded a Barrow Heart or a Star. It was great to see children coming together to celebrate the kindness and achievements of others across school. Our plan is to record these each week and provide a link to parents/carers to enable access.

On Christmas Jumper Day, Friday 11th December, mentioned in last week's newsletter, the pupils will also take part in the Santa Dash which is a 'Fun-run' organised by the East Shropshire Schools Sports Partnership for local schools. It will give our Bronze Ambassadors the opportunity to be involved in the planning and setting out of the route; making certificates; and organising a programme for the day with the times that each class will 'Dash'.

Although participating schools will use their own grounds, the children will be aware that pupils from across the region are taking part at the same time. For this event, they will wear their Christmas jumpers; please provide suitable footwear for your child to change into that can get wet as they will be running across the fields.

Donations for the Food Bank Appeal can be received from Monday next week. Mrs Adams has contacted all parents outlining arrangements and a wishlist.

With the school's vision and ethos in mind, Governors and staff have given considerable thought to refreshing the Barrow Values to be implemented in school and shared with the whole community. As an inclusive school, we welcome the input from our families, so if you have any ideas, please drop them into an email and send to the office by the end of the week.

This week, Father Christopher has been in touch to confirm plans for Christingle services this December. Please read his message to school below:

'Schools:

The first service will be in Schools week commencing 14th December. On that Monday morning we will deliver to all three schools enough 'Christingle kits' for every child these will consist of 1 x Orange, 1 x candle, 4 x cocktail sticks, 1 length of red ribbon. (all we need the schools to provide is the fruits to be placed on the cocktail sticks – these can be either dolly mixtures or raisins). There will also be a memory stick containing the service which will include 2 Christingle songs; a talk; prayers and a demonstration on how to make a Christingle and what all the parts of the Christingle stand for. This can either be presented as a classroom or group assembly. If a collection could be taken from the children to go towards the work of the Children's Society which I will collect at the beginning of the new term.

Christmas Eve:

There will be 50 'Christingle kits' left in Downs' shop for people to collect. The recorded service that has already gone to the schools will be broadcast at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve on Facebook. This will need advertising in plenty of time on Social Media. '

It is a lovely idea and we look forward to taking part in the service and sharing it with you at home via a link from the school website. Furthermore, this week, the classes will begin planning their Christmas performances.

I have attached a copy of the Christmas Lunch menu for your information. Prior to the event, to give Emma an idea of numbers, children will be asked to indicate whether or not they would like to order a Christmas lunch. Although these will be ordered on the day, it may be worthwhile discussing the menu with your child beforehand.

You will have recently received a Scholastic book club flyer which has been sent home with the children. Purchases are linked to school and we buy books with the commission. The club had been run by Mrs Downes, whose daughter has now left Barrow. We would like to know if any of our parents or carers would like to take on the book club account, so please do get in touch if you are interested.

Finally, following our bid last year to become one of the beneficiaries of the Co-op fund, the school has gratefully received a cheque for £2446.00 which will go towards improving our facilities for outdoor learning. We look forward to updating you over this coming year.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)