

30/11/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday you received a letter from Selina Graham, announcing that she has stepped down as Chair of Governors after many years. Along with other members of the Trust, Selina fought passionately to keep Barrow Primary School open and was instrumental in it being established as a Church of England Free school in 2012. Even though Selina will remain on the Board of Governors, I know that you will all feel saddened by her departure as Chair and – along with the staff and pupils - would wish to thank her for the many years of hard work and dedication that she has shown, and continues to show, for this school that is so close to her heart. Selina will always be important to all of us at Barrow 1618 and I welcome the fact that her relationship with our wonderful school will be ongoing.

Christmas plans are now well underway and rehearsals for performances have begun. Even under these circumstances the festive spirit has crept in to school like a warm and welcome blanket.

We are looking forward to a fun day of celebrations on Christmas Lunch Day in school, next week on Wednesday 9th November. Children will wear their own clothes and party hats made in their classes. There will be Christmas activities taking place as well as a festive lunch and a virtual visit from someone special!

To make our school hall match our mood, we would be grateful for any decorations that you could provide. A real Christmas tree is high-up on our wish list!

Christmas cards may be passed between pupils in the same class (bubble) only; these should be posted in their own class post-box by Friday 11th December, to be quarantined and distributed on the last day of term.

On Christmas Jumper day, Friday 11th December, children will wear their jumpers in aid of Save the Children. Parents/carers need not buy new jumpers, as old ones can just be decorated. Further information about the day can be found at www.christmasjumperday.org where some top tips are shared. It is recommended that £1 is donated by each child for wearing a Christmas jumper. I realise that not everyone is using cash at the moment. We have created a JustGiving page to enable you to make donations online via this link - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/barrow-1618>

The Bronze Ambassadors from Oak class have done a sterling job in organising the Santa Dash, fun/cross-country run which will also take place on Friday 11th December. Please

remember to ensure that a change of footwear, suitable for running across the fields, is brought into school, along with dry socks, on that day.

A creative writing competition will take place for the end of term when a prize will be awarded to the pupils who produce the best piece of writing in each Key Stage. The subject can be anything to do with Christmas and should be imaginative, engaging and technically accurate. Entries should be submitted to the class teachers by Wednesday 16th December and winners will be announced on the last day of term, Friday 18th December.

Some of you may be aware that the Department of Education has produced a new framework for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) to be taught in primary schools by the Summer Term 2021. Barrow 1618 has an existing policy on the teaching of RSE. However, this is in the process of being renewed in-line with the new framework. As a school, we are required to consult with you when developing and renewing this policy and welcome your input. Along with the previous policy, draft policies for RSE and PSHE are available for you to view on the 'Policies' page of our school website. A form for withdrawal is included as an appendix to the RSE policy. RSE will continue to be taught in school as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. Whilst the teaching of relationships in primary schools is statutory, parents/carers may – if they wish - have their child/children withdrawn from non-scientific aspects of Sex Education. Please refer to the guidance for parents/carers via the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907638/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

In developing the draft policy, we have been sensitive to the nature of our setting at Barrow 1618 and been careful that this is reflected in our policy. Any comments that you can contribute or questions that you may have should be emailed to the school office to receive an appropriate response. Opportunities for further discussion will be provided, should these be necessary. I should stress that for us, as a school, teaching and learning in this subject is already part of our curriculum.

In my last newsletter, parents/cares were informed that we were developing and refreshing our Barrow Values. In assemblies, we are continuing to explore these. Following consultation with the school community, one of our Barrow Values, 'Understanding others' will be given a broader context and will become 'Respect'. We are spending time deepening our understanding of what that means and, so far, the children have been incredibly responsive. I shall keep you up-to-date with how our Barrow Values are being renewed, developed and embedded in school. Thank you for any contributions you have made.

A huge thank-you to everyone who has made donations to the Food Bank Appeal. We will be receiving donations for the remainder of this week, to be left in the box next to the school gate. Please keep giving!

Our School Council have chosen the Cash for Kids 'Mission Christmas' charity appeal this December, and they are asking for donations of new, unwrapped presents which can be

handed in to the school office by December 11th, or to a B&M store by December 18th. I have attached a poster created by Alice, one of our school councillors, with more information.

We have a few more members of our community to thank personally: thanks to Danny Love for responding to the plea from our two Year 6 pupils for a football coach, and making arrangements for Dave Bennett to come into school on Thursday lunch-times to work with Ash and Oak classes - this has been very well received by the children who are thoroughly enjoying the sessions; thanks also to Debbie and Rob Weir for all the hard work and time they have put into making our forest shelter and adjoining structures safe – we are extremely grateful to them; and thanks too to Sam Rickards for promptly felling an unsafe tree that had become unstable in the recent winds. The children can now resume their learning and enjoy their woodland adventures in safety.

Thanks again to the Friends of Barrow as we are now signed-up 'Gold' members of Shropshire Library Service and looking forward to receiving our topic packs for next term, as well as giving children logins for 'Fiction Express'. This is a learning platform that provides the children in Elm, Ash and Oak classes with a number of e-books and related reading experiences for use in school and at home.

The rumour on the gate is that snow could be with us soon! Please be aware of our Bad Weather and Emergency Closure Policy, located in the 'Policies' section of our school website.

Finally, another huge thanks to you - the whole of the Barrow community - for your amazing positivity and all you contribute to our school. I am so looking forward to my first Christmas at Barrow – lets make it brilliant!

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)