



Barrow, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5BW

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin our third week of Lockdown, I hope that you and your families are keeping well and managing with the children at home.

The staff and I have been very pleased with the efforts the pupils are making with their learning. All Barrow families are trying so hard and I just wanted to reassure everyone, that even though the government expectations are more demanding than those during the previous Lockdown in terms of remote learning, we are completely aware of the many difficulties this can present for individual families. Coping with siblings all needing to access their lessons, as well as adults in the household having to work from home, is difficult enough but when there are additional problems with internet connectivity – commonplace in a rural community - this can be a nightmare. We are here to help and support you wherever possible but equally understand that some issues are just irresolvable, especially under these circumstances. It is for these reasons that we are so grateful for all of your efforts, even when you feel you're not doing so well. Please be aware that you are not on your own.

If you are having difficulties with home learning, we can provide advice and support for you and/or your child/children to make lessons more accessible. For all pupils, English and maths should be prioritised for remote learning. Nonetheless, individuals have different needs and interests; therefore, school work should still be balanced with other activities that are manageable for your family and made as much fun as possible.

At Barrow, we place huge value on the benefits of learning outdoors in whatever can be done effectively outside – even in this weather. I have attached information for The Big Garden Birdwatch, organised by the RSPB, that some of you might enjoy - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>.

We are currently experiencing instability with our network in school which is due to a number of factors outside our control; it is being investigated by Telford and Wrekin who are working on both short and long term solutions. This should not affect pupils working from home.

We have been able to provide laptops for a number of families to enable pupils to engage remotely in their learning. Even so, as you will have heard on the news, there are limits to the resources that schools are able to provide. A local charity, the Pritchard Educational

Trust, which exists for educational purposes, became aware of this through the media and have kindly donated £500 to the school to support the provision of the laptops to pupils who need them. We thank them wholeheartedly for their generosity on behalf of the Barrow 1618 school community.

The traffic calming measures that were restored last term in the form of flashing amber warning lights have been effective and viewed positively by parents/carers. However, they have to be manually operated by school staff which is not always easy and timings can be inconsistent. After discussing our problems with the Directors of Broseley Fireclay Company, they have donated £575.00, a sum that will significantly contribute towards providing a remote solution so that lights that can be set to operate at timely intervals. We look forward to having these installed in the near future.

Needless to say, there is not a great deal more to include in my letter this week. Keep talking to us and sharing your experiences. Be assured that all of us are doing our best at this incredibly trying time and we can't do more than that. Most importantly, try to keep your spirits up – we will get through this together!

Thanks to everyone for supporting the school.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)