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25/01/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have been having fun with your families in the snow – everywhere looked so beautiful in the sunshine today. Days like this are so rare and precious, particularly when you're able to enjoy them with your children. They are times to remember - what a lovely distraction to all the dismal news lately!

I believe that the Barrow 1618 school community is doing remarkably well to support each other in the best ways possible. At the same time, I feel I ought to mention that last week some colleagues from other settings reported that a number of their pupils had been sent into school when members of the same household had tested positive for Coronavirus. I wholeheartedly thank our families for their honesty in informing us of positive test results and ensuring that their children isolate for the recommended period before returning to school. The impact of this has been that we have not yet had to close a bubble and that the children expected to attend school have been able to. It has also helped to keep our staff and their families safe so that they can carry out their current roles and provide a remote education for all.

Here is a link to the latest government update on isolation guidance: [Guidance for Households with Possible or Confirmed Coronavirus Infection](#)

This week, I will be sending out a questionnaire to parents/carers to discover your thoughts and wishes with regard to remote learning. We are always keen to hear your views and find out what you think is working well as well as listen to your ideas about what you would like to be improved. It is this partnership that enables us to move forward together even though at the moment there are many questions that remain unanswered and we don't know when we will be able to open the school to all pupils.

From speaking to others in our community, it is clear that this virus has become more personal over recent weeks and most of us have either known people who have been affected or have suffered loss ourselves. We are all united in wanting this period to be over and look forward to the time where we can meet in safety and live our lives together again.

Believe me, the staff and I cannot wait for those days ahead, when we can put our plans into action to ensure that Barrow 1618 remains an exceptional school that provides the best and most rounded education for its pupils.

What I am saying is, sit tight for the moment, let's show our resilience and we will get there in the end.

In the meantime, we are here – as always - to help and support all of our families.

Take care and keep safe,

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)