



Barrow, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5BW

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Chair of Governors: Ms. C. Jones



30/4/2021

Dear Parents/Carers

The Summer Term will bring about some exciting, long-awaited changes, enabling us to edge our way somewhat towards normality – a normality that I have not yet experienced at Barrow 1618!

We shall proceed with cautious optimism, adhering to the government's Roadmap to ease restrictions at Steps 2 and 3, following guidance about how to meet safely, such as by minimising the size of gatherings and meeting outdoors where possible.

Following updates to restrictions, dates for events this term are increasingly being added to the **school calendar, available on the website**. Also, keep a close eye on emails as well as information communicated through these newsletters.

Firstly, for **Key-stage 1 and 2** (Elm, Ash and Oak) some outdoor **clubs** will be available for a six-week period from week commencing **17th May to 2nd July, from Monday to Thursday**, on school days only. Clubs will run from **15:30-16:30**, with a Twilight Club being available for those who need to attend from **16:30-17:30**. We recognise that some families require after-school care even if their child/children do not wish to participate in specific activities and would rather catch-up with homework or just relax. Therefore, the current after-school club, that is in place to support working families, will continue as the 'Homework and Chill Club' and be available without restriction. However, in the event of over-subscription, priority will be given to the children of parents/carers who are working. The Homework and Chill Club will also be available to Reception pupils in Yew Tree Class. From September, we hope to be in a position to increase the variety of clubs that we offer and remain open to ideas as well as welcoming more volunteers.

Please be aware that although the clubs will go ahead in bad weather, the activities may change as children relocate to indoor areas. **Further details are attached with the booking form. There are limits to numbers so, to avoid disappointment, we recommend a swift response.** We are continuing to follow the guidance, that can be accessed via the link below, and in doing so need to ensure that groups remain consistent. As a result of this – as well as to aid administration - you are required to book your child/children in for the six weekly sessions for which you will be charged. Payments for clubs will be made through ParentPay or via your chosen childcare voucher scheme. **Parents/carers are strictly required to collect**

children at the agreed time, at the latest. Clubs will not be covered after this time and pupils will not be able to mix with others from different groups.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Please note that if you have already booked after-school care until half-term, you will just need to book and pay for any additional sessions required.

We are expecting to **invite parents/carers from various classes, on different occasions, to join us for school meals** with the children on the following dates:

- **Thursday 10th June** - Yew Tree and Elm classes, Teddy Bears' Picnic
- **Monday 14th June** - Ash class, Flag Day meal (with food from different countries being provided during that week)
- **Friday 25th June** – Oak class, Barbeque

We hope that you will be able to join us and will send out details closer to these dates, including menus and information about how to book your meals.

In harmony with our **Barrow 1618 school ethos**, and to promote the values of care and curiosity in the children, **we are keen to extend and develop our outdoor areas**. We are now in a position to act on some really positive plans, starting with our **outdoor classroom and the garden**. Our vision for the future is to combine these areas with a nature reserve and develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of the pupils as gardeners.

With the skilled and inspirational help of Nikki Swankie, who currently manages our garden, we want the staff and pupils to become experts. Eventually, **pupils leaving Barrow 1618 at the end of Year 6 should have the experience and capability to garden in all seasons, throughout the year**. With the donation kindly received from the Co-op's Local Community Fund, we are able to begin to improve the space and structure of our outdoor classroom and surrounding area. Amongst other things, we would like to include a bird-hide – that will be designed by the children – as well as a water area and plants to attract a variety of species. **But we will need the ongoing help of our community!** This really is something for us to do together for the benefit of our wonderful school and its pupils.

First of all, we would welcome any **offers of help**: we need to move the rubble from outside the outdoor classroom as this is intended to become the wild-life area and we need to prepare the ground; we would also appreciate any help in designing and reforming the land between the garden and the outdoor classroom.

We would gratefully receive donations of any of the following:

- slabs to go under our compost bins;
- plants;
- hedging;
- seeds – a variety;
- pots;
- garden tools (suitable for pupils and adults) that are in good condition;

We will be also be approaching local garden centres and wild-life organisations to **request donations** of the above. If you know any that may support us, please let us know or contact them on our behalf.

In addition, we welcome your ideas and would consider anything to help us fulfil our aims for our school grounds.

Unwanted furniture from the outdoor classroom will be available to anyone who wants it and will be placed alongside the gravel car-park from Tuesday next week. Please help yourself to anything that is there.

A variety of projects will take place in school this term to enhance our curriculum and motivate the children to learn. Look out for details in next week's newsletter about upcoming art and writing projects.

You will have received an email about **Number Day**, an NSPCC initiative, that is being organised by Mrs Hayes. Number Day – with added jelly-beans - will take place next week on **Friday 7th May**. As the children will be involved in jelly-bean related number activities and games all day, they have been asked to dress accordingly in either their favourite jelly-bean colour or anything relating to numbers. **Donations to the NSPCC** can be made via ParentPay or can be brought in on the day.

Another date for the diary is **Sports Day**, which will take place, weather permitting, on Wednesday 7th July. Although parents will not be able to attend this year, it will be filmed and available for permitted access from our website.

We are in touch with **Shropshire Music Service (SMS)**, finding out what they can offer in terms of music lessons and when these will resume. We will be showing the children a video of a ten-piece band, which the SMS have provided this year as an alternative to coming in to school and performing. Music teachers from the service will then respond to pupils' questions, via Zoom, about instruments and learning to play them. Following this, I will send out further links and information to parents/carers.

Requests for **parents/carers consultations** have now been booked and will be communicated to you shortly by class teachers.

Finally, **thanks again to the volunteers** who are now working in school to support the children. They are making a real difference.

Class photographs will be going ahead on Tuesday 4th May.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support. Have a lovely long Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)