



Barrow CEVC Primary School

Inspire, Create, Discover, Together

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Headteacher: Mrs H Ashe BA (Hons)



25th February 2021

Dear parents and carers

Update on Returning to School from 8th March 2021

I hope you and your families are safe and well and that, like the staff here at Barrow, you are delighted a full return to school is now firmly on the horizon. Following the publication of updated guidance from the DfE and in consultation with the governors, we have begun the process of putting together our plans to welcome your children back to school from Monday, 8th March. Until then, our online learning provision will remain in place and we will also continue to offer in-school provision for those who are eligible to receive this support.

A Safe Return to School

For primary schools, there has been very little change in the guidance, so our children should expect to return to school as it was prior to the Christmas holidays. Attendance will once again mandatory for all children. However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know. Remote provision will remain in place for any children who are shielding or self-isolating after the 8th March.

Safety measures will resume with the systems and procedures that have successfully been in place since our full opening in September. This will continue to be based around our existing class bubble arrangements and additional hygiene measures. Our Barrow Extra wrap around care provision will also restart on this date. Please contact the office if you require further details of this.

Staggered start and finish times will remain in place to ease congestion at pick up and drop off. Timings for some year groups have been slightly amended so please ensure that you carefully read the attached updated guidance. Social distancing requirements on site will remain in place with one significant change; all adults are now required to wear a face covering whilst on the school site.

The updated guidance now also requires the wearing of face coverings by staff and other adults in primary schools where social distancing cannot be maintained. This means that the staff will be wearing face coverings when moving around communal areas of the school, but NOT in classrooms and within their bubbles.

We have also been pleased to be able to implement a twice weekly staff testing programme this term. I would like to offer my grateful thanks to the staff who are continuing to play their part in keeping our community safe.

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The school leadership team will continue to keep our Covid Risk Assessment under review and respond to any further guidance the government may issue in the coming days and weeks. Please be assured that we will all do our very best to ensure that the school is as safe and welcoming an environment as it can possibly be for the return of staff and pupils.

A Happy Return to School

We have been doing all that we can as a staff team in recent weeks to support the wellbeing of your children. One of the most important messages I wanted to share with you today is that this will continue in earnest when the children return to school. As you will be only too well aware, your children have endured an extremely difficult situation during recent weeks and months. Our focus from the 8th March will be to welcome them back and for them to enjoy being *at* and learning *in* school again. I hope like me, you trust our outstanding staff to prioritise wellbeing flexibly and responsively; whilst the work the staff have put in during this period has been excellent, we are conscious that the impact of this most recent lockdown may, in some cases, not fully emerge for a little while. We will also continue to work gradually but determinedly over the remainder of the year to address any gaps in learning that may understandably have been created by this most recent period of time at home.

The teachers will be making sure that there is a focus on returning to school in their live sessions next week. This will be an opportunity to remind the children of the bubble arrangements and for them to ask questions or chat through their worries. In the meantime, if you have any particular concerns about your child returning to school, please do contact their teacher or a member of the Pastoral Team as soon as possible. There will also be a live pastoral drop-In session for parents on Tuesday, 2nd March at 11.30am. This will be an opportunity for parents to have a one to one, private chat with a member of staff online. A zoom link will follow separately.

As I'm sure you all are, I'm looking forward to a brighter Summer and beyond with much optimism. I'm also confident that, with everyone working together, we can successfully navigate the coming weeks with our usual resilience and sense of community spirit.

With warm regards



Helen Ashe
Headteacher

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