



Barrow, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5BW

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Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Stephenson

School Business Manager: Mrs. A. Pitchford

Chair of Governors: Ms. C. Jones



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30/11/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your prompt response in picking up your child/children on Friday. It seems that the source of the problem with the power was outside school.

In situations where we are without power, our school network, including phones and computers, are no longer functional which is why we are only contactable via the telephone number that was provided: 01952 727421.

### **Illness in School & COVID**

With winter approaching, in addition to COVID, a variety of cold and flu-type viruses have been affecting pupils and staff – myself included. Over this term in particular, we have learned of a range of symptoms which could indicate that a child has COVID. Either as well as, or in place of, the main symptoms outlined by the NHS, many pupils feel poorly with a headache and/or feel sick; they may just feel unwell. We know how quickly this virus can spread. Therefore, with Christmas approaching, it is crucial, for the sake of others, that pupils experiencing any symptoms, however mild, remain at home and are tested with a PCR test. This should be carried out in addition to the Lateral Flow testing that is taking place regularly in households. Knowing how difficult – and often traumatic - it is getting a reluctant child tested, we thank you for your understanding of the importance of doing so and for your perseverance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

A principal mitigation measure, according to government guidance, outlined in our Outbreak Management Plan and Risk Assessment, is adequate ventilation in classrooms, with doors and windows being open, where possible.

Furthermore, the use of HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filtration systems are recommended to help reduce virus particles in the air. We are extremely grateful to four of our Barrow families for each supplying a system to ensure that we are well-equipped in school. On behalf of the whole school community, we give our thanks to the Rickards-Turbins, the Rheads, the Blairs and the Woolleys for their thoughtful generosity.

### **Fundraising & FoB**

Understandably, the pandemic has had a huge impact on fundraising events that have been able to take place and the Friends of Barrow have worked hard to come up with ways of supporting our school in spite of it. As you know, the FoB are treating the children to their theatre trips at a considerable cost. Money raised from the Class Coin Collection is essential to help fund such events. Please keep coins coming into the classes – we would like to see these jars full by Christmas!

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## **Supporting the Community**

Mrs Adams has sent out an email about this year's donations to the food bank: at the start of each school day, between Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a box located next to the school entrance gate labelled 'Food Bank Donations'. Food or toiletry items would be much appreciated by those in need. All donations will be delivered to local food banks in time for Christmas.

Elm Class will be singing carols outside the Lady Forester Centre in Broseley on the morning of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December to spread some joy to the elderly residents. They will travel there and back on the Friendly Bus. Please give your consent through ParentPay for your child to take part. The start to the school day will not be affected by this.

## **School Website**

In the Parents Area of our new website, we are planning to include links to the newsletter, menus, upcoming events, clubs, uniform, classes and the school office where further information about the team, policies and absence request forms will be available. In order to discover what you would like to see in the parents' area of our new website please share your thoughts via this link, if you have any additional ideas: <https://forms.office.com/r/xMc6ufsRyd>

## **Christmas Lunch**

Please remember to complete the online form to book your child's Christmas Lunch as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so here - <https://forms.office.com/r/fsBRab8DHu>

## **Upcoming Events**

Our plans for events remain under constant review:

- The Yew Tree and Elm Class plays will be recorded and shared with parents.
- The Carol Service may be held in Barrow Church, otherwise it could be outdoors or recorded.
- Christmas Crafts will be organised for staff and children only
- Older and younger pupils will attend Christmas parties in staggered groups.
- Classes will sit together in the hall on Christmas Lunch Day.

06/12/2021	Flu Vaccines	All pupils – please return forms if you haven't already done so.
08/12/2021	Christmas Lunch Day	This will be another big day with children taking part in Christmas activities and crafts. They will enjoy a celebratory lunch with crackers and carols. Children can wear their own clothes.

10/12/2021	Christmas Crafts  Christmas Jumper Day	Crafts will be sold/shared in school with children only.  It is Christmas Jumper Day. Children wear their Christmas jumpers and donate to Save the Children.
14/12/2021	KS1 & KS2 Christmas Parties –  refreshments and a visit to see Santa.	Yew and Elm classes: 13:30 – 15:15  Ash and Oak classes 15:30 – 17:15  Yew and Elm children to arrive in party clothes; Ash and Oak pupils to bring party clothes to change into.  There will be a disco, a visit to see Santa and refreshments.
15/12/2021	Carols in the Community	Elm class will sing carols to the residents of the Lady Forester Centre in Broseley. They will perform outside.
15/12/2021	Barrow Carol Service	Further details will be provided.
16/12/2021	Yew Tree Class Panto	Information emailed to parents on 18 <sup>th</sup> November.  If you wish your child to go please provide consent via ParentPay.

Last week, Oak class thoroughly enjoyed their day at Shrewsbury School where they learned even more about Charles Darwin. As well as the fascination with our local hero, I do believe that the absolute highlight of the visit, and what our children were most impressed by, was the fact that soft drinks were available to their pupils on-tap! Many thanks to Katie Rothwell for all her help liaising with the school and arranging the visit.

Finally, thanks to pupils, Wilberforce and Walden, for the selection and safe delivery of this year's tree. We look forward to showing it to you, on the website, when it is decorated and in situ.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)