



Barrow, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5BW

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Chair of Governors: Ms. C. Jones



08/12/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are still not sure of the cause of yesterday's power failure and can only apologise for the disruption and thank you again for your prompt responses.

Over the last few weeks, how to involve parents in the end of term celebrations has been in the forefront of our minds and we have had to make plans that could be easily adapted to take account of our local situation and advice that we are receiving from government sources and the Local Authority Protection Team. As headteacher, it is my responsibility to make sense of this and make informed decisions based on what I know about our community and the current situation in school.

I am now able to communicate the end of term plans in greater detail in the hope that nothing will change between now and the end of next week!

### **Christmas Plays**

Children in Yew Tree and Elm Classes are rehearsing their Christmas plays which are currently being filmed ready to be shared with you next week. We are aware that the parents of the current Year 1 children have not been into school to watch their child in a nativity play yet. Initially, we were hopeful that parents would be able to come in to watch the live performances. However, due to the high infection rates in our community and Shropshire as a whole, it would not have been sensible to invite you into school and risk spreading illnesses which could now so easily impact on Christmas time with your families. Therefore, we are planning to provide the parents/carers of Elm class with a recording of their nativity play. Links to the plays will be available to parents/carers on the school website and Yew Tree's, 'Baby Hunt' based on 'Bear Hunt' will also be shared on Seesaw.

### **Christmas Crafts**

In their classes, the pupils attending school over the past week, have been busy designing and making their Christmas crafts to sell to each other at the craft fayre on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Some pupils have made additional items at home. Children will be able to bring in a maximum of £5 to purchase items on that day. Any profits which will go back into class budgets for pupils to decide how to spend. This is also an event that usually involves the parents and the Friends of Barrow. Therefore, any items that remain unsold will be available for purchase on the playground adjacent to the carpark after school.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

It is also Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Children may wear their Christmas jumpers and donate to Save the Children. Donations can be made via a link to the 'Just

Giving' page here <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/cjd210017334> or children may bring £1 into class on the day.

### **Christmas Parties**

An exciting afternoon is to be had by pupils on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at their Christmas parties. Many thanks to Gary Williams for organising and running the disco. Children will also be visiting Father Christmas in the Yew Tree grotto. We are still looking for two volunteers to help serve refreshments to the children at each party so please contact the school if you feel you can help. We are asking for a £2 donation from each child to cover the cost of the parties. Payments should be made via ParentPay by the day of the parties. We are sure that you will share our view that this is a small price to pay to ensure that they children have a well-deserved good time this year!

Yew and Elm classes will arrive in their party clothes on the day; please ensure that these are warm enough for ventilated classrooms. At the end of the day, the children will be ready to be picked up at the normal time and after-school club will continue to be available for those who usually attend. Yew and Elm pupils attending club can be collected from the Oak classroom on this day.

Ash and Oak classes will bring their party clothes in with them to change into after school when their party starts. It will finish at 5:15pm at which time they will be collected from the playground. A refund will be issued to any parent/carer of a Key Stage 2 child who has paid for them to attend a club on that evening and picks them up at 5:15pm.

### **Christmas Carols**

The Carol Service will be held in St Giles' Church, Barrow, at 2pm, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, and will be attended by Father Christopher Penn, pupils and staff only. For those of you who have been inside the church in Barrow, you will be aware that, together with the children, there is very little space available - especially with current requirements for adults to distance indoors. Nevertheless, we did not want you to miss out on the Christmas magic so, after church, at 3pm, weather-permitting, Barrow pupils will sing carols to parents outside in our school grounds. We shall also attempt to record the church service or parts of it to share via a link on the website.

During the morning of that day, Elm pupils were due to be travelling to the Lady Forester Hospital in Broseley to sing carols outside to the residents. However, we have just heard that their marquee has blown away and they are now without outdoor shelter. Consequently, they have requested that we send a video of the children singing instead. This will be subject to usual permissions that have been given by parents.

Mrs Briggs, the teacher for Elm class for the next two terms, is also looking forward to being with the children on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. You should have the opportunity to meet her after the Carol Service.

10/12/2021	Christmas Craft Fayre & Christmas Jumper Day
14/12/2021	KS1 & KS2 Christmas Parties
15/12/2021	Elm Class sing to Lady Forester residents (now in school) & Barrow Carol Service
16/12/2021	Yew Tree Class visit to the Panto
17/12/2021	Last day of term

Winners of the Barrow Art Competition will be announced next week.

Further information regarding the New Vic theatre visit, to see Beauty and the Beast, for Elm, Ash and Oak classes, that will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, will be emailed to parents before the end of term.

Coins to fund the theatre trips are still being collected and parents will be able to add to class collections on 15<sup>th</sup> December during the carols.

Thank you for your kind donations to the Food Bank. The deadline for contributions is this Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Hopefully, the weather will be kind and our power source will remain stable, allowing us all a calm and joyful journey through to the end of next week.

Yours sincerely,

Sian Stephenson  
(Headteacher)