



WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL
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September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

A very, very warm welcome back to all our children, parents and carers. We are so pleased to see you all.

A special welcome to all the new children and families joining us this year. I hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and managed to get safely out and about. Thank you for all my wonderful presents and cards, they are very much appreciated.

We are here to welcome and support our children back in to school. I know the routines are not what we would normally be doing but I know our children will settle in quickly and enjoy being back at school. Please can you keep to the drop off times. We will keep end of day under review.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs Karen Rose who served as a Teaching assistant and ELSA. Karen has dedicated many years to our school and we wish her all the best. Mrs Hannah Bealing will be working in Year 1 at present. We also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Julie Bennet, one of our Midday Supervisors.

Please can you continue to remind your children to cough and sneeze into tissues or the crook of their elbow and then wash their hands. We will continue to remind them in school too.

This term we will be embracing our new technology with our Teams meetings! As we are not able to have parents on site we are hoping to hold parent's meetings via Teams. We are hoping to hold our meet the class teacher virtually. We will give you more information later.

We will be using **"Step up September"** as part of our teaching and Learning policy. We will be supporting all children with their emotional health whilst we continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum assessing where there are gaps. The teachers will then look to see if personalised learning is required or whole class teaching. All schools will be given extra funding to help children requiring some support to fill in gaps and this will be available to all children. Please see the policy attached.

Attendance

As you will be aware attendance is now a legal requirement again. We believe that Every Child counts at William Barnes Primary School and want to ensure every child achieves and thrives. Parents are of the utmost importance in helping their children to achieve.

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms we be asking you to keep your child at home and have a test for Covid-19 and let us know the result. You will be given a two day learning pack at the beginning of term that you can use during the wait for the result. If your child is unable to attend school, please leave a message on our absence line by calling the school office before 8.45 a.m. If your child has any Covid symptoms please also leave a message that they will be getting a test.

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to an-



answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. Monday 31 August (Bank Holiday) from 10am to 4pm.

As many children get coughs and colds over winter we will not inform everyone every time we ask a family to get a test. We will inform you if a test is positive and we will then be directed by Public Health England on how to proceed. Should we have a positive test, family names/details will not be disclosed.

Let us know

Please contact the school office as soon as possible if you have changed your email address or are unable to access email. If we have a local lockdown or your child is absent for a period of time we will be communicating learning by email as we would not be able to hand out paper copies as before.

Emergency Contact Information

Please let us know if you have moved house or have any new telephone numbers over the summer so that we are always able to contact you in an emergency.

At present we cannot have volunteers in school but if you are interested in the future please let me know.

Uniform

As we start the new term and the children all look splendid in their uniforms please could I ask you to put your child's name in their clothes so that we can return them as soon as possible if they lose them. If you have not been able to we are going to ask children to write in their own names in class. We are a very active school and so please can you ensure your child has sensible black school shoes that they can run around in or trainers to change into if necessary. Please can you also ensure your child has the correct school uniform, particularly black, white, grey or green socks or tights.

Year 5 and 6 will wear their PE kits with school jumper and tracksuits if necessary on PE days.

Healthy Lifestyle

We will be continuing our increased hygiene and good respiratory practices.

For children to achieve and thrive it is important to have a healthy lifestyle. As a reminder, children can only bring water to drink in the daytime - squash at lunch if wished - and we strongly recommend that they only have fruit or vegetables for break snacks. Please can children bring in their own water bottles so that we can avoid the use of shared cups. Children cannot have any crisps, chocolate or confectionary at break times. By encouraging children to have a healthy breakfast and then fruit or vegetables they will be learning lessons for a healthy lifetime, the importance of which has been highlighted during the Covid pandemic.

Photos

Please can I remind parents/carers that if permission is given to take photos at school events- when we can have them again!- then only pictures containing your child and no other children can be uploaded onto Social Media.

Travelling to school

Only children who have completed all 3 levels of bikeability training are able to ride their bikes to school. We offer bikeability training when your child is in Year 6.

If your child is riding a scooter to school you are responsible for their safety on the way to school. If we have any concerns we may have to look at stopping chil-



dren bringing scooters into school.

Please remember that the school Car Park is for staff only. We do not have enough room for parents/carers to drop off their children either in the car park or at the bottom of the drive.

Last year we had some near misses with parents nearly hitting children, and some near accidents as staff were trying to come into the car park as parents left. If, however, you are a registered disabled driver, please contact the school office as you are entitled to use our car park and we will be able to give you a permit. If you feel there is an important reason that you need to park in the car park please put your reason in writing and I will discuss with the chair of governors. For everyone's safety we ask for a speed restriction in the car park of 5mph, we would appreciate your support by adhering to this. The school has received a grant towards erecting a barrier on the driveway. The governors and I will be investigating this possibility this year.

Medication

If your child has to take medication (even if it is cough sweets) we need a permission form to be completed. If you require a form, please contact the school office so that they can send one home with your child. All medicines need to be labelled with the child's name. We are still allowing children to bring in their own hand sanitiser and hand cream if they would like to. These cannot be shared with any other children.

Extended Schools

We are very pleased to still be providing a breakfast club, 7.30—8.30 a.m. and afterschool club from 3.15pm until 5.15pm at a charge of £3.00 per hour. Payable through parent pay. Please contact the school office to book a place.

We are not able to offer after school activity clubs at this time.

Family Partnership Zone

We work very closely with the Family Partnership Zone. On 23rd September we will be holding our first Family Partnership Zone meeting of the year where parents can discuss any concerns they may have that involve their child. We will be holding these meetings in my office, socially distanced. (Masks can be worn by all if requested) During this meeting we will hope to support you with any concerns and give you some assistance or point you towards other help. If you would like to come along, please call the office to make an appointment.

Pupil Premium /Free School Meals

Please have a look at the accompanying letter regarding Pupil Premium and Free school meals. If you are entitled to this benefit the school will receive additional funding to help support your child.

This has a big impact on our school funding and so please take the time to read the letter.

Dates and Events

Please have a look at the accompanying dates sheet for details of events we know so far for this term. We will keep this updated monthly with any additions/ amendments etc. Key dates per month will be listed on the newsletter.

Advance notice for SATS & Phonics:

Key Stage 1 Assessments over May 2021

Phonics check week commencing 7th June 2021

Key stage 2 SATS week commencing 10th May 2021

Year 4 multiplication tables in June.

More details about these will follow closer to the time.

We do ask however that no holidays or appointments are taken during that time.

Thank you for all your support over the past term. I know I can count on your support as we move forward in the autumn term, whatever we are faced with. Please be assured that the health and safety of all our children and families is our priority.

I have also attached provisional dates for this term but these are obviously subject to changes and updates.

I wish you all a healthy and happy September,

Best wishes

Karen Wrixon

Headteacher