

One family branching out together

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Goodbye to Year 6

There wasn't a dry eye in the house on Wednesday when our Year 6 class of 2020 enjoyed their leavers' service. Whilst it may have looked different to previous years the Barlow team, led by Mrs Lofthouse, did a fantastic job of making it a special occasion for our families. Thank you to Rev Pete for his lively Psalm 'rap' which got the crowd energised and the children thinking about what they are thankful for throughout their primary school journey. Our Year 6 pupils have been outstanding role models in our school and they will be considerably missed at Barlow. We look forward to hearing about their future achievements in the years to come; they are a cohort who I'm sure will do great things.



(Mrs Year 5/6 France Visit

Thank you so much for your patience as we continue to engage with the refund process. Mrs Charlton, our Chapel Haddlesey administrator, continues to lead on the paperwork for this claim and she is in touch with the insurers on a regular basis. There is a huge national delay regarding refunds and I appreciate that this process is frustrating for families. If a resolution is not finalised before the end of term, please be reassured that you will receive a refund, even if your child has moved on to high school. We will continue to update you as we receive news.

Staffing Clarification

Since 2017, the school roll has risen, allowing us to operate a 3-class structure since January. Unfortunately, this structure isn't viable full time from September as we only have 32 children altogether in Years 3,4,5,6. We have to access our class structure regularly and a permanent three class structure is our ultimate aim for the school. To achieve this, we need between 20-25 pupils in each class. Until we increase our school roll, we need to operate the following structure from September:

	Class 1 – Mrs Alnajjar with Mrs Edenbrow	Class 2 - Miss Trafford with Mrs Collins and Miss Hargreaves	Class 3 – Mrs Lofthouse (Mrs S Smith on a Tuesday) with Mrs Collins in the afternoon
Morning	Reception/Year 1	Year 2/3/4	Year 5/6
Afternoon	Reception/Year 1/Year 2		Year 3/4/5/6

A Hello from Mrs Hugill

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Year 6 service on Wednesday. I was shocked to see how the children had all grown since December! The weather held off for everyone and I watched with pride as the Year 6 children enjoyed their special goodbye. Seeing the families again was also lovely and I appreciated the opportunity to catch up with everyone.

I am still enjoying my time with William and, whilst I am so tempted to return in September, I have decided to take my full maternity leave and savour this special time as a new mum and I will return in December. I will visit again in the autumn term and I look forward to catching up with you all again soon!

New Starters Video

A huge thank you to the Class 1 team for creating a new starters welcome video. You can find the video on the school website by clicking on the link below. The new starter induction morning for our new reception children is on **Thursday 4th September, 9.00am-noon**. The children will spend a morning with their parents in Class 1, enjoying a selection of activities to help them settle into their new environment. We look forward to welcoming our newest members of the school to our Barlow family.

<https://www.barlowschool.org.uk/welcome-our-school-our-september-2020-new-starters>



Covid Catch Up Plan

The government announced a £1billion catch up plan to address the disruption to children's education during the Covid-19 pandemic on 19 June:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

It has been widely reported that this will provide schools with up to £90 for each pupil to fund catch up activities and additional money to deliver one to one tuition for disadvantaged pupils. The government has not yet published the guidance for schools on delivering this plan, or the amount of money which each school will receive. Parents/carers should not expect that £90 will be allocated to their child, or that they will definitely receive one to one tuition using this funding, or through the National Tutoring Programme which was also included in last week's announcement. The additional funding is to be spent across the next school year (September 2020 to July 2021) and we will develop our plans to use it when the government guidance has been published.

Places in school for the rest of this term

The government announced on 24th June that there would be a significant relaxation of lockdown arrangements from 4th July, including a reduction in social distancing from 2m in some circumstances. The new guidance makes it clear that the government's plan is for all students to return to school in September and that further guidance will be published on this:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>

It has, however, already made clear statements about the expectations on schools for the rest of this term – *“There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so”*:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

We are currently at absolute capacity and do not have any additional classrooms available to open up fully to other year groups. The government has just published guidelines for opening in September and once we have digested it, we will share our plan for running the school in September. We will keep you fully informed at every stage.

Holiday Club

Our holiday club is proving popular with families across the federation. Thank you to those who have booked in and paid already. You are welcome to access the childcare at any of the three school sites, if needed. We are heading towards capacity on key days and there is currently a waiting list for some sessions. Should you wish to make a booking, please contact Mrs Briggs using the admin email and she will try her best to accommodate you.



Seesaw

Seesaw has been a very useful learning platform during the Covid crisis. As you are already aware, we break up for the summer holidays on Friday 17th July and we'd like to inform you that teachers will not be setting or marking work during this time. Your child can continue to access Seesaw over the summer holidays though, if they wish to complete any of the activities that have already been set, as these will still be visible to them. We also plan to use Seesaw as a platform for our home learning activities in the new academic year. Over the summer, if you are keen to continue to provide learning activities for your child, and you need to supplement the bank of activities that have accrued on Seesaw, please see below a range of websites that offer excellent online learning opportunities for your children, so that you can keep their interest in learning going, if you wish.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth> (we will ensure that parents have the login details)

<https://www.purplemash.com/login/> (we will ensure that parents have the login details)

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Last Day of Term

Miss Godfrey-Davies will be making a pizza picnic for our children to have for their lunch on Friday 17th July, so please contact Mrs Briggs if your child normally has a packed lunch but would prefer to have the pizza picnic instead. School ends at 12.30pm on this final day of term.

Nursery Whispers

There have been a few whispers circulating that we may be looking to open a Nursery at Barlow in September. Given the current climate, opening a nursery for September would not be a sensible decision. However, we have had a significant number of enquiries from parents asking whether it would be a possibility for later in the academic year, and it is certainly worthwhile to consult with parents to glean the opinions of the wider school community. More information will follow after the summer break and we look forward to sharing the specifics with you and collating your responses.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Suzanne MacDonald
Executive Headteacher

