

One family branching out together

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Newsletter 10

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wider Opening of Schools

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced that all schools will re-open on March 8th. Due to the small size of our schools, and the availability of our staff members, we will be able to welcome all year groups back on this date. We look forward to seeing the children return as we begin our catch up programme, which will continue throughout the summer term.

We are fortunate that, as a small school, we can operate as a big bubble, but where possible, classes will operate in class bubbles, learning, playing and eating together. This means that we will operate as we did in the Autumn term. We will continue to reinforce regular handwashing and encourage social distancing, though we appreciate that this may not be possible with our younger children but we will try our best, as always. We will continue to operate a staggered start and finish time each day, alongside our one-way system when collecting children from the school and we will email our updated risk assessments out to you next week for your information.



Below are a few reminders and considerations:

1. Ideally, all children **must** attend school wearing their full school uniform. We recognise that some parents may struggle to purchase new uniform or shoes before March 8th, so please be reassured that we understand that there may be a transition period whilst are able to do so. It is much more important to us that your child/ren attend school, rather than what they wear.
2. On P.E. days, children will attend school in their P.E. kit and remain in their kit all day, rather than change. PE days are as follows: - **Class 1 – Wednesday** **Class 2 - Thursday** **Class 3 – Tuesday**
3. School dinners will continue as normal, as per the menus that are on the school website and that you have already completed and returned to school prior to lockdown. **The menu on Monday, 8th March will be the Week 3 menu.** Children only need to bring a packed lunch if they are not having a cooked lunch. All children can bring a water bottle which **must** be taken home, washed and refilled each day.



4. Book bags and rucksacks are welcome in school if they **absolutely necessary** but we ask that all other items such as pencil cases and toys are left at home. Please speak to your child's teacher if your child has particular requirements. Children in Class 1 may bring a set of spare clothes in case of toilet accidents and spillages but we request that they are provided in a named carrier bag only please.
5. We will be able to operate our wrap around care, in the form of Breakfast Club. Please email Mrs Briggs on admin.barlow@wrfed.co.uk where she will be eagerly awaiting your bookings.
6. After school clubs will begin as soon as possible after the Easter break. We will email you after Easter with further details.
7. Medical and dental appointments **must** be made outside of the school day, unless it is an emergency, or specifically scheduled them for you by a medical practitioner. This is to restrict the movement of children, staff and visitors across the school. A copy of all medical or dental appointments must be provided by email to Mrs Briggs, otherwise the attendance cannot be authorised.
8. The staggered beginning and end of each day will continue, with the organisation being the same as during the Autumn term.
9. Each class will hold a TEAMS question and answer meeting for the children who are learning at home before the 8th March to answer any questions that they may have regarding their return to school. Your child's class teacher will advise you of the date and time for this in due course.
10. And finally... we are not able to offer childcare during the Easter or the May half-term break. We will consider summer holiday childcare once lockdown has eased and we are in a better position to assess the need, in consultation with parents. We are also aware that there may be a number of government proposals regarding holiday education over the next few months and we believe that at this point, it will be wise to respond to such proposals once they are shared by the government, rather than make promises now which may change as the months move forward.

Please note that the government have again withdrawn their directive that parents are able to choose to keep their child at home or send them to school. This is not something that any school in the country can overturn. This means that if you decide to keep your child at home, the normal protocols for addressing attendance will be adhered to, including the issuing of fixed penalty fines to parents.

Again, as I shared in September, fining is a last resort situation and one that I am keen to avoid, particularly during such unprecedented times. I would rather sit down and discuss any concerns that you may have regarding your child returning to school and work together to address them. If you **do** have concerns, please do not ignore them and allow for March 8th to come and go! Instead, contact Mrs Briggs by emailing her on admin.barlow@wrfed.co.uk and she will make a mutually convenient appointment for you to meet with me. We are quick to respond to emails and we are happy to talk to you before we return, to address **any** of your concerns thoroughly.

Thank you for your continued support, as we look forward to welcoming you all back to school as a community once again.

Best wishes,

Mrs MacDonald



Let's Celebrate

The following children deserve a well-deserved mention for their outstanding achievements this week: -



Class 1

Harvey - for super phonics work and lovely name writing.

Charlie - for explaining so carefully the life cycle of a flower.

Class 2

Regan – for impressing both Mrs Collins and Mrs Edenbrow with his dedication to his online reading, through Bug Club and his fantastic effort with his maths work!

Sophia R – for being a reading superstar and engaging well with Bug Club, her efforts are paying off and her confidence is growing.

Class 3

Tyler - for his enthusiasm during his French lessons and his great French accent and pronunciation. Bien joué Tyler.

Leighton - for returning to his learning really well after half-term and completing his work to a high standard.

Pastoral Support from Mrs Thornton

Supporting your child back into school after lockdown

It is only natural that many young people will be worried about returning to school after being off school for so long. Below are some tips taken from the Young Minds website about how to support your child back into school.



1. Talk to your child about how they are feeling about going back to school and try not to make assumptions. Ask them if they are worried or feel scared about anything, but also if they are excited about or looking forward to something. No matter how your child feels, let them know that it is completely normal to feel a mixture of emotions and that everyone will be in the same boat.

Visit <https://youngminds.org.uk/starting-a-conversation-with-your-child/> for ideas on how to start the conversation.

2. Provide your child with as much information about their new routine and school day as you can. This will help them to prepare for any changes that have been made to the timings of their day, the layout of their classroom, their peer groups and playtimes. For younger children, it can be really helpful for them to visualise these changes – so ask your child's school if they can send any pictures to help make things feel more familiar.

3. Reassure your child. During the lockdown we have been told to stay at home, remain socially distant from others and wash our hands regularly. This means children may find it difficult to go back to school because it will be a huge change from what they have been asked to do during the pandemic. Talk with your child about ways they can stay safe at school, such as washing their hands before and after eating, and reassure them that the school are putting measures in place to keep them safe.

4. Re-establish a routine to help ease into school life. During lockdown it is understandable that your family's routine may have changed. Children are likely to have been waking up later or going to bed later. To help them get ready for school, try to gradually get them back into their usual morning and bedtime routines as they get closer to their return date.



5. **Don't put pressure on yourself.** The transition back into school is likely to take some time. Lots of children will experience ups and downs. Try your best to support, reassure and comfort them, without putting pressure on yourself to make sure their homework is done or they settle into a new routine straight away.

6. **Think ahead.** As well as reflecting on what has happened during the past few weeks, it is important to help children develop hope and a sense of excitement for the future. At a time like this, it can be hard to feel positive, but identifying the things that they can look forward to will help them to realise that the current situation will not last forever and their feelings will change.

7. **Seek support if you need it.** Transitioning back to school after being in lockdown is no easy task. You may find that your child struggles to get back into school or is experiencing difficulties while they're at school. If this is the case, reach out to your class teacher as soon as you can so that you can make them aware of the challenges and work together to support your child. If you are concerned about your child's mental health and you think they need professional support, speak to the school and your GP about the best next step.

This information can also be found on our website following the link: -

<https://www.barlowschool.org.uk/news/2021/february/supporting-your-child-back-school-after-lockdown>

Outdoor Area

If you will have been past the front of our school recently you will have noticed some exciting work has completed to update it and you will have noticed that the rotten play equipment has discarded. In its place is a new tee-pee hut and a willow play dome. The project is ongoing and is half-way through now and we intend to seed the soil before Easter and develop the spiritual reflection corner by the middle of the summer term. We will keep you informed of developments in due course.

Over the next 18 months we intend to keep adding to our grounds to improve the play provision for the children, once they are back in school, they can be involved in the future plans that we have ahead.



World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday, 12th March, which will be a non-uniform with the children and staff coming to school in their pyjamas. We will not collect any contributions for charity on this day; instead it will be a day to celebrate having all of our children back in school and enjoying being a whole-school community again. The children will be asked to think of a catchy theme name for this event, so please encourage them to get their thinking caps on!

RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 2021

Class 1 participated in this event at the beginning of lockdown in January. Mrs Hall and the pupils set up a feeding station for the birds near the hedge across from the playground, so that the children could see it from Class 1's window. Each day the food and water was checked and topped up by the children, as necessary. On the morning of the survey, armed with the survey sheet and binoculars the children took it in turns to watch for the birds. They noted a number of hedge sparrows, two very fat wood pigeons, a thrush and a robin. This was a great success after we had seen nothing during our first week of watching. We are continuing to feed the birds and make notes on who is visiting.



Live stream Owl cam

Some of the children throughout the school, recently and during the half-term holiday, accessed the Robert E Fuller live webcam. Robert is a wildlife artist who lives at Thixendale in North Yorkshire and he has turned his farm-based art studio, where he also lives, into a haven for owls and weasels, installing live web cams throughout various parts of his land.



Since we have returned to school, the children in Class 1 have been watching with much interest as the Barn Owls spend the daytime in their 'home range' and the Tawny Owls, as they spend their daytime in their nest holes. We have discussed what they have seen and asked a number of questions about the owls that the children are now researching.

The female Tawny Owl, Lunar is presently sitting on 2 eggs that are due to hatch any day now and we are looking forward to seeing the owlets emerge and how Lunar and Bomber (her partner) look after their young. Lunar is a 3 year old bird and Bomber is an 11 year old bird and has been known to pay his attentions to more than one brooding female at a time! Please follow the link below to join the fascinating world of owls and weasels at Robert Fuller's studio: -

<https://www.robertefuller.com/acatalog/Nest-Camera.html>



Mole Misery



We do love nature at our school being in such a glorious rural setting we embrace all wild visitors to our school and at the present time, our visitors are moles who are lovingly making tunnels on our school field!

Here's a mole fact: Whilst out riding at Hampton Court, the Protestant King, William III was thrown from his horse when it stumbled over a molehill. The king broke his collarbone and died 3 weeks later in 1702. The delighted Jacobite's raised a glass to 'the Little Gentleman in Black Velvet'

MarvellousMe



MarvellousMe is an app, which tells you about the wonderful things that your child is learning and pings you when they have been praised for good work or for presenting a great character skill. **From Monday, 8th March** we will be using the MarvellousMe app again. If you are new to the school then your login details will be sent out to you shortly. If you are an existing user but no longer have your login details, please contact Mrs Briggs.

Please see the link to our website below which has all the information you need to know about MarvellousMe: -

<https://www.barlowschool.org.uk/news/2020/april/marvellousme>

Children's Mental Health Week – 1st – 7th February 2021

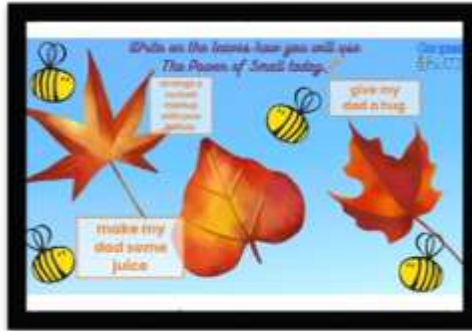
All of our classes took part in this week and the children participated at home and at school. They took part in various activities such as Express Yourself, Time to Talk and The Power of Small.

The Power of Small and Time to Talk engages the children to start conversations, make someone else smile, or even do something that is good for themselves or others.



Please see the contributions from some of the children in class 2 for The Power of Small and Time to Talk. Erin and Phoebe made a poster and Mary made her own version of the Twister game. Hopefully, Mary and her family are not tied in knots whilst trying her game out!





Expressing Yourself is all about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good. Every class took part in this event and the children learned valuable skills from doing so.

The children in Class 2 expressed themselves by dressing up in some super costumes which was part of Children's Mental Health Week. Please see Olivia W, Mia and Elenor S and Sophia R looking fantastic. Also included are work that some of the children produced in keeping with the Time to Talk theme.



The children in Class 3 completed some wellbeing activities during this themed week such as drawing emotion monsters, creating a golden ticket comic and what would they do, eat and listen to on a desert island. Mrs Hugill and Mrs Smith had some great responses back from the children and have seen some beautiful drawings and contributions. Please see Eva's poster below which was inspired by the example given on the left.



Spring in Class 1

Although we have been sad to see the end of the snow, we have been quite excited to have some warmer days to play in and to see the signs that spring is nearly upon us! We admired some beautiful daffodils and took a closer look at them using magnifying glasses. We counted their petals and placed them into height order. Having looked at the daffodils closely, we then enjoyed painting them. We saw that the stems of the daffodils were different shades of green and that the leaves were a pointy shape. We showed our observations carefully in our paintings with pleasing results! We also discussed that the national flower of Wales is the daffodil and we located Wales on a map. For those in the Welsh community - Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus!



Please see below the concentration on the children's faces below as they construct and paint their lovely daffodils.



The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership NYSCP



The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) has introduced a new Facebook page to raise awareness of safeguarding issues with parents and carers. They will be posting regular information for parents and carers as well as professionals and young people regarding safeguarding issues and concerns and details of how they can keep their children safe.

They are eager to ensure that we maximise the reach of the page with parents across North Yorkshire, so please refer to the information below:-

We are very excited to officially announce our new page on Facebook.

We will be sharing a variety of useful content to:

- raise awareness of safeguarding issues primarily with parents and carers
- help parents and carers know how to keep their children safe
- provide links to key services where children, young people, parents and carers can find help and support

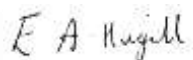
Check out our page at facebook.com/nyscp1 and be sure to LIKE and FOLLOW us!

Don't forget you can also:

- Visit our website at safeguardingchildren.co.uk
- Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/nyscp1
- Check us out on Instagram at instagram.com/nyscp



Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hugill
Head of School

Diary Dates

Monday, 8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole school re-opens
Friday, 12 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• World Book Day – non uniform pyjama day
Friday, 26 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School ends for Easter
Monday, 12 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training Day (school closed)
Tuesday, 13 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to school
Monday, 3 rd May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May Bank Holiday (school closed)
Friday, 28 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School ends for Spring Bank
Monday, 7 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training Day (school closed)
Tuesday, 8 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to school
Friday, 23 rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School ends for Summer

New Dates Added

