



The White Rose Federation

Executive Headteacher: Suzanne MacDonald B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH
Co-Chair of Governors: Rev. Anna Burr Co-Chair of Governors: Jenny Brown

Barlow C of E Primary School
Park Road
Barlow, YO8 8ES
01757 618319
admin.barlow@wrfed.co.uk

Burton Salmon Community Primary School
Ledgate Lane
Burton Salmon, LS25 5JY
01977 672405
admin.burton@wrfed.co.uk

Chapel Haddlesey C of E Primary School
Millfield Road
Chapel Haddlesey, YO8 8QF
01757 270282
admin.chapel@wrfed.co.uk

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your prompt response to our letter last night. We are still collating requests for school places, but early indications suggest that the demand for care is relatively low. However, many parents have shared that they may need a school place in the next few weeks and we would like to be in a position to support our families when needed. We will therefore aim to keep all three schools open across the federation during this time, with the regular staff at each school, and in each class.

What will each day look like?

At school, we will start and finish at our normal times. Where breakfast club and after school clubs are currently offered, they will continue to run. The breakfast and after school clubs are a chargeable service and we will continue to charge for this care as we can no longer furlough this provision. The learning done in school will mirror the learning set online, with extra play-based activities for the children once they have completed their learning for the day. At this point, we have not been offered any guidance on bubbles in school or minimal numbers, therefore, if your child does attend school, we aim for them to go in their normal class with their class teacher. We will amend this following updated guidance if needed .

Online Learning Expectations

There has been a government shift since the previous lockdown and there is a greater expectation that online learning will be provided and that the children will complete it. Whilst we can't enforce this, we do recognise that the Prime Minister deliberately used the words 'online learning', rather than childcare, and this may have caused parents some anxiety. We have decided to keep our online learning simple, with staff members at school each day, should you need to contact us for support.

For Years 1 to 6, a maths, reading, spelling/phonics and foundation subject activity will be available for each day of the school week on the Seesaw Learning Platform. From next week, to help families to plan out the week, all of the activities will be available to view on a Monday, rather than so many dropping in each day. For the remainder of this week, staff will add work on a daily basis for pupils to access. For children in Nursery and Reception, their learning will be set on Tapestry, for which you should already have log in details. Staff appreciate that there needs to be a range of activities to keep children engaged and are balanced between needing support from yourselves or being able to independently complete the learning. For any new subject matter, we aim to upload a 'how to' video to support the correct teaching methods.

Staff will respond to online learning queries using the email communication system between school and families on the Seesaw page. We also respond to any requests for phone call support. Please contact your child's teacher using the Seesaw email rather than the school admin email as it is your hotline to the correct staff member and it will generate a faster response.

Your child's Seesaw log in can be sent to you today, if you need a reminder, to allow you to log in and refresh yourself with the programme. At Barlow, all Seesaw log ins will be sent out to parents again either this afternoon or by 10.30am in the morning.

School Meals

The government have indicated that they intend to offer free school meals to families who qualify, even if they are choosing to home educate. We anticipate that this may be done through the distribution of vouchers. The admin team at each school will make daily enquiries to chase the expected organisation and distribution of these vouchers and will contact you as soon as there is an update.

Hot school meals will continue to be provided for the children in school who qualify for free school meals and those who wish to purchase them.

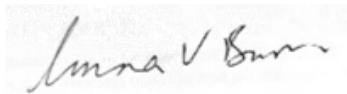
Future Plans and Half Term

At this point, we don't know what the government are going to announce but we will continue to respond as quickly as possible to you once new information comes to light. We have had a few queries about half term care in February. We intend to see how the lockdown progresses and aim to support any family with childcare needs over half term, if needed. We will write to parents near to the time to ask who needs this service.

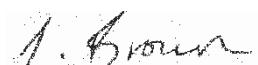
Yours sincerely,



Suzanne MacDonald
Executive Headteacher



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