

**Newsletter**

**September 2019**

We have had a great start to the new academic year here at Barley Fields Primary School. The children look amazing in their school uniform and their behaviour and manners are impeccable, as always. Our new children in Nursery and Reception have settled well and we are all looking forward to an amazing year in school.

**Growth Mindset**

This year we are continuing to promote an important part of our school ethos – growth mind-set. This is a school wide approach to learning, praise and reward designed to encourage all our children to be resilient and self-motivated learners. Children who view difficulty, challenge, perseverance, making mistakes and failure as an integral part of their own learning processes are often the most successful learners.

We have seen an amazing shift in the children’s attitudes and confidence throughout last year as a result of this approach and it will be continued in 2019-20. This year we intend to extend the understanding of growth mindset to our wider school community and in November we will be holding some activity days in school to explore some of the themes. These will be open to parents and children together and we do hope you can join us.

Growth mindset will hopefully be something that your children talk to you about at home and that they see as a positive part of their learning.

**Marvellous Me!**

****Marvellous Me! has been a huge success in school and one which parents really value. The system is now up and running, so look out for messages from your child’s new class teacher. **I**f you haven’t yet signed up to Marvellous Me! please contact the school office we will ensure that your individual log on details and guidance on downloading the app are sent out to you.

**Staffing**

This term we have an established staffing team and our current staffing arrangements are as follows:

**Head Teacher** Mrs C Taylor

**Assistant Head Teachers** Mr R Shildrick,

Mrs H Gregory

**Early Years**

Miss T Flores Dominguez, (Key Stage Lead), Mrs N Thompson, Miss B Grief, Miss R Johnson

**Key Stage 1**

Mrs E Brand (Key Stage Lead), Mrs E Richardson,

Mrs N Head, Mrs P Neave, Miss M Atkinson, Mrs K

Ripley, Mr P Nixon.

**Lower Key Stage 2**

Miss E Perkin (Key Stage Lead), Mrs C Ward, Mr L Forster, Mrs J Pisani, Mrs S Nicholls-Pickering, Miss A Lane

**Upper Key Stage 2**

Mrs C Shildrick (Key Stage Lead), Miss E Duncan, Miss A Barton, Mr U Durrani, Mr A Harker, Mrs H Burton

**Lunchtime Arrangements**

This year we continue with our banded mealtime choice system. Additional copies of the menu can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the virtual office section of our school website.

May I remind parents that the cost of school lunches is £10.25 per week, which should be paid via ParentPay. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are part of the Universal Free School Meals programme and are entitled to a free meal each day.

Can I remind parents that if you are eligible for free school meals it is important that you let the school know, as it allows us to claim additional Pupil Premium Funding on your child’s behalf. All children receiving free school meals are eligible for additional funding, which as a school, we can use to improve the quality of education and ensure all children have the opportunity to participate fully in school activities. Further details on this funding and parental eligibility can be obtained from the school website or you can contact a member of the office staff. All enquires will be treated in the strictest confidence.

If children are bringing a packed lunch to school we have a policy on the content of lunchboxes available on the school website. We have several children in school who have severe nut allergies and request that parents do not include nuts or any nut based products in school packed lunches. Children must also bring their own drink (not fizzy) and a spoon for yoghurt or jelly. Staff based in the dining hall will monitor children on packed lunches and will encourage them to eat all items provided – please only add to a lunchbox the food you expect your child to eat.

**Fruit**

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are offered a piece of fruit each day. Children in other year groups are permitted to bring in a healthy snack to eat at playtime. This must be a piece of fruit or a similar option. Please ensure that fruit such as grapes are cut into small pieces and not sent in whole as they are a choking hazard. We do not allow biscuits, crisps or chocolate in school as part of this snack.

**P.E.**

Across school all children are expected to participate in 2 hours of physical activity each week. From September, children will only be excused from PE if a written note from a parent is received in school stating the reason why they must be excused and duration of the illness. If a reason for non- participation is for a period of more than 2 weeks, medical information or advice must be provided to school.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times. Our school P.E. kits consists of:

* Navy tracksuit (jogging bottoms and sweatshirt top), white t-shirt, navy shorts and trainers/plimsolls.

The kit **MUST** be stored in a drawstring bag as we have issues with storage in school.

There will also be increased opportunities during lunchtimes for children to participate in sports clubs and activities led by coaches. Children will need a change of footwear for this.

**Daily Mile**

As you may be aware we have had a daily mile route added to our playground markings and the children have already enjoyed using it. All children will take part in a daily mile challenge and will have opportunities during the week to access the mile alongside their class. The daily mile is designed to improve children’s (and staff!) fitness and should take approximately 15 minutes. No specialist kit or footwear is needed for this.

**Reading.**

Last year our reading attainment and progress saw remarkable improvement which was undoubtedly due to the increased support with reading that children had from home. This year we will continue to promote home-school reading and I expect all children in school from Nursery to Y6 to spend some time sharing books with adults; listening to stories read aloud or reading aloud together at home.

Every child should change their reading book regularly and I would ask parents to monitor this and ensure that all home reading is recorded in a child’s reading record. If you are concerned about the frequency of your child’s book change please speak to their class teacher or contact me directly.

We will also continue our parent reading programme which was so successful last year. As such we are looking for a group of parents or grandparents who wish to volunteer to come into school for short periods on a regular basis and read with our children. This would take place daily from 11.30 - 12.15pm or during the afternoon teaching session. The opportunity to read aloud with an adult is an excellent way to raise attainment in reading and for some of our children this is important given the challenging demands of the curriculum. This is a very rewarding role and I would look to link volunteers with particular year groups and members of staff.

Any work would be in line with our volunteering in school policy and adults must be checked by the disclosure and barring service (DBS). School would arrange for these checks to be carried out. If you are interested in volunteering for this project or would like to discuss it further, please contact Mrs Gregory who organises the project.

**Home Learning**

As you are aware we subscribe to a number of home learning programmes available for use via the internet. These include:





Children in Early Years and KS1 can access:



Children in Year4, 5 and 6 can also access:



Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 can access:



Please note that many of these platforms will re-set the start base at the start of the new term.

**Communication**

We are a school with an open door policy and we welcome all communication and interaction with parents. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns, as I would like to believe we can solve any issues as soon as they arise, with clear communication. My door is always open if parents wish to talk with me directly and I will endeavour to meet with you as soon as possible.

This year I am eager to improve our communication with parents and to utilise technology to a greater extent. As such we now have a school Facebook page, to communicate key information and achievements directly to members of our school community – please follow our page.

Mobile phone numbers and email addresses are particularly important to us in school, as we will be utilising the text messaging service and the email system to communicate with parents more frequently this year. May I urge parents to ensure your contact details are correctly stored in the school office. If required, our office staff will be happy to print out the details we have for you on record so that you may check and amend them as necessary. You may also download and return a ‘change of details form’ available from the school website.

**Curriculum and Key Stage Workshops**

Staff in school are busy preparing a range of workshops and information sharing sessions to update you on the school curriculum expectations and to offer advice and support for ways in which you can help at home. Please make every effort to attend these events as your support and interest in your child’s education is very much valued and can make huge difference to their progress and attainment.

**Attendance**

If your child is ill please contact the school office by 9.30am on the morning of the first day of illness. Our school office is open from 8.00am and a school administrator will be available to take your call. Regular attendance in school is very important and I expect children to attend every day unless ill.

Mr Shildrick will continue with his responsibility for monitoring and promoting school attendance and will be available to support families when concerns with persistent absence arise. Persistent absence is when a child’s attendance falls below 90% in a 12 month period, not just in an academic school year.

The governing body reviewed the attendance policy and procedures for the academic year 2019-20 (available on the school website or in hard copy from the school office) and made the decision to continue with current policy including the thresholds for the issuing of fixed penalty notices for unauthorised absence. These remain in line with Local Authority guidance.

May I also stress to parents that if a leave of absence is required during term time, the appropriate form must be completed and returned to school prior to the absence. This is essential as under our safeguarding arrangements we have a legal responsibility to know the whereabouts of all children during term time. Failure to complete a leave of absence form may lead to a formal ‘child missing in education’ referral being made to the local authority.

**Friends of Barley Fields**

Our school benefits from the support and hard work of a very active group of parents. The Friends of Barley Fields organise regular events in school and fundraising activities. Their generosity provides our school with a range of additional resources and treats for our children.

They are currently looking to expand their members and would welcome any additional volunteers. If you would like to be involved please contact Mrs Gregory either by telephone or email bfhsgregory@sbcschools.org.uk or message the Friends of Barley Fields via their Facebook page.

**Administration of Medication**

Following revised guidance from the local Authority we will have made amendments to our ‘medication in school policy’. We only administer medication prescribed by a GP which needs to be taken four times each day. Parents must complete an appropriate form and hand all medication into the school office. The medication must be clearly labelled and contain a spoon (if required). Staff are not permitted to administer any medication without authority from the Head Teacher. Medicine must be collected from the school office at the end of the day by an adult.

**After School Clubs**

We will continue to support a range of clubs for children to participate in after school. Many of these are organised by external coaches who make a charge for participation. Information about the availability of places in the clubs and charges can be organised by contacting the coaches directly. However if your child would like to participate and cost is a concern, please contact Mrs Gregory who may be able to help. Next year we will be holding:

**Football – Mark Cromack**

Telephone contact: 0797 016 5764

**Dancefuzion – Sam Jones**

Telephone contact: 0788 431 3113

**Guitar KS2 – Andy Davidson**

Telephone contact: 0779 172 6337

**Keyboard KS2 – Andy Davidson**

Telephone contact: 0779 172 6337

**Running Club – Dan Fowler**

Telephone contact: 0794 774 0136

**Netball – Shooting Stars – Sarah Leighton**

Telephone contact: 0783 473 1620

**School Uniform Shop**

Thank you so much to Mrs Streatfield and members of the PTA who kindly organised a preloved uniform shop during the school holidays. I was astounded at the end of term with the amount of lost property we had around the school – many items were practically brand new and it seems such a waste that it is not reunited with owners. Given the expense of school uniform and the fact that children grow so quickly, we will shortly start our ‘preloved uniform shop’ in school. This will mean that should parents require new uniform items such as jumpers, cardigans, tank tops or items of school PE kit mid-year, they can purchase preloved ones from the school office for a small fee. If you have any items of uniform that no longer fit your child and are in good condition please send them to the school office. We will then sort them out and store them for sale.

**Parking**

Can I urge all parents to consider carefully where they park at the end of the school day. I am aware that some parents are parking around the roundabout on the zig-zag areas at the end of Lamb Lane. Not only does this cause congestion, it also poses a risk to many children as they leave school on foot as they cannot see moving traffic. I am sure everyone will agree that the safety of our children on the road is of utmost importance and we would not like to see an accident occur in which someone got hurt. Please park at Tesco and walk through to school if you are unable to walk directly from home.

**Diary Dates**

Dates for school events to be held in the Autumn term 2019 will be distributed alongside this newsletter.

**Parent Consultation:**

Monday 30th September 2019 3.45-6.30pm

Tuesday 1st October 2019 3.45-6.30pm

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| **PD Days 2019-20**Monday 2nd September 2019Friday 25th October 2019Monday 1st June 2020Friday 26th June 2020Monday 20th July 2020*School will be closed to children on these dates.* *For a full list of school holiday dates please see:* <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/1958699/school-term-and-holiday-dates-academic-year-2019-20-updated-june-2019.pdf>  *for a full list of the 2019-20 term dates.* |