



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - HIGH STANDARDS & EXPECTATIONS - SUCCESSFUL, SAFE, HAPPY STUDENTS

Our ref: cwa/stah71
25th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are enjoying the summer break and that pupils are well-rested and looking forward to their return to school in September. As you will probably be aware from coverage in the media, in order to minimise the spread of the virus, schools have once again been instructed to undertake asymptomatic testing of pupils prior to the start of term. We do not have the capacity for staff to carry out the mass testing of pupils as well as undertaking face-to-face teaching and therefore, in line with government guidance, pupils' return to school will be staggered over the week beginning 6th September. We recognise that this is not an ideal solution, however, it is important to mitigate risk for staff and pupils and also means that when pupils do return, we are able to give our undivided attention to their health and well-being and their learning.

Return to School

Pupils will return to school on the following dates and will return to the site via their designated entrance. All pupils need to be in school by 8.30am at the latest.

Year Group	Date of Return	Designated Entrance
Year 7	Tuesday 7 th September	Main Gate: Parrs Wood Road
Year 8	Wednesday 8 th September	Back Gate: School Lane
Year 9	Wednesday 8 th September	Main Gate: Parrs Wood Road
Year 10	Wednesday 8 th September	Main Gate: Parrs Wood Road
Year 11	Wednesday 8 th September	Back Gate: School Lane

Please Note: Pupils 'date of return' is the start of the school year, children are expected to attend school daily from this date.




Asymptomatic Testing

A number of parents have consented for their child to undertake asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing on site at the start of term. Guidance outlines that pupils should be tested twice on their return, 3-5 days apart. Testing will take place on the following dates:

Test 1	Monday 6th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils will be invited into school at a designated time. Parents will receive a letter next week with the details and the individual time for your child. Siblings will be asked to attend at the same time. Pupils will only attend the site on this date to undertake Lateral Flow Testing.
Test 2	Thursday 9th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils will attend school as normal and will be brought out of lessons in order to undertake testing.

Pupils are being asked to continue twice-weekly Lateral Flow Testing at home until the end of September when this will be reviewed. They will be provided with tests free of charge.

Attendance to School

<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 	 NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All pupils MUST attend school unless they are ill. Attendance to school is mandatory. From 16th August 2021, children under 18 do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact has Covid-19. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue attending school as long as they have no symptoms, and the test result is negative.
	 YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms at home, they should stay at home and book a PCR test NOT a Lateral Flow Test. If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid-19 they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

Risk Assessment

As previously, we are required to have a robust Risk Assessment in place. This is currently being updated in line with current guidance which has changed following the government's implementation of Stage Four of the Roadmap. It will be published on the school website on pupils' return to school.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school. Ideally, pupils should wear a cloth face covering as this provides best protection. Single use disposable face coverings are not as effective in preventing transmission.

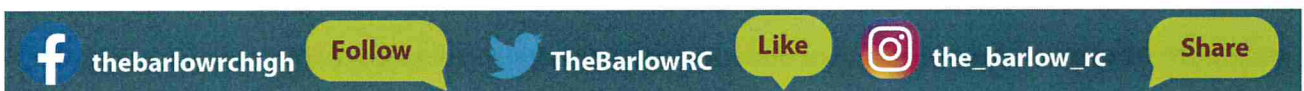
Health and Safety: Systems of Control

In order to mitigate the spread of the virus, the following risk control measures will remain in place in school:

- Hand Hygiene - frequent and thorough cleaning of hands.
- A regular and robust cleaning regime of all classrooms and communal areas.
- Occupied spaces will continue to be well-ventilated.
- Implementation of public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing a confirmed case.

Social Media

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to follow The Barlow on Social Media. Social Media is a very powerful tool for us to keep in touch with parents and by following us on Social Media you will be able to keep abreast of all developments and events that are taking place. It is also a way of us celebrating the achievements of pupils and for you to see the wonderful things that happen in our school every day.



Yours faithfully

Ms CM Wallace

Ms CM Wallace
Headteacher