

Team Bartons



Bartons Primary School COVID-19 Newsletter 1 29th March 2020



Good afternoon everyone! In order to stay in touch, I want to write to you every week to touch base and keep a line of communication open with you all. If we can maintain some normality then that is a good start. I hope that everyone is well and has managed to adjust to this new way of life and working. I have been thinking about the children and have missed seeing them all this last week but, I am hoping that everything is going smoothly for you all. It is a very scary time, one of which we've never seen before and I'm sure that many of us are still yet to realise just how bad this situation could get.



I wanted to let you know that the school staff have been amazing over these last few weeks. They deserve huge thanks for continuing their

roles with refreshing dedication, despite the obvious risks. All, except those self isolating, have been into school to support key worker children and have done so with a smile. Teachers are providing daily school work and fun activities for pupils to do online. The response from the majority of pupils has been fantastic and the teachers are all really impressed. I have loved seeing drawings, pictures and videos of the children's work. Some have been ingenious including sibling activities and some parent ones too! The teachers enjoy receiving messages and feeding back to the children. Please keep this up. I would encourage all parents to get their children to log on; there are some children that we haven't heard from. So for now, keep going, take care, stay safe and stay well. With very best wishes Kate Powell.



Monday 30th March

This week, school is ONLY open for parents and carers of critical key worker and vulnerable children. For children to attend school, places have to be pre-arranged with the school and requests for places will be confirmed via email. In light of the increasing risks, please do not turn up to school on any day unless you have had confirmation of a place. We are operating a scant skeleton staff and for the circumstances around social distancing, we will not accept any child who is not on the register.

On Friday, the Government re issued their guidance and again strongly reiterated the message that, '*the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society*'. This naturally includes protecting my staff, their families and my own. As this situation gets worse, please only ask for a school place if, because of your critical work that there is no other choice. Parents working from home should keep their children at home. We are all having to adjust in this new world of working and it is hard on both parents and the children. My own son is finding the lack of routine and not seeing any of his friends and family really hard but, we are trying our best to stay positive. I hope you all will too.

Finally, on Thursday, the local authority issued us instructions for providing food hampers to low income families. Hampers will be available again by the end of this week and then the local authority hopes to issue food vouchers there after. We will let you know.