

## Headteacher update - 12

Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, we come to the end of the week and would like to update you on both how this week has gone and also our plans for the remaining weeks of this term. Before we do this, we would like to once again thank you for playing your part in supporting your children and the school, the messages of support have been very welcome and mean a lot to all of us.

As expected, this week was another tough one with significant numbers of staff not in school, having Year 10 and Year 8 studying at home certainly made it manageable., thank you for your understanding. At the end of last week, we were worried that we may see our numbers of positive cases rising, whilst we have had a small number of positive cases this week we have not seen any increase or wider spread, for which we are thankful for.

Next week looks better in terms of staff in school, as a number return from self-isolation. However we are not at the point where we feel that we can provide a quality education to all year groups, so again, we have concluded that we require a year group to remain at home, this is not a decision we have taken lightly. As we do not know what the remaining weeks of this term will look like, we are planning on the basis that a year group will need to remain at home each day. In order to minimise the impact on specific years groups we are planning to include all year groups from Year 7 to Year 11 in a rota system.

To enable you to plan ahead and to give you as much notice as possible, we are publishing the rota for the final three weeks of this term. If our staffing situation improves to the point where all students can be in school, we will of course revert back to all students being in school. We will keep you informed on a weekly basis. We understand that this may present difficulties for some families, especially as our younger students are included in the rota. If this is the case or if your child is entitled to free school meals and you would like some support with this please do contact the school in advance so that we can see how we may be able to help.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December we are keen for all of our students to be in school so that they do not miss out to the traditional Christmas activities, this year our Panto will be online and we are planning a number of Christmas related activities - all socially distanced of course.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November the Year 11 students will not return to school as planned, but we are asking that they remain at home and revise for their mock exams that begin next week, no work will be set by subject teachers.

All other year groups on subsequent days will have work set via email from their subject teacher for the day they are at remaining home.

### DECEMBER 2020 ROTA OF YEAR GROUPS NOT IN SCHOOL – REMOTE LEARNING

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 11	Year 10	Year 8	Year 9	Year 7

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 11	Year 10

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Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 10	Year 9	Year 11	Year 8	All year groups in school 12.30 finish

### Free School Meals

Hertfordshire County Council is teaming up with the Family Food Trust, a government backed charity, to help them to deliver food vouchers to children and young people in receipt of free school meals during the winter school holidays. This follows recent government announcements of the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, part of this funding will be allocated to providing food vouchers to entitled families this Christmas holiday and in February 2021 half-term.

A total of £30 per entitled child will be provided for the Christmas holidays (10 days) and £15 per child for the February 2021 half-term (5 days). Families will receive support for each of these holidays separately, before the end of each term.

The electronic vouchers for food and groceries can be used in four major supermarkets (Asda, Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's) and will be sent to families directly by email or if necessary, they can be printed, and collected from school.

The school, Hertfordshire County Council and the Family Food Trust will need to access and share personal data of pupils and students who are entitled to free school meals to enable us to provide food vouchers directly to eligible families. This data will include the name and contact details of each pupil/student and parent/carer and the name of the School they attend. All information shared will be used solely for the purpose of distributing food vouchers; no personal information will be shared with any other partner or third party, and data will only be retained for the length of time of the food voucher support offer. Data will be stored and transferred securely from your school to Hertfordshire County Council and then to the Family Food Trust. **Please ensure the School has your up to date contact details.**

If you do not wish your child(ren) to be included in this voucher scheme or if you have any concerns please contact Hertfordshire County Council at: [educationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:educationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk). For further information about Hertfordshire County Council's Privacy Policy please click [here](#).

Families who do not qualify for free school meals but are worried about their finances or having enough food this winter can contact HertsHelp, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net), call 0300 123 4044 or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

### Barnwell Community Clothing and Food Bank

In these unprecedented times if you feel you could do with some support in the form of a contribution from our Community clothing and food bank then please do not hesitate to email us in confidence at [communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk). Equally if you are able to support with the donation of food or clothing please let us know.

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### Barnwell Breakfast Club

We are very grateful to Stevenage Community Trust for their contribution in support of Barnwell Breakfast club for 2021. Which will be used to support this valuable resource providing our students with a free breakfast every day to help them start the day ready for learning.



### Covid Symptom Study

The [Covid Symptom Study](#) was launched by Health Science company Zoe and Kings College London and is the worlds largest ongoing study of COVID-19. Barnwell school has partnered with the study to help us make sure we are doing all we can to keep our community as safe as possible. We are becoming part of the worlds largest scientific dataset of COVID-19 in children and invite you to join us in this.

You will receive further details with our unique school code next week. You will then need to download the app from the [Apple App store](#) and [Google Play store](#) and join our Barnwell school network this will allow you to receive personalised COVID insights about our School. By using this app you're helping and contributing to advance vital research on COVID-19.

For more information about the study and how they protect your data see [here](#)

### Reporting COVID cases

During the term, it is essential that we as a school are notified of any students that test positive for COVID-19 or have to self-isolate as they have been in close contact to a confirmed case.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any point, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. During school hours, you should phone the school, and out of school hours, it is necessary to email [communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk).

**Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.**

### **Main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

### **Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:**

- they have symptoms of COVID-19
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they have not completed the full 14-day isolation period requested

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If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

As ever, could we please ask you and your families to do their part in ensuring our community remains safe and our school continues to operate fully. Please follow Government guidelines and reinforce school expectations at home

### **REMINDER: COVID-19 Webpage**

If you have any queries about COVID-19 and Barnwell School, please visit our designated COVID-19 webpage. This page has information regarding our COVID-19 procedures as well as our [school contingency plans](#), information guides and all previous parent/carer communication. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/covid-19-info-2/>

### **Operation Educ8 Year 8**

On Wednesday 25th November we held our latest 'Operation Educ8' focus week, where we looked at the issue of Domestic Abuse. Operation Educ8 is a cross town collaboration involving all the secondary schools, North Herts College, the ESC and Hertfordshire Police. Wednesday's presentation was based on a domestic abuse survivor Zoe, and her story. The rest of the Year 8 students across the town are also being shown the same presentation in their own schools this week.

### **Reminder: PE Uniform**

Only Barnwell school hoodies are allowed to be worn with the PE uniform, students can wear their school jumper or blazer over their PE uniform during the day as an alternative but no other hoodies or jumpers should be worn to school.

### **REMINDER: Parent/Carer meetings**

As we have been advised to reduce the number of visitors coming into school, we would remind you that meetings will continue to be held using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or conducted via a phone call.

### **REMINDER: Communications**

Could we please remind parents and carers that due to the current structure of the school day and increased duties, on occasion, staff will not be able to return communication within the school day. A reminder of the school communication protocols set up last year can be found by clicking [this link](#).

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via [communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick  
Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts  
Head of School