

Headteacher update - 9

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you had the opportunity for some well-deserved family time during the half term break. This week, students and staff have returned refreshed and ready to continue the outstanding work in ever changing circumstances. As we enter another lockdown phase, we wanted to reassure you that as a school, we are doing everything we can to ensure the environment is COVID safe and that we safeguard all students and staff.

In our last letter, we informed you of the 'fact finding' visit from Ofsted. We have now seen a draft of the pre-populated standardised letter that provides simple factual information about the school. It will be published on 18th November.

Our amended timings and systems have worked well this week and has further enhanced the calm and orderly movement of students around our site.

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.

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.

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

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

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/carers communication. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/covid-19-info-2/>

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Governor Spotlight

Last week we had the pleasure of introducing Graham Bunting, one of our Governors, to you. Barnwell School is very fortunate to have a strong and supportive Governing Body. The team consists of current and former parents/carers and other members of the community committed to ensuring we continue to deliver an outstanding provision to our students. This week, we would like to introduce you to another member of our governing body by clicking on our Governor Spotlight [link](#).

If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please email communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

REMINDER: Face Mask update

Face masks are now required by the government for all staff and students when in indoor social areas and travelling between lessons in our buildings. To further enhance our COVID safe environment, when teachers or teaching assistants move outside their 2m teaching zone, we will insist that students must put their masks on/up for this short period of time.

Please can you ensure your child has two face masks with them at all times, in case one breaks. We would advise students to wear reusable face masks and that they are washed on a daily basis.

Whilst we would never deny a student the issuing of a mask, there are too many children arriving without them and we cannot continue to bear the extra costs. Continued failure to comply with this request will result in students being issued a concern, and if the situation continues we may need to charge. We are seriously hoping we can avoid this.

REMINDER: Parent/Carer meetings

As we have been advised to reduce the number of visitors coming into school, we will be asking that from Thursday 5th November meetings are held using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or conducted via a phone call.

Remembrance Day activity

This year to commemorate those that those who serve and have served our nation, we took photos of all of our year 7 students hands holding poppies. These photos have been edited into two photographs by Mr Ledster. This was a lovely activity that will serve as a tribute from Barnwell School.



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Remembrance Day service - Stevenage

Due to current COVID restrictions, the event will be livestreamed to encourage people to “Remember from home” <https://www.youtube.com/user/sbccomms>. You may need to refresh the page a couple of times to see the video.

As a school, we will observe a 2-minute silence at 11am on Wednesday 11th November.

Children in Need

On Friday 13th November, we will be having a whole school non-uniform day for Children in Need. In order to be as COVID safe as possible, donations of 50p will be collected in buckets on the gates, as students enter the school.

Thank you in advance for your support with this cause.

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

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

Mr Fitzpatrick

Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts

Head of School