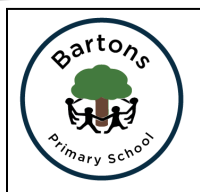


Team Bartons



Bartons Primary School
Newsletter 25
22nd March 2020



Well I never thought I'd be sat here on a Sunday afternoon contemplating writing, potentially, what could be the last newsletter for a long while. This week has been possibly one of the most challenging, emotional and momentous ones of my 27 years teaching career. I never imagined that we would be in a position where we were forced to close. But, to do our duty to help protect the health and welfare of our country, we are faced with the need to isolate as many people as possible and minimise all physical interaction. However painful, keeping as many children at home as possible is a logical step in making this happen.

I know that you will all do your bit to keep the spread of the virus as slow as possible. School staff stand united with other front-line workers in requesting you adhere closely to the social distancing guidance.

Team Bartons are working together to keep the school open to provide support for the families whose parents are working to protect, care and keep the country going in these very difficult circumstances. The skeleton staff that we will have, will be providing childcare to the children of critical key workers and vulnerable children. This group has already been confirmed and a separate communication has been sent to them with arrangements.

For those of you at home, we obviously want to minimise the disruption to your child's learning. You will now have the details of your child's home learning. Children are expected to work at home. The staff will endeavour to keep the online learning updated - this will depend on the number of staff who stay fit and healthy.

I know that the Team Bartons community is exceptional in supporting each other in difficult times. Please make sure that you keep virtually connected to each other and signpost others to support if things get too challenging. Think about and look out for vulnerable neighbours, family and friends - there has never been a better time than at this time to think of others.

It is really hard to sign off when I am so unsure of when we will have an opportunity to be together in school again. We are a powerful and united community and I know that we will learn and grow from these experiences and that, as soon as we are back, Team Bartons will continue stronger than ever.

Please look after yourselves and your loved ones. Stay healthy, safe and at home.

Yours truly Kate Powell.

Monday 23rd March

As already explained, school is ONLY open from Monday for parents and carers of critical key worker and vulnerable children. This has been pre-arranged with parents who have had requests for places confirmed. Please do not turn up to school on Monday unless you have had confirmation of a place. Because of a skeleton staff and the circumstances around social distancing, we will not accept any child who is not on the register. Please do not put staff under any undue stress - I think we would all agree that it is hard enough already. Thank you for your co-operation and support on this.



So take care and we will see you all as soon as it is safe to do so. I'll be thinking of all of my lovely pupils and all of you. Keep all of the school staff in your minds too. Kate Powell