



Tuesday 27th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Arrangements for September 2021

I am writing to confirm the following arrangements for the Autumn term to ensure a smooth and prepared start to the new academic year.

Timings

As things stand now, we are reverting back to our previous morning drop off and afternoon collection arrangements for September 2021. Both Harbury Road and Radcliffe Gardens Gates will be opened at 8.40am and closed promptly at 8.55am. Parents may drop their child at either gate, leaving your child at the gate as you do now. Reception parents have separate timings for drop off and collection as per their staggered start. Only Reception parents are permitted to come through Harbury and Radcliffe Gardens Gate to accompany their child round to the Reception Garden. We ask that you then exit via the Beans Gate (adjacent to the two huts on the school field). Please be assured that we always have plenty of staff out on the playground during the first few days of a new academic year to help the children and ensure they know what to do and where to go.

Learning activities are set out in classrooms from 8.40am and registers are taken at 8.55am promptly. Any child arriving after 8.55am will be marked as late. Please aim for your child to be at school on time so that they don't miss out on a calm and purposeful start to the day.

School finishes for all children at 3.10pm. Both gates are opened at 3pm for parents to enter and make their way to the school playground. Children will be dismissed by their teachers. Year 6 are brought to the top playground (netball court area). Year 5 and Maple Class are brought by their teachers to the wooden stairs at the back of the hall to be dismissed from there. Woodpecker and Kingfisher Classes are dismissed with Robin Class at the end of the infant playground – parents please wait behind the yellow painted line. All other children are dismissed directly from their classrooms.

There won't be one way systems and parents can leave via any gate. Gates will be locked at 3.30pm but re-opened again for after school clubs when these re-start.



Harbury Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 4LA

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office@barrowhedges.com

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It always seems extremely busy on the first day or two but we have seen that it does settle down as parents make arrangements with their child(ren) about roughly where they will wait. We will of course monitor arrangements to ensure that there is a smooth end to the day. Please be advised that should the government make any changes to the *Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance* document (published this month) which mean that we must return to staggered starts and bubbles etc. then we will send out a Parent Handbook as we did last summer. For your information, we would revert to the same timings as we have operated this academic year. Please also note that our Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Outbreak Management Plan will be published on our school website before the end of August.

Attached with this letter is our Start and End of Day Policy and Procedures which provide full details of our policy.

Uniform

Please continue to ensure that children are smartly dressed in their correct school uniform. When school was only open to critical workers' children and others upon the outbreak of the pandemic last year, like many schools, we did not require children to come dressed in their uniform. This was to enable children to come each day wearing clean clothes. However, this academic year, we have seen a real decline in the numbers of children coming to school dressed in the full correct uniform. This is especially the case for correct school shoes and PE kits where we have started to see all sorts of things being worn! We pride ourselves on instilling high expectations in the children and so it follows that we want all the children to dress smartly and correctly. We ask that all parents support us to maintain high standards. Trainers are not permitted and neither are boots. Your child may change into trainers for the lunchtime play. *Attached with this letter is our Uniform Guidelines to assist you in preparing for the new school year.* Please look at this document as it has been updated.

Earrings should not be worn to school. If your child is having their ears pierced, please do so during this first week of the holidays so that earrings can be removed before school in September. We continue to find that some children wear earrings to school and although we do cover these with tape for health and safety reasons, this is not to be considered a long term solution.

PE Kit

We found that having the children come to school in their PE kit was hugely beneficial so will continue with this next academic year. We will send out confirmation of which days your child needs to wear PE kit via PMX on Wednesday 1st September once our timetables are finalised on our INSET Day.

Water bottles and snacks

Years 3 to 6 should bring a healthy snack for mid-morning. This should be fruit or vegetables only please.

Infant children have their fruit or vegetable snack provided by the school.

All children should bring a named water bottle to school each day.

Bags

Although sold by our uniform stockists, Cladish, we ask that children in Year 1 and 2 refrain from bringing in backpacks. Instead a book bag is required. Infant children do not need large school bags

as we have difficulty storing all of the children's belongings during the school day - book bags are preferable please.

Stationery and other items

Home-School Diaries are provided in the new school year and replacements for lost ones can be bought from the office.

We ask that all children return with the following in September:

- a box of tissues for their classroom. This provides a stock to keep classes going throughout the year
- a Pritt stick

For children from year 3 onwards, please provide your child with appropriate stationery in a named pencil case:

- Pencil *
- Eraser
- Ruler

* Children in year 3 work towards achieving their Pen Licence when they can use a blue ink pen.

On receipt of their Pen Licence, each child will be given their first pen as a 'well done'. We no longer sell handwriting pens from the office so ask that parents purchase these going forwards. Children may use blue gel roller ball pens and not biro please.

Hedgerows

Please be reminded that Hedgerows, our after school club, is available for booking – see our website for further details.

Term dates

Wednesday 1st September is an INSET Day. Years 1 to 6 children return on Thursday 2nd September. Our new Nursery and Reception children have been sent separate details about your child's transition into Barrow Hedges.

Our full term dates for 2021/22 are on our school website. The additional day for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is included as advised last week.

I wish you all a very happy and safe (and sunny!) summer break and look forward to seeing children, parents and staff back in September.

Kind regards,



Louise Wood
Headteacher