



**Mrs Louise Wood BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH
Headteacher**

Thursday 17th October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with some important staffing updates and a few other reminders for the half term ahead.

Staffing Updates

Firstly, I write to explain some changes being made to lunchtime supervision. Your child may have told you about this yesterday, following an assembly where I explained that arrangements would be different when we return after the half term break.

As from 29th October, our team of Midday Supervisors will be reduced to five and they will support the children in the dining hall. Mrs Holloway, Miss Roberts, Mrs Lillie and Mrs Seeboruth will be continuing in their role and Miss Treagus and Mrs Frost will be available as bank members of staff. Playground supervision will now be undertaken by our Teaching Assistants with one of the aforementioned Midday Supervisors joining them in the playground on rotation. We recognise that this is a significant change and this has arisen due to well publicised cuts to school's funding. We pride ourselves on ensuring that the children are at the heart of decisions we take and in particular that we offer a rich and ambitious curriculum. Therefore, when faced with a more challenging budget, we have sought to ensure that this revised staffing model will not be detrimental to the children and the school's excellent provision. We do also recognise that a large number of schools have already moved to this model of lunchtime supervision, including schools within our academy Trust. We have therefore been able to discuss the benefits gained by having adults who work with the children in a learning context, supervising them at lunchtime.

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to a number of our Midday Supervisors and this of course means that tomorrow is the last day for the majority of the team; some of whom have already left us to take on new opportunities. On behalf of all the staff here at Barrow Hedges, I would like to wish each one my very best wishes for the future and express heartfelt thanks for all their hard work here at Barrow Hedges.

We have told the children that if they feel sad or worried about any aspect of this change, then they should speak with their class teacher. However, we know how resilient our children are and that



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as there are no other changes to lunchtimes, i.e. the behaviour system remains in place, they will swiftly settle in to the new half term with the consistency of familiar adults to share their lunchtimes with.

On Monday we welcomed Mr David Blackman as our new Premises Manager, replacing Mr Pun who left Barrow Hedges over the summer holidays. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mr Blackman – you will no doubt see him around school.

I am also delighted to share with you the news that Mrs Katie Paull, our former Assistant Headteacher, has returned to Barrow Hedges. Mrs Paull is working in a new role, replacing Mrs Davis, who worked as part of our Inclusion Team. Mrs Paull will be supporting children as an additional teacher working across the school on a Wednesday.

General Reminders

I ask that all parents send their child in to school with a coat each day. We have noticed that a large number of children do not have one. Sometimes children tell us that this is because they are dropped to school by car but please remember that we will take the children outside unless the weather conditions are such that it wouldn't be appropriate to do so.

It would be really helpful to us if you would send your child to school with a box of tissues and a glue stick. This helps to keep classroom stocks replenished.

Thank you to those parents who have paid School Fund via ParentPay. This is appreciated. Please be reminded of the Gift Aid form that we would like to receive alongside your contribution.

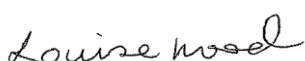
Supervision after school in the playground – we ask that you help us to ensure that children do not play on our equipment as detailed in our home-school agreement. Please also ensure that your child does not ride their scooter in the playground as this is a hazard at this busy time of the school day. We very much value the use of scooters as part of healthy and sustainable travel to and from school but we are told that children whizz along the pavements occasionally causing accident or injury. We therefore encourage you to ensure that scooters are used safely. On this subject, we will be installing some more scooter racks soon!

Unfortunately we are noticing that some children are not wearing the correct school uniform. Please be reminded of the following compulsory items so that children come to school smartly dressed as this helps us to instil in the children some of our core values. All items should be named please.

- Barrow Hedges sweatshirt or cardigan / pale blue polo shirt
- Grey pinafore dress/skirt/culottes or tailored trousers
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey or white socks/tights
- Black sensible shoes (no trainers, open sandals or heels please)
- Barrow Hedges PE T-shirt (or white round-necked T-shirt), navy or black shorts, Barrow Hedges (or plain navy) tracksuit bottoms and trainers for outdoor PE sessions (please provide a plastic bag to store dirty trainers)

Thank you for your support with these reminders. I would like to wish you a happy half term break. Please be reminded that Monday 28th October is an INSET Day so we look forward to welcoming back the children on Tuesday 29th October.

Kind regards,



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher