



Tuesday 6th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a great summer. It was lovely to welcome the children back yesterday and see so many smiling faces when we opened the gates. We have had a calm and settled start to the new academic year. Year 1 parents have been permitted to accompany their child to the Year 1 outside area at morning drop-off just for the first few days back to support with transition. The Early Years team have also been on hand to guide the children. We have been so impressed with how brilliantly the children have come into school – well done. Thank you in advance to Year 1 parents for saying goodbye to your child at the external gates from this Friday 9th September and going forwards.

I led a whole school assembly yesterday and talked to the children about our school's values. Perhaps your child(ren) told you about this assembly – **look out for another letter from me about the Barrow Hedges values in the near future**. In the meantime, I am writing with some important information to ensure that we continue to have a smooth and successful year.

Firstly, some good news to share – congratulations to Miss Marianne Wilson, Assistant Headteacher, who got married in the summer. She is now Mrs Wilson! Mrs Bennett's baby boy was born early on 3rd September. Miss Ayla Zafer is also expecting a baby in the Spring Term. I will of course keep Sycamore parents updated on arrangements for a replacement teacher for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I am sure you will join me in congratulating these staff members.

Key reminders:

Thank you to those of you who have brought in a **box of tissues** and a **Pritt Stick** for the classroom. We would appreciate these items being sent into school over the coming week if you feel able to provide these.

The vast majority of children have returned to school looking smart wearing the correct uniform as per our guidelines. However, there are some children wearing trainers when it isn't their PE kit day. Children should be wearing **black school shoes**, not boots please. We have recently reviewed our Uniform Guidelines and made a slight change: while we would prefer children not to wear earrings to school, we will now permit children to wear a maximum of one pair of small plain stud earrings on those days when they do not have PE. In the interests of health and safety, any earrings that cannot be removed on a PE day, should/will be taped over. The same will apply to after school sports clubs when earrings should not be worn. No other jewellery should be worn. **Hair accessories should be blue, white, black, brown or grey** please and shouldn't be too large (e.g. no large bows).



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This week, teachers are clarifying the rules for the safe use of our playground equipment during break and lunchtimes. Parents are reminded that **children should not be playing on any of the equipment after school**. This is written into our Home-School Agreement which all parents sign on admission into the school. I ask that you please support us in ensuring that your child(ren), including those who don't attend Barrow Hedges, wait with adults at the end of the school day and are supervised at this busy time. Similarly, please be reminded that **children shouldn't ride bikes and scooters in the playground before and after school**.

Unfortunately we are shocked to see how many children's items – in particular, jumpers, lunchboxes and water bottles, are unnamed. Children move around the school a fair bit during the day and with over 600 children much time is wasted trying to reunite items with their owners. **Please write your child's name (surname at the very least) into all belongings**. Thank you.

We have put together some **key information for parents** about this academic year which we will ensure is sent home to all parents by the end of next week. Class teachers will be on hand to talk through these slides next week for those parents who would like to come in to school. Please find the dates and times below. All meetings are in the main hall and children can be looked after by other staff here in school.

Tuesday 13th September – 3.30pm – Year 5 and 6

Thursday 15th September – 3.30pm – Year 3 and 4

Friday 16th September – 3.30pm – Year 1 and 2

We are aware that many parents have work commitments at this time so we have presented the information in what we hope will be clear and concise slides for parents to access at home. This year we want to ensure that we continue with our other workshops (such as the highly successful Maths Information Evening held last year) and these will be later in the evening so working parents can attend.

Last year I wrote to you about our **Knowledge Organisers** and how we have introduced these key documents to support teaching and learning in the foundation subjects (in February 2022). We are finalising the Knowledge Organisers for this half term and these will be sent home and placed on our website ready for the start of next week following our transition and settling in activities this week. **Please look out for these in order to support your child's learning**.

With best wishes for a happy and successful 2022/23 and thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher