



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Our Ref: LD/cc/DLE/SurveyFeedback

9th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are constantly refining our remote education based on emerging educational research and your feedback. In the survey we sent out last week, we were inundated with appreciative comments and some suggestions for improvements. This letter outlines the actions we are taking based on your feedback and contains guidance for your child so they can get the most out of learning remotely.

We are continually updating our feedback page with your comments so please keep them coming:
<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/feedback/>

The consensus from the survey was that most children are thriving on the routine of following their usual school day and are appreciating the feedback they are receiving from their teachers. Many respondents commented on the importance of form time for beginning the day with some social interaction.

As a result of the feedback to our survey, we have decided to further improve our remote education in the following ways:

- **Making sure our teachers are consistently giving pupils the final 5 minutes as a break.** Occasionally, we get a bit too enthusiastic and continue teaching for as long as we can. But we know from your comments how much these short breaks (which we introduced last week) are appreciated by pupils so we will make sure the last 5 minutes are allocated as a break in every lesson.
- **Many of you agreed with us about the importance of exercise** and motivating pupils to do more physical activity through challenges. To that end, we are promoting more widely the challenges set by the PE department. These are updated weekly. You can see these for yourself here: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/pe-enrichment/>
- **Opinion on homework was divided, with half of respondents saying they wanted homework to continue to be set as it is currently.** Around a quarter would prefer it to be set so it does not always involve a screen and another quarter would like us to stop setting any homework during this period of Lockdown. As one parent wrote in their comments: "You can't please everyone." While we are going with the majority view and continuing to set homework, we are going to set as much as we can in a way that will not require them to use a screen. If you have any concerns specific to your child about the amount of homework they are receiving, please contact their Head of House. Remember, that parents of Year 7 to 11 children can view the homework their child is being set here: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/homework/>
- A few respondents asked for us not to set classwork over half term. This was never the intention and live lessons will not be continuing over half term.

Based on your feedback, here is some advice for your child so they can get the most out of remote learning.

- **More than 75% of respondents said they felt the amount of learning being set was 'about right'.** Nearly 20% of you said there was **too much** and around 5% said there was **not enough**. Of those who said there was too much, many said their children were hesitant to let their teacher know this. It is imperative that anyone who is struggling or needs more time communicates with their teacher through Teams. They can do this privately using the Chat function. This is explained in our videos: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/keep-up-with-your-learning-even-if-you-have-to-stay-at-home/>

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The respondents who felt their children did not have enough learning also said their children were not always letting the teacher know they were finished or asking for additional work. Again, **it is imperative that your child communicates this with their teacher using the Chat.**

- A couple of respondents commented that their child had told them that their teacher was absent and therefore no work was set. This will never be the case. As previously communicated, if a teacher is unavoidably absent we will always try to have their lesson covered by a subject specialist, which sometimes involves them taking two classes at the same time. If this is not possible, an Assignment will be set and the name of the member of staff monitoring the work will be shared so pupils can communicate with them directly instead of their usual class teacher. Whatever action is being taken to maintain learning will be communicated in the General > Posts section of a class Team. Please make sure your child is checking this area regularly for messages.



General Posts Files Class Notebook Assignments Grades Insights

- If your child is learning from a work pack, remember that you can arrange to bring this back in to school or post it. We will then arrange for it to be assessed and will issue feedback. If you need any help with this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Can I also take this opportunity to ask that you talk with your child about staying safe, especially as many of them are spending longer online than they would do usually. Our parental platform has plenty of useful advice: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/parental-guides/>

At the end of this week, we will be posting on our website the menu of away-from-the-screen activities for Express Yourself afternoons, taking place on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the first week back after half term. There are more details about this in our letter from last week: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Mental-Health-week-letter-01.02.2021.pdf> Our teachers have really enjoyed putting these together. There will be something for everyone and we are looking forward to joining in the fun.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms L Draycott
Headteacher



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