



Ref: KH/LS/End of Summer Term

10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### End of Summer Term

Dear Parents / Carers,

Barr Beacon School  
[www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk](http://www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk)

As we approach the end of the term, I write to share some important information for the new academic year 2024/25, to provide some reminders about expectations and to thank you for the support you have given throughout this year.

#### Discovery Week:

As you know pupils will be undertaking Discovery Week between Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024, unless they are on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition that departs sooner. Please refer to the individual letters that have been shared from group leaders for activities about departure times and specific requirements. I am sure that the pupils are very much looking forward to their chosen activities and I hope that they enjoy the end of term. However, if any pupil does not follow the expectations that have been clearly shared with them, pupils will not be able to participate and will instead be removed from the activities.

#### School is closed to pupils on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July & Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

#### New Term 2024/25

The new term begins on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 for all year groups**. Please note that there are changes to the entrance points for pupils in the Autumn term. If pupils catch the buses that arrive onto the school site, they will enter the school gates by the Sports Hall. All other pupils must enter via the Beacon Road gate at the pedestrian crossing on Beacon Road.

Any pupil who is late to school, arriving after 8.35am, must enter the school site via the gate on Old Hall Lane and will receive a sanction.

The school day is as follows:

8.20am	<b>School Gates Open</b> Pupils that arrive on school buses to enter via Sports Hall gates. All other pupils enter via the gate on Beacon Road.
8.35am	<b>All Gates Close</b> Pupils to be outside of their Form Room If pupils arrive after this time, they are late and will receive a sanction.
8.40am	Pupils to be outside of their Form Room
8.40am – 9.10am	<b>Form Time</b> for all pupils
3.10pm	Years 7, 9 & 6 <sup>th</sup> Form period 5 ends
3.15pm	Years 8, 10 & 11 period 5 ends
Period 6 for Year 11, Extra Curricular Clubs, Catch Up & Redos commence from 3.15pm and end at 4.15pm	



Barr Beacon School  
Old Hall Lane  
Aldridge, Walsall  
West Midlands  
WS9 0RF



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@barrbeacon.school



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### **School Uniform:**

The school website provides clear details about our uniform expectations including images of acceptable skirts, trousers and school shoes. We have plenty of spare and clean uniform which we will loan to pupils who do not follow the uniform policy. Here is a link to the school website for your perusal: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/uniform/>. Please note that we do not accept any designer, branded alternatives to our uniform. If in any doubt while making decisions about what to buy for your child, please contact [postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk) and we are happy to help.

Please also be mindful that extremes of hair colour such as but not exclusively red, pink or blue are not permitted; shaved patterns in hair and eyebrows as well as body markings are not permitted. Piercings are only permitted in the lower earlobe and nowhere else on the body.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE: The website clearly states that we do not accept 'patterns/ logos/ stripes' on school shoes. This includes any type of Kicker shoe. Please note that Kickers of any form will not be accepted as school uniform from September 2024.**

Some children have brought Converse boots to wear in PE. These are not appropriate footwear. The uniform guidance clearly states that 'High Tops and Plimsols' are not accepted. Please ensure that you make the necessary arrangements for your child's PE footwear.

Please remember that if your child has outgrown uniform, you can donate it to school. We have a donation box at school and will gladly receive uniform that is in a good clean condition. Any donations can be brought to reception by you or your child.

### **WEDUC**

**WEDUC** is the system through which we communicate all news and letters to parents. This is also the platform through which you can make payments to your child's account for food, trips and to make purchases for stationery from the school shop.

It is important that you regularly check your child's WEDUC account to ensure that it has a positive balance. If a pupil is in a minus balance, they must bring a packed lunch and a refillable water bottle. Only a sandwich will be provided, if a pupil's balance is in minus and a pupil has no food with them. Unfortunately, we will not provide food for break if an account is in a negative balance.

If you have any difficulty with your child's WEDUC account, please contact your child's House Office or [postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk](mailto:postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk).

### **Attendance Matters:**

You will recall that I recently wrote to you about important changes from the Department for Education (DfE) about attendance. Please follow the link for the letter:

<https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/DFE-UPDATES-LETTER-TO-PARENTS21.pdf>

There are some key changes to attendance, punctuality and fines, which you must familiarise yourself with. Please note that we will never authorise term time holidays.



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### **Getting Home Quickly & Safely:**

Further to my previous communication, can I thank the parents and pupils who have acted on my advice to make sure that your child goes directly home after school. Unfortunately, the challenges in the community persist. To keep your child safe, I would urge you to discuss with your child going home directly from school and not hanging around in the local community.

### **Water Safety & Railway Safety**

#### Rail Safety

During the holiday, please be mindful of the safety of your child around railways. Network Rail shared the details that follow in the light of Harrison Ballantyne's tragic death:

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/railway-safety-campaigns/trespass-campaigns/>

Network Rail advise that trespassing on the railway network is extremely dangerous and endangers not only the lives of those on the track, but also passengers, railway staff and the general public.

Many people - especially young people - fail to understand the danger they put themselves and others in, when they make the choice to stray onto the rail network. As summertime approaches, Network Rail are already reporting an increase in the number of incidents.

Incidents we are seeing involve children and young people:

- Hanging around on station platforms and crossing the tracks.
- Walking along the railway lines.
- Throwing stones at trains.
- Placing objects on the railway lines.
- Using the railway as a playground.

#### **Key Messages**

Trains are always running on the railway and can differ in times meaning that you can never predict when a train will pass. The Electricity is **ALWAYS** switched on around the railway.

Always **Stop, Look and Listen** before using a Level Crossing.

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?**

**Please discuss this most important information with your child to keep them safe.**

The Royal Lifesaving Society also warn about the **dangers of playing on or near open water.** Pupils have been reminded of potential dangers during assemblies and form times this week. Again, we would ask you to speak to your child about the key messages they have heard from this assembly.



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### Changes to staff in the Pastoral Team:

There have been some changes to key members of staff in school for September 2024. Here is an update should you need to contact your child's Head of House:

<b>Bredon</b>	<b>Head of House – Mr Dawes</b> <b>Assistant Head of House – Miss Cornfield</b> <b>House PA – Mrs Smith</b>
<b>Malvern</b>	<b>Head of House – Ms Busby</b> <b>Assistant Head of House – Mr Homer</b> <b>House PA – Ms Groves</b>
<b>Clent</b>	<b>Head of House – Mr Bullock</b> <b>Assistant Head of House – Mr Double</b> <b>House PA – Mrs Adkins</b>
<b>Wrekin</b>	<b>Head of House – Mr Sidhu</b> <b>Assistant Head of House – Mr Crumpton</b> <b>House PA – Mrs Whitehouse</b>

If you need to update your contact details, please do so by collecting a form from Reception or completing an online form: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/application-forms/> . It is a legal requirement that we have a working contact number for you in case of an emergency.

If your child needs to take medication in school including paracetamol, they must hand it in to reception for safe keeping. A medical form can be found here: <https://barrbeaconschool.co.uk/application-forms/>, which must be submitted with your child's medication.

Finally, thank you for your continued support this academic year. I wish you all a safe and restful summer and look forward to seeing Year 11 and 13 on the results days in August.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Hibbs

