



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Now we are coming to the end of yet another very busy year at our school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, once again, for your continued support and share with you some of our school achievements; challenges we've faced as well as outline some of the developmental priorities for our school, in the next academic year.

I continue to be very proud of how the school staff have worked together, supporting each other and our pupils to ensure that all can achieve their potential. The vision for our school is simply put:

As a Church school family, we strive for excellence, ensuring that we all feel happy, valued and loved. We aim to provide an exciting, innovative, and relevant curriculum that enables all to 'shine' and develop as creative, respectful and independent citizens. We seek to promote equal opportunities for all so that each individual is encouraged to achieve their full potential and become lifelong learners who can make a positive contribution to society.

This year, I am delighted to announce that all pupils from Reception to Year 6 have once again achieved higher than the Local and National Comparisons and have continued to 'strive for excellence' in all that they do. I am thrilled that the work we have undertaken this year is having such a positive impact on pupil standards across the school; resulting in the school's highest combined score for Reading, Writing and Maths: 86% in the end of Key Stage 2 tests.

The children and staff have continued to excel. This year, we have continued to build upon our:

- **Extra-Curricular Activities.** This year we have seen pupils, staff and coaches enjoy leading opportunities for the benefit of our children with 65 (increase of 9) clubs being ran in the Summer term alone!
- **External Sporting Competitions.** This year we have continued to encourage all our children to be as involved as they would like to be in a whole range of sporting competitions e.g. Football, Cricket, Rounders, Netball, Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Gymnastics, Dance etc

As a result of all this hard work, we have enjoyed much success this year:

- Increase of competitions and sporting opportunities for all
- Increase of pupils acting as Pupil Leaders
- 1st Place – Large School Swimming Gala
- 1st Place – Large School Relay Swimming
- 1st Place – Y3 & 4 Cross Country Running
- 1st Place – Netball League
- 2nd Place – Large School's Athletics
- Renewed the Gold Youth Sport's Trust Quality Mark (2nd consecutive term)

In addition, we have continued to enjoy:

- **Visits** to enhance learning opportunities for the children.
- **Visitors** to school.

The continued success of our school can only be achieved and sustained by the whole school community working together and relies heavily on expertise from school staff and parental support.

I would particularly like to thank all school staff; both those who have been with us for many years, and those who have joined us more recently, for their hard work, commitment, and dedication throughout the past year.



I would also like to thank our Governors, for their commitment to our school, and, our parents, as well as [FOBS](#) for their continued enthusiasm and support and, of course, our children.

Our thanks must go to our current Year 6 children for their contribution towards school life. They have been exemplary role models for our younger children, during these uncertain times.

This year, funds raised for their 'Legacy Gift' through the FOBs Sponsored Event and Gala Dinner will be used to further enhance our school. The children raised more than £1000 for their Legacy Gift, thank you.

Well done guys and thank you to our Year 6 children for their hard work and effort this year. Good luck to all of you, as you continue your educational journey, at your Secondary School.

This year, the focus of our works has been:

1. Ensure our broad and balanced curriculum promotes pupils progression.
2. Support pupils in the acquisition of new vocabulary to support their learning and wellbeing.
3. Embed developments within middle leadership of the school so that it continues to be effective, robust and rigorous.

The work has been extensive and is in part completed. Please visit the [Curriculum](#) section of the school website to review the school curriculum for the next academic year 2023-2024.

From September, we have changed our Homework offer, in light of this year's [Maths Parental Survey](#) and in line with research. Research informs us that feedback to pupils should be provided at the point of learning rather than after it has been completed. Therefore, the practice of children completing tasks at home and teachers 'marking' them when it has been returned to school is no longer relevant.

It is important to acknowledge that our pupils work incredibly hard, when they are in school. Therefore, our Homework offer has been adapted to enable parents to provide feedback, at the point of learning and reduce the amount of time 'working' so that all can enjoy time away from school work.

In line with our Key Stage 2 children, our Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils will no longer receive weekly spelling lists to take home or indeed be tested weekly. All our pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 will have a 30-minute Phonics Spelling lesson, 5 days a week. Through these sessions, our children are supported with their phonics or spelling development which they then use when they are reading or completing longer pieces of writing, in school.

In addition to this, our Key Stage 2 children will no longer receive work set through their Spelling Jotters or Maths Jotters or be expected to complete activities on Times Tables Rockstars, at home.

All pupils will be expected to focus on their allocated homework tasks, with parental support and feedback. These will include:

1. reading at home to an adult;
2. practise spelling patterns; and
3. practise times tables.

We will continue to communicate, through your child/ren's 'Reading Record' their Homework expectations, including providing parents with termly spelling patterns being taught and times tables patterns so that if parents wished to support their child at home, it links to children's learning at that time. There will be no requirement to send this work into school, as feedback should be provided to your child/ren when completing the task, at home. Our Year 6 pupils, will continue to receive Revision materials for Reading, SPaG and Maths in preparation for secondary school, from the Spring term onwards.

By doing this, we hope to remove a barrier for many of our families and allow children time to play or enjoy other family activities when at home, rather than worrying about completing a task by a certain time, for school.

As you would expect, we continue to adapt, modify and complete maintenance of the school building so that it continues to meet the demand of our pupils.



This year, our school received an 'Energy Efficiency Grant' which the Governors decided to use to replace the school's lights. I am happy to say that we have now replaced all the 'older style lighting' with LED lights across the whole school. In time, we expect this to have a positive impact on our energy consumption.

This summer, we are having electric car park gates installed for Health & Safety reasons, meaning that **from September parents will once again not be permitted to use the school car park.**

It has become increasingly worrying that parents and pupils use the car park entrance in the morning and after school, if using our Wrap Around Care provision, rather than parking away from the school and walking down the pedestrian path. Increased vehicle access has also caused concern. Therefore, the school car park will be closed to parents, and we would respectfully ask parents to park away from the school and walk to the provision, using the pedestrian paths, rather than via the car park entrance. By doing this, we hope to provide a safer entrance to school for all.

Early in September, the ground works for the development of the pond area and the Reception Outdoor Classroom will be completed. This means that our pond will be remodelled, with dipping platforms installed and work areas for the pupils, when using the pond area, installed. This work has been ongoing for some years now, due to COVID. Thank you to FoBs for their ongoing support and for the funds to complete this long overdue project.

Next year, we welcome 35 Reception pupils and their families.

All school children will return to school on Wednesday 6th September. When arriving in September, please ensure that children have the appropriate uniform:

Girl's Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt (round neck) or cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Mid-grey skirt or Pinafore dress
- Medium grey tights or white knee length socks
- Flat/low heeled black shoes

Options:

- Plain mid-grey, straight-legged, tailored trousers. Other styles (including legging-style trousers) will not be permitted.

Boys' Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt (round neck)
- White polo shirt
- Plain mid-grey, straight-legged, tailored trousers with no external pockets on the legs i.e. not 'Cargo style'
- Grey/black socks
- Black shoes

Please be reminded from September, we would like to **trial** and ask our parents that all our children travel to and from school, in their black school shoes. The children can wear these throughout the school day; both inside and outside of school. This will be reviewed at the end of the Autumn term. In addition, children also need:

P.E. and Games Kit

- Royal blue Tee Shirt
- Navy blue shorts
- Pair of plimsolls
- P.E. bag (drawstring)

Outdoor PE Kit for Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

- Navy Track suit or navy hooded top and plain navy tracksuit bottoms
- Pair of suitable trainers (preferably black)

Please be reminded **earrings are not permitted**, and children will be requested to remove them if they wear them to school.



In September, we will continue to encourage parents to queue down either the Church Path or School Path when dropping off or picking up their children, in order to reduce congestion at the front of the school:

- **Reception/Key Stage 1 entrance/exit** parents line-up on the Church Path and exit through the car park; and
- **Key Stage 2 entrance/exit** parents line-up on the pedestrian path and exit through the car park. Please do not walk over the grass/lawned areas when leaving the school.

Please wait in these designated areas and not at the front of the school. If you have both younger and older children we would suggest that the older children should be taken with you to the Church Path so that you can supervise the children, as you wait to take your children in. Once the younger children have been dropped off you can then walk through the car park and drop the older children off. **No children should be left unsupervised at the beginning of the school day.**

We continue to be guided by our school's vision and are working hard to refine our practice so that all feel 'happy, valued and loved' and are well supported to be ready for school, each day.

At Barrowby CE Primary School, we will continue to 'strive for excellence' in everything that we do, and, with your support, trust and understanding continue to provide the very best education for all our children.

Enjoy your summer holidays and I look forward to working with you, next year.

Yours sincerely



Mr L Batey
Headteacher