



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

July 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach 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, and challenges we've faced, as well as outlining some of the developmental priorities for our school, in the next academic year.

This year, we have continued to evaluate our provision and implement a whole range of government led initiatives, including, implementing a new national curriculum, amending our assessment procedures so that we begin to move away from the 'language of levels,' used to assess our children, introduce the biggest SEND reforms, in a decade, ensuring that the introduction of 'hot school meals' with the Universal Infant Free School Meal entitlement was a positive addition to our school, as well as ensuring all our pupils continue to thrive, at Barrowby CE Primary School.

The continued success of our school can only be achieved and sustained by the whole school community working together and relies heavily on 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, whose role has placed increased demands on them and our parents, especially FOBS, for their support, as well as our children.

As a result of all our efforts, earlier this year we received the Silver Award in the School Sports Games Mark recognising and celebrating the quality of competitive and extra-curricular sport; as well as attaining the Silver Mark in the Youth Sport Trust, confirming the school's strive to ensure excellence within all PE/Sport and healthy living choices. We also received the renewal of our Healthy School Award as well as the 'enhanced standard' linked to our work encouraging our children to lead healthy and active lives.

To mark last year's fundraising efforts by the Friends Of Barrowby School, we installed our new sound and lighting system, earlier in the Summer Term. This is a wonderful addition to our school hall and I am sure will be enjoyed by pupils and parents alike. My thanks go to all who continue to support our school and enable us to continually move forward.

Throughout this year, we have continued to develop further our home school communications, through the continued use of Parentmail2 and our school website. This has seen a refresh of our school website, so that information 'is only ever 2 clicks away' and more easily accessible for our school community. Recent additions, to our school website, have included the articulation of our expectations for all, through our [Core Values](#), encouraging our pupils 'to CRI with an I and not with a Y,' further embodying our core values of Creativity, Respect and Independence. In addition, we have engaged with our parents in a recent evaluation of our [School Uniform](#), resulting in slight amendments to our School Uniform Policy, from September 2015. Please read our recently published [Uniform Update Newsletter](#), to find out more.

As a 'Sing Up Gold' and 'Artsmark' school, we continue to celebrate and enjoy the arts, in all its forms. This year, our Key Stage 1 and 2 Choirs, our Handbell group and our Dancers enjoyed tremendous success at the Colsterworth Performing Arts Festival, yet again. This continued commitment to the arts is a key feature of our school. I am also delighted to inform you that we are preparing an application for the 'Sing Up Platinum Award,' which reflects our whole school approach to singing and recognises and celebrates our achievements in this area.

The newly created 'Arts Summary,' is a way for us to collate, recognise and celebrate our work across all art forms, within our school. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about the arts provision at our school.

As a school, we continue to be extremely popular. Next year, we welcome 36 Reception pupils and their families; this includes 3 pupils admitted by an independent Appeals Panel. This continues to be a very exciting time for our school.

As we look ahead, we are committed to ensuring the school continues to meet the needs of all its pupils. During the summer holidays, we will again be updating our school facilities, including on-going maintenance and refurbishment. This includes updating and redecorating our school hall, as well as refurbishing both the Year 1 and 2 classrooms.

Our commitment to developing the school grounds remains high. Over the holidays, the playground, the school car park and the main pedestrian path, in to school, will all be re-surfaced. Once complete, all playground markings will be renewed and replaced so that all our pupils can continue to enjoy their use. At the moment, we are trying to secure funds from the Awards For All Lottery Grant; if successful, we can begin the installation of our 'Tree House' outdoor learning base, early in the new academic year.

As part of the Year 6 Legacy 2013-14, funds were raised for the installation of a 'Wildflower Meadow' and preparations for this are underway, with the installation of the Meadow scheduled for the Autumn term. This ongoing commitment ensures our school grounds continue to enthuse and engage our pupils within their learning as we strive to ensure our school environment is purposeful and supports all our pupils to further develop curiosity and enquiring minds.

Our thanks go to our current Year 6 for their contribution towards school life, supporting with the implementation of 'Hot School Meals,' as Lunchtime Buddies and fulfilling a range of responsibilities such as Playground Leaders; providing excellent role models for our younger children. This year, funds raised for their 'Legacy Gift' are in excess of £900. Well done!

These funds will be used to develop a 'quieter space' in the school grounds, providing soft furnishings e.g. bean-bags for children to enjoy, as well as creating a series of 'activity boxes' for our children to use, during their playtimes. Our Year 6 children have also recently bought 'Green Screen' technology, further enhancing pupil film-making skills at our school, as seen in our recent Y6 Leavers' Assembly.

Thank you to our Year 6 children for their hard work and effort this year and good luck to all of you, as you continue on your educational journey, at your Secondary School.

As we look forward, next year promises to be equally as exciting and challenging as this year. We look to embed the curricular and assessment changes and refine the SEND arrangements and protocols, implemented this year, as well as ensuring all our pupils are supported, so that all achieve their potential.

From September, we will continue to develop further our use of Parentmail2 and our e-communications, by introducing an upgrade to the Parentmail2 system for the benefit of our parents. The new platform is called PMX and will be an extension to our Parentmail2 facility which will continue to support the school to communicate with parents more effectively and efficiently. This new platform includes facilities for parents to respond electronically to questionnaires/surveys or extracurricular permission slips, to enable parents to book on-line, Parent Consultation time slots as well as retaining all the functions our parents have come to enjoy such as electronic payments and the more traditional e-communications e.g. e-letters and text.

At Barrowby CE Primary School, we will continue to strive for excellence in everything that we do, and, with your support, 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