



## *Barrowby Church of England Primary School*

July 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

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

The success of our school can only be achieved and sustained by the whole school community working together. This year, we have reaffirmed our [school aims](#) and [values](#) of Respect, Independence and Creativity and next year, we will be working with all stakeholders to communicate these further. 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.

All children across the school continue to learn and achieve at least in-line with age related expectations and this is evident from their attitudes, work and assessments. Our Year 6 children have recently completed their end of year statutory assessments or SATs and were the first cohort of children to face the changes, which were published in the media earlier this year, in the Reading and Mathematics tests.

As a result of this, earlier this year our Basic Skills Quality Mark was renewed, recognising the standards of our core curriculum. As a school which celebrates and nurtures the arts, I am also delighted to inform you that we are also preparing our application for the Artsmark Award, which recognises and celebrates the breadth and standard of both visual and performance arts within our school, as seen through our curriculum and additional school performances.

All aspects of [school life](#), [curriculum support](#) and school communication, whether they be [letters](#) or our fortnightly [newsletters](#) communicated through Parentmail2, can be found on our [school website](#). Through the course of the last year, we have continued to refine and enhance home school communication through these services. This now means that parents can more readily access relevant information about events at school, and also reduces the amount of paper used, supporting our Eco School status.

In addition to this, we introduced Parentmail2+Pay, making it more convenient for parents to make voluntary contributions, pay for residential visits, and book free places for school events and workshops, on-line. Feedback on this from parents has been very positive and we will continue to explore this in 2014 - 2015.

As you know from previous communications, we have begun the transition for delivering Universal Infant Free School Meals, in September 2014. This has been a considerable challenge for us. To prepare for September, we have consulted with stakeholders, purchased seating, crockery, cutlery and trolleys, employed additional Midday Supervisory Staff, and arranged a hot meals supplier (Food4Thought).

All children now eat their packed lunches in the hall, so procedures are well practised for the introduction of hot school meals. All is going well and we are well placed to deliver the Universal Infant Free School Meal and paid hot meals, for our junior children.

The intention is, from September 2014, a two course hot meal will be available for the *whole* school- free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and paid (£2.30) for Years 3-6. All parents wishing to have a hot school meal (whether free or paid) will need to order their child's meals online the previous week. There will be a choice of four main courses each day, two of which will be vegetarian. Children will need to bring a packed lunch, as at present, if you have not ordered a meal for them. We are awaiting full details from our supplier, and will let you have these before the end of term.

Although the holidays are nearly here, we will not be standing still. Developments over the Summer Holidays include:

Refurbishments to cloakrooms for Reception/Y1, Y1 & 2 and Y3 classes, which will be carried out during the holidays. This will make these areas more convenient and flexible, providing improved facilities at the Key Stage 1 end of the school.

Pedestrian access to the school will be widened over the holidays, to further facilitate a smooth start and end to the school day, alleviating any congestion around the pedestrian gate.

In the new academic year, there are many challenges that we as a school will face, as we move forward, many of which we have already worked very hard to prepare for:

We are very much hoping to once again have a Patrol Crossing person at the Church Street/Main Street/High Road/Rectory Lane crossroads. Having a safe, patrolled crossing would, we hope, encourage parents to allow older children to walk to school from home, or from the British Legion without adult supervision. However, this depends on the successful recruitment of a Crossing Patrol Officer. If you are interested you can find further details here.

As you may know, a new National Curriculum is being introduced from September; parents will be able to view details on their child's class page of our website in September. Teaching staff have attended the appropriate briefing and training events, ready to implement the changes in September. Although there are some quite significant changes of emphasis, and changes to some of the topics taught, we will continue to teach an exciting and creative curriculum, within the framework of the revised National Curriculum.

At the same time, all schools will be implementing major government reforms to the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) Code of Practice. This represents the biggest reforms in SEND in 10 years, and is another major undertaking for schools. Each school is required to publish a 'School Local Offer' for SEND. Our Local Offer, and other information about the reforms will be available on our website in September.

As you may know, we will also be welcoming a larger than usual Reception intake in September, for one year only. This is the result of a request from the Local Authority, in a year of very high demand for Primary School places. As a very over-subscribed school, we are delighted to have been able to offer places to an additional 18 children this year. As a result, we will be able to maintain our high level of Teaching Assistant support in all classes, and also expect to be able to carry out further improvements to the school premises in the next few years, with the support of the Local Authority.

We ask you to support us in these exciting, and challenging new developments. Here are a few things that we hope all parents will do, which are helpful to school, and to your children:

Please make sure that children arrive promptly at school each morning - the gate opens at 8.45am, and the school day begins at 8.55am. Children waiting for the gate to open should be supervised by a parent/carer.

Once again, we ask that all parents help us to create a safe environment around the school, and that you 'Walk & Stride' from the British Legion, and use the Patrol Crossing.



Please make sure that you keep your Parentmail2 account up to date, with any changes to your mobile number or email address.

Please let us know about anything which may affect your child in school – for day to day administrative matters, such as a change of collection arrangements, or for messages, please contact the school office. If you have any concerns, or matters you wish to discuss, please make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher.

Next year promises to be every bit as exciting, challenging and inspiring as this year has been. We will continue to strive for excellence in everything that we do, and, with your support, continue to provide the very best for our children.

Yours sincerely



Mr L Batey  
Headteacher