



# Barrowby Church of England Primary School

June 2023

## School Updates for next academic year

Dear parents/carers,

I write to you this afternoon to provide our parents with some updates regarding our school, in readiness for the start of the next academic year.

Firstly, you may recall that the Governors were exploring the option to create a Pre-School, at Barrowby CE Primary School, which would have opened from September 2023.

After exploring this option in depth, analysing the results of the consultation and gaining quotations for planned works the Governors have decided not to pursue this option, at this time. Therefore, we will not be opening a Pre-School, next year.

At Barrowby CE Primary School, we are continually evaluating and refining our provision so that it continues to meet the needs of all our pupils.

This term, we have trialled moving away from lining the children up at the end of playtime and lunchtime and allowing them to walk into the school building. This aligns well with our school values of Creativity, Respect and Independence and the children have adapted to the change of routine extremely well. So now, after playtime and lunchtime a whistle is blown once and the children stand still, it is blown a second time and the children walk sensibly from where they are playing into the school building; supervised by adults.

In addition to this, we have modified the school day and removed the 10 minute play time option for our Reception and Key Stage 1 children. Our children have the opportunity to enjoy a 15 minute playtime in the morning and a 1 hour and 15 minute lunchtime, full of physical play opportunities e.g. bikes, trikes, scooters, Adventure Playground, Trim Trail etc. By removing the 10 minute play time, this has helped to streamline the afternoon sessions, providing our infant children with no interruptions to their learning and has been a positive change, with no adverse affects to the children.

We have also trialled moving away from our 'two shoe rule.' This has been **trially** to minimise the amount of time our children need to change shoes as well as potentially support parents financially.

Therefore 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; and can wear these throughout the school day; both inside and outside of school. **This will be reviewed at the end of the Autumn term.**

We have found now, the only time children need to change their shoes is for a PE lesson i.e. wearing preferably black trainers when outside, or plimsolls when doing PE in the hall.

With that in mind, we have been reviewing our PE Curriculum this year and I am pleased to announce that we have again been awarded the Gold Youth Sport Trust Quality Mark.

Moving forward, we are planning to teach our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 PE outside as well as inside, from September. In order to help us facilitate this, all children from September will require plain navy track suit bottoms and a navy blue hooded top and a pair of preferably black trainers, as well as their usual PE Kit.

This change has been made to broaden the scope of Physical Activity that our infant children can enjoy and of course, facilitate more activities and opportunities for children to learn outdoors. This will bring the provision for PE for our Reception/Key Stage 1 children in line with the provision for our Key Stage 2 children. We will continue to facilitate PE lessons in the hall for all children but by providing outdoor kit for our infant children, we will now have the opportunity to take them outside in the colder months.

I hope that you can see that our school continues to evaluate and refine our provision in order to evolve to support its pupils, their parents and our school family. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

