

DIARY DATES
Diary dates for the
School Year 2013-
2014 can be found on

the school
website.

CLICK HERE

to go to the
calendar.

You will receive
further information
about forthcoming
events nearer the
time, as

Thursday 23 January
5.00pm

Reminder:
11+ Information evening
for parents of children in
Year 5. Please confirm
your attendance with the



Tuesday 4 February
Large Schools' Swimming
Gala at The Meres.

Thursday 6 February
3.30-6.00pm

Studio

Photography Evening

You will already have re-
ceived a letter about this
exciting opportunity to
have a studio style photo
of your child, or family.
Sessions are by appoint-
ment only—please con-
tact the school office to

Monday 10
February—Thursday
13 February
Sponsored Events Week.

Thursday 13 February
School closes for
children, for half term.

Monday 24 February
School re-opens.



*Barrowby Church of England
Primary School*

Newsletter

January 2014 1st Edition

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back for a new term. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas break, and may I wish you all the very best for 2014. Here is some information about things going on in school this term, which I look forward to sharing with you, and our children.

Mr L Batey Headteacher

Events in School

Extra Curricular Activities

Clubs start for the term, next week. We will let you know if a club is cancelled for any reason. Please check the information on the website if you need a reminder of the day or time of your children's clubs. Children have been allocated a place in their chosen club(s) unless you have been notified otherwise.

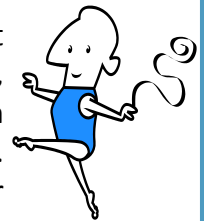


Community Partnerships-Orienteering/Information Points

A number of posts have recently been installed in the school grounds, to use for trails, orienteering, and information. This is an exciting development which will further enhance the range of outdoor learning available to our children. We have been able to do this thanks to the kindness of Mr Timms, who designed the orienteering points, Mr Wilde who supplied and made them, and Mr Connor, who has installed them. We are very grateful to all of them for their contribution to our school.

Sports Coaches

I am very pleased to tell you that there will be a number of specialist sports coaches in school this term, providing coaching in Gymnastics, Tag Rugby, and Netball, as part of our P.E. curriculum. This provision is through Inspire +, and funded from our Sports Premium allocation. You can find full details of our Sports Premium provision in our [Sports Summary](#).



Staffing



Year 5 Maternity cover

As you know, Mrs Wright is expecting a baby! She will be starting her Maternity Leave after half term, and I am very pleased to welcome Miss Widdison, who will be teaching Year 5 for the remainder of the school year.

This half term, Miss Widdison is coming into school each Friday afternoon to liaise with Mrs Wright and to get to know Year 5. This will ensure a smooth handover after half term.

Opportunities

We have vacancies for a Midday Controller/Midday Supervisor, and a Cleaner. You can find details and an application form [here](#).

School Information

Requests for Absence from School

As this is a time of year when many families are thinking about booking their holidays, I would like to remind you of the changes which were introduced by the government, with effect from the beginning of this school year (September 2013). Because of these changes Headteachers are no longer permitted to authorise absence during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.

This means that I cannot authorise absence for holidays, or days out from school. If you take your child out of school without authorisation, this has to be recorded on your child's record, and forms part of our statutory reporting to Lincolnshire County Council and the DfE. Under certain circumstances, the Local Authority can fine parents for taking children out of school without authorisation.

If you feel that there are exceptional reasons for taking your child out of school, please complete a [Request for Absence Form](#), and provide full details, and any supporting documentation, for the exceptional nature of the request. Every request is given full consideration, but we must, of course, follow the regulations, which apply to all state schools.

Medical Appointments in school time

I will, of course, authorise absences for planned medical appointments—please make sure that you complete a [request for absence form](#) before the day of the appointment, and attach a copy of your appointment letter/card if possible.

Please avoid taking children out of school for routine appointments that can be arranged for after school, or in the holidays (e.g. dental check ups). There may occasionally be a need to take a child to a medical appointment on the day it is booked— where a doctor's appointment becomes available at short notice, for example—please telephone the school if this happens—there is no need to complete a form in these circumstances.

Sickness Absence



Winter inevitably brings an increase in infectious illnesses among the children. We do our best to reduce the spread of infection in school, including reminding children to wash their hands regularly, and providing antibacterial hand wash in classrooms. Please help us by reinforcing the need for good hygiene with your children at home, and by keeping children at home when they are at their most infectious. In particular, please don't send children to school for a full 24 hours after the last episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Winter Weather

School will remain open unless conditions are extremely severe. **Please make sure that you are registered with [ParentMail2](#), and that you update your details whenever necessary**, as both e-mail and text messages, during periods of bad weather, will be sent to you via ParentMail2.

Even though it is winter, children still need fresh air and exercise! They will go outdoors at playtime and lunchtime, and have outdoor P.E. lessons unless it is wet, or very bad weather. Please make sure your children have school uniform tracksuits in school, if they feel the cold during P.E. lessons, and that they have warm clothes for playtimes (please make sure that hats, gloves etc. are labelled with your child's name!)





Hot School Meals

As you probably know, the government has announced the introduction of UFSM (Universal Free School Meals) for all children in Key Stage 1 (Years Reception, 1 and 2) from September 2014. We have been considering the possibility of introducing hot school meals for some time, and are now investigating how best to meet the new government requirements. We are also considering the possibility of introducing a paid hot school meal for children in Key Stage 2.

However, we have to work within the constraints of the limited space available to us in our school hall: using it for hot meals will inevitably impact on some current uses, such as lunchtime clubs (choirs, orchestra, table tennis), indoor P.E., and school performances. We will of course do our best to minimise this, and we are exploring alternatives wherever possible.

As yet, individual schools have not received specific information regarding government funding for infrastructure, and staffing – we estimate it will cost in the region of £10,000 in the first year, to provide dining furniture and other equipment.

As we do not have kitchen facilities, our expectation is that hot meals will be sourced locally, and brought to site to be served by our own staff. Menus will be available in advance, and there will be a choice of meals each day (one of which will be vegetarian).

We want to know your views about this new government initiative, and the issues surrounding the introduction of hot school meals, and we will be asking you to complete a questionnaire soon—we are in the process of setting up an electronic questionnaire system that means that you will be able to respond online, rather than printing the form off.

Please do let us know your views when the questionnaire is available, as they will form a very important part of our planning. Thank you for your help.

Start of the School Day

Please do not send children to arrive at school any earlier than 8.45am. At present, some children are arriving at school as early as 8.30am, which means that they are unsupervised for 15 minutes until staff supervision begins at 8.45am. Please make sure that children are in the playground in time for the bell at 8.55am.



Could I also remind parents not to park in Church Street at the start and end of the school day, and especially not to park near the school entrance, as this creates a hazard for both pedestrians and road users—some parents are parking up to half an hour before the beginning or end of the school day. Please use the British Legion car park, and walk the short distance to school.

Looking for a good home

We have a four drawer filing cabinet, and a wood framed, wall mountable display/trophy case which are no longer needed in school. If you are interested in either of these items, in exchange for a donation to school funds, please contact the school office.

Charity Christmas Card Campaign

Don't throw your **cards** away!
We want to **recycle them!**
For every card we receive we will make a **donation** to one of the charities we support.

Bundle your cards up and send them to:
Blue Castle, Warwick House, Long Bennington, Newark, NG23 5JR

If you have any cards to donate, please bring them to school on Monday 20 January.

 www.blue-castle.co.uk
enquiries@blue-castle.co.uk
01400 283 500