

# Barrow Hill Primary Academy



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## July Newsletter

Dear parent/ guardian

What a year it has been! Reflecting back on this academic year, it is hard to believe everything we have managed to accomplish and all the changes we have navigated our way through. Up until Easter, Covid still played a huge part in our daily lives. Rising case numbers after Christmas effected staffing and pupil absence more than at any other time during the pandemic. Staff illnesses and shortages resulted in the team going over and above to ensure that a consistent approach to teaching and learning was maintained.

We have had significant changes to staffing with some members of the team moving onto pastures new and new staff joining to strengthen the team and develop the great work already taking place. Mr Smith, the Director of SEND, was appointed in January and already he has had a significant impact supporting our children with additional needs. His expertise and experience ensure that our provision for children with SEND is the best it has ever been! Miss Cooper joining the team in Early Years has resulted in the unit growing from strength to strength. Our youngest learners have made so much progress this year and we are so proud of them all. In a short space of time, Shona has already met many of you over the phone or in person and has started to organise the office and systems to make the organisation of school run smoother. All of these appointments have led to change and improvement.

We understand how difficult it has been to feel connected to school over the last couple of years and from the parent questionnaire I sent out a few weeks ago, it was clear that this is an area we need to work on. In order for that connection to establish – we need you! Our Friends of Barrow Hill (FOBs) parent fundraising group is low on numbers. Currently, we only have two members and both of these are staff. It is crucial that this group reforms so that fundraising events can be scheduled into next year. The children this year have so far benefitted from new book bags in reception, ice creams at Mablethorpe, the year 6 leaver's event and gifts, Christmas Books and Easter Eggs - the little things that make a big difference to raising the smiles on the children's faces. In September, we will be hosting a coffee morning where we would love to see you come along so that you can find out about FOBS, reform the group and hopefully offer some time/ skills. The school also needs some governors to represent the parents and community. At present, the governing body consists of parents from other schools and staff members from Barrow Hill but nobody from the community. It is important that your views and community are represented at these meetings so please, if you can spare some time to join our governing body, let me know. We plan to organise half termly events for you to come into school and spend time with your children – look out for diary dates coming the first week back.

Despite a challenging year, the children have been amazing. Our numbers have continued to rise (we are over 100 and are over subscribed in EYFS) and the children have been great at welcoming new friends and supporting them into Barrow Hill. All of the children are an absolute credit to you. The progress they have made, their attitude to learning, their polite and inquisitive characters are all commented on so positively by visitors to school and members of the Cavendish Learning Trust. A well-deserved rest is now upon us, a chance to refresh and recharge. Whilst we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6's, we look forward to welcoming our new Nursery and Reception starters in September.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break, see you all on the first day back – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (Thursday is an INSET day).

## Attendance and Punctuality

The DfE has issued clear guidance that term time holidays will only be approved in exceptional circumstances. All holidays taken without approval will be marked as **unauthorised absences**. School breakfast club will continue next year and is free for all children. This is open from 08:25 until 08:45. Children who wish to have breakfast at school should arrive no later than 08:40. Learning time begins at 08:45 and we have lots of children still in the hall as late as 09:00. For some children this means missing the first 15 minutes of learning time every day – that is 1 hour 15 minutes per week. There are arrangements in place for some children who travel using public transport, out of the area or for SEND/ transition reasons but all other children should be in school at the correct time. Staff will continue to challenge lateness to encourage a prompt start to the school day. Our attendance and lateness monitoring will resume in the new term and reminders/ letters/ meetings will be organised with parents of children who are persistently absent/ late.

## Uniform

All children are expected to wear their school uniform. On PE days, children should wear their PE kits with trainers. From September, all children will be expected to wear the school colours for their PE kit, we are buying one kit for each child at the start of the year to help with this. Orders placed with ACE sports should come to school at the end of the holidays, you can order additional items in their shop at Staveley.

## Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that the vacancies we had advertised are covered for the autumn term. Some vacancies have been covered by long term supply due to the late notice given for resignation but we will recruit permanent staff in the new academic year. Mr Dutton has resigned from his post as HLTA. We would like to thank him for his work with the children this year and wish him all the best for the future. Mrs Saville who has supported teaching and learning in Year 3 and Year 4 has been successfully appointed as the Assistant SENDCo to Mr Smith who works for the trust. We are thrilled that Mrs Saville will continue to work for the trust but disappointed to see her leave Barrow Hill. We thank Mrs Saville for her hard work and really making a difference to so many of our children. Miss Cooper has joined the Senior Leadership Team as the EYFS Lead.

Year Group	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistants/ support staff
Nursery and reception	Miss Sophie Cooper (EYFS Leader)	Miss Ciara McAteer Miss Megan Hemingway Miss Heather Johnson (SEN TA)
Year 1 and Year 2	Miss Tonicha Kershaw (KS1 Leader)	Miss Kirstie Hindle Miss Courtenay Crawford (SEN TA)
Year 3 and Year 4	Miss Natalie Turner	Miss Matilda Ward
Year 5 and Year 6	Mr Matthew Szadura (KS2 Leader)	Miss Natalie Broadhead Mrs Donna Smitheman Miss Benson
Director of SEND	Mr David Smith	
Early Help Assistant <small>(previously Learning Mentor role)</small>	Miss Emma Bell	
KS1 Tutor	Mrs Lesley Sellars	
KS2 Tutor	Mr James Lowry	
Caretaker	Matt Smith	
School Business Assistant	Miss Shona Buckley	
Mid day staff/ breakfast club supervisors	Matt Smith, Lauren Thorpe, Amanda Green, Cathryn Hardwick, Bridget Thomeycroft	

**Term Dates**

<b>Summer 2022</b>	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	School closes for the summer holidays
<b>Autumn 2022</b>	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022	School opens – autumn term 1
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	School closes – half term
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	School opens – autumn term 2
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	School closes – Christmas holidays
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022	INSET Day – school closed to all children
<b>Spring 2023</b>	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	School opens – spring term 1
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	School closes – half term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	School opens – spring term 2
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	School closes – Easter holidays
<b>Summer 2023</b>	
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	School opens – summer term 1
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	School closes – half term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	School opens – summer term 2
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	School closes – summer holidays