

Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Autumn 1 - 2025

A message from the Miss Cubley

This term we looked forward to welcoming new students and staff this term as the school continues to develop and grow. I can't believe it's almost half term already. As always, our commitment remains the same: to create a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment where every child feels valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. With your partnership and support, we know this will be a year of exciting opportunities and achievements. We are all very excited to be back in what promises to be a great term, with lots of new developments in school – watch this space! As we entered our Autumn term, it's a warm welcome to our new students & a welcome back to our existing students. We were excited to welcome our new staff members, Miss Smart (back right), Miss Ridgway (bottom left), Miss Ayton (bottom right), Miss McManus (bottom 2nd from right), Mr Jackson (bottom 2nd from left).



This term has been amazing already. We are all really proud how our students are taking pride in their work and development and the question of "Miss can you come and look at my work" shows the progress our students are making already.

WOW: Already the media suite and sound studio is already being used by students during lessons for creative learning, golden time, music, interventions. Keep an eye on the website for another room development soon!!

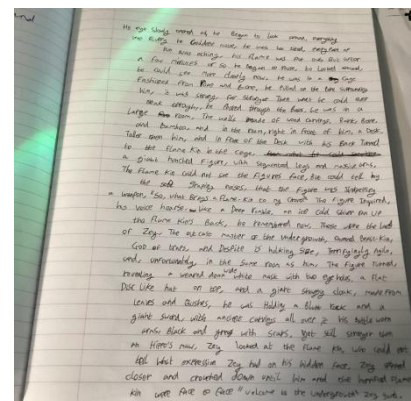
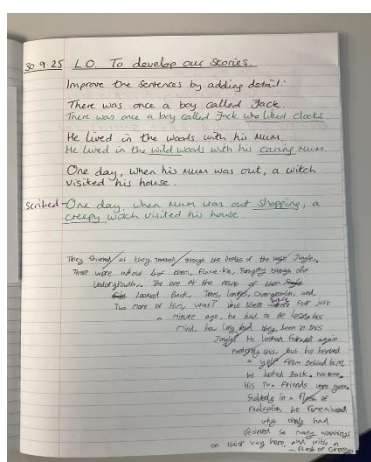
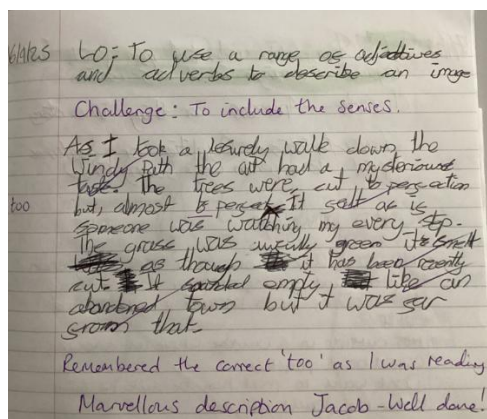
Personalised interventions: During the summer we developed the timetable across the school in order that students have timetabled interventions linked to their ILP and EHCP each day after lunchtime activity.

Students have shown excellent engagement and the impact of these is already starting to be seen. All students take part in emotional literacy as a school on a Tuesday in addition to further intervention required.

Interventions this term have been focussing on social communication skills, writing, numeracy, self-esteem, turn taking and additional personalised targets. Students have personalised targets which are then reviewed on a half-termly basis, in preparation for the following half-term.



Once Upon a Time In English, Crystal and Diamond have been learning about Fairytales. Students have used their creativity and imagination skills and enjoyed discussing how we can change the endings to different fairytales. Students have been able to study traditional and modern fairy tales, structure characters, settings and are currently completing their own fairy tale story. We are really impressed with their understanding progress and development in their writing this term. Students then also asked if they could create their DT project puppets (See below) for their fairy tales and some students have been linking this to art to create their own theatre backgrounds. Student voice and cross-curricular themes have been amazing this term. Well done everyone.



Creativity moves to another level at Barraclough: In Art Crystal and Diamond have been learning about different techniques by different famous artists, what they specialise in and how different tools and techniques can produce different effects. We clearly have a budding Van Gogh at Barraclough. I think you'll agree his painting is amazing which will be framed and displayed in reception area. Well done to all our students.



Puppet time: In DT, again our students have amazed us with their ideas, skill and knowledge development designing and creating their puppets. As mentioned above some students have even designed and created their puppet to work alongside their English Fairy tale theme. One student came up with a great idea of making accessories for their puppet and he made a coat and a hat to keep him warm during winter.



Light about Science

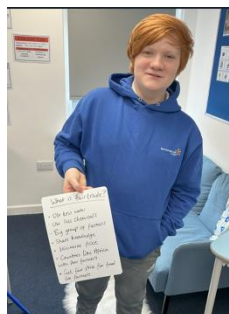
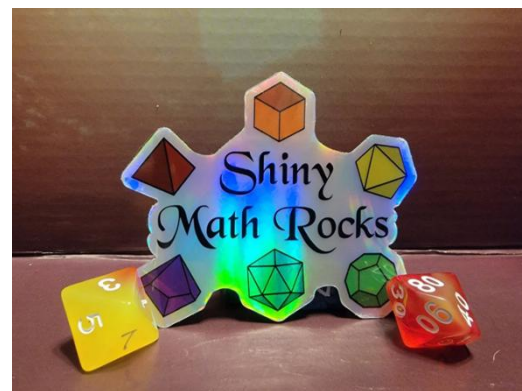
The theme this half term was Physics for all our students, with Crystal and Diamond focussing on Light as a topic theme and Moonstone (our year 10 group) working through the ASDAN Short Course in Science covering Space as their topic and challenge. Crystal and Diamond enjoyed learning about the effects of light, reflection, refraction and also the effects of light on human skin where Crystal created a news report in the media suite about the harmful effects on the skin. Diamond created their own shadow creations and kaleidoscopes, whilst Moonstone researched and created their own planetary top trumps to for their ASDAN challenge which they then enjoyed playing.



In PE, students have continued to enjoy the outside area and new equipment that we now have as they have been focussing on invasion games. There are plans in the near future to be able to use offsite facilities which we are sure our students will enjoy as the weather becomes colder and hopefully arrange a little football match with another local SEN school.

In PHSCE – all students have been learning about health, wellbeing and mental health the importance of looking after yourself, strategies and taking part in different activities to help them understand the importance of this.

In Maths Crystal have really enjoyed developing and embedding their maths skills and new knowledge using Dungeons and Dragons. Mr Jones is a big D & D fan and students are not only developing their maths knowledge but it is also helping to develop their social and communication skills. Some really interesting lessons have been observed with Maths D & D.



Fairtrade week across the school was very positive with students being really mature and completing specific work and discussions, not just in SMSC time, but also during lunchtime, discussing and enquiring where the food had come from.

Reading and new books:

We are excited to be expanding our stock of library books and have taken delivery of some carefully chosen great titles this week to encourage our young people to independently, with each other and with staff. Students have shown a keen interest this week in developing their reading skills and also comprehension.



Stranger things have happened:



We meet as a staff team at 8.30am every morning and one by one the following teaching assistants appeared, rather shocked as each lady came in they also had a similar stripey jumper on. They assured us it wasn't planned and judging by their reaction we do believe them. Our young people were rather amused.

Feedback from parents/carers this term – Autumn 1. Thank you

"The biggest change for my son was moving schools. The biggest positive impact was him moving to Barraclough" – Parent – EHCP Review

"He just wants to be at school every day and longer" – Parent

"We now talk about his school day which we never used to before he came to you" – Parent

"At last, my son enjoys going to school and staff listen to him" – Parent

Kirklees publish **SEND monthly newsletters** which provide a great read. Please see the link:

<https://www.kirkleeslocaloffer.org.uk/kirklees-send-newsletters/>

Healthy foods/snacks

If your child would like to bring in a snack for during the day, in addition to our healthy snacks we provide, please can you ensure these are healthy. Fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate are not permitted as we continue to promote healthy eating in school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Who do I need to contact?

All initial enquiries should go through the school office by emailing the school office on schooloffice@Barracloughhallschool.co.uk or by ringing 01484 244300. Should you wish to inform us of an absence please speak with the school office. In the event of the school office not being available please leave a voicemail which will be picked up and relevant people informed.

Personal Information

Just another reminder, please can you let the school office know if there are any changes to information that you shared upon enrolment of your child, for example, if you have had a change of address, telephone number or anything else has changed that we need to be made aware of.

Dates for your diary: Autumn Term

First day of term: Wednesday 3rd September

INSET days- Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September

Half-Term Holiday- Monday 22nd October – Friday 31st October

Last day of term- Friday 19th December

Spring term

INSET days 5th and 6th January.

Students return 7th January

Half-term Holiday: 16th – 20th February

Consultations and placements are open for the academic year 2025 – 2026 places. Please contact the school for enquiries or to arrange a visit.

