

# Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Spring 1 - 2026

## A message from Miss Cubley

I can't believe we are already at the end of our Spring 1 term and almost half way through this academic year. At the start of January, we welcomed **Mrs Leih (pictured to the right)** to our wonderful staff team and has already made a very positive impact with students and staff. It has been a fantastic term full of exciting learning, laughter and memorable moments for our students. We really do appreciate the support your show our little community. We are looking forward to continuing to flourish and help the students thrive.



**Thriving in interventions:** All our students continue to engage exceptionally well with their personalised interventions. There are strides being made in communication and interaction skills and emotion coaching continues to be a weekly session both as a class and on an individual basis. Learning about emotions through music and even through chess. Magic potions being made from nature, picked from our woodland to support with communication skills, measuring for life skills and numeracy. Handwriting interventions and developing life skills. We believe personalisation is paramount for supporting every young person whilst they continue their journey with us so we can help prepare them for their future.

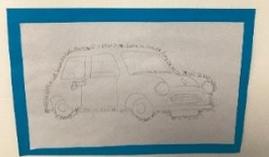
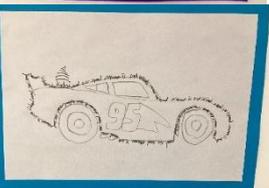
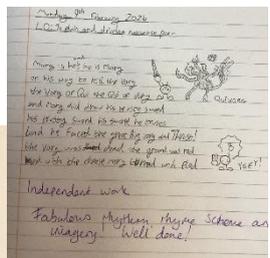
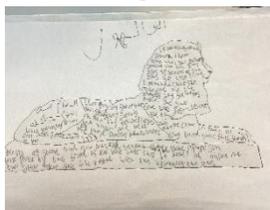


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## "Poetry In Motion" – English:

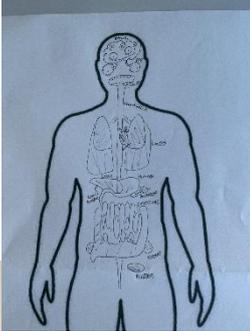
This term, our students have truly embraced their creativity through poetry. We began by exploring what poetry is and discovering a wide range of poetic styles, enjoying the chance to experiment with language in imaginative ways. One of the highlights was reading nonsense poetry and inventing our own playful words and fantastical creatures, inspired by *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll. The students embracing stretching their imaginations and bringing their ideas to life. They also created striking shape poems, carefully crafting images from words based on their own interests — a wonderful blend of creativity and design.



At the end of the term, Crystal Class wrote and performed their own raps. After choosing their favourite rap songs, they thoughtfully rewrote the lyrics, maintaining the original rhythm and rhyme schemes — an impressive demonstration of both



**Creaky bones in Science:** It has been a fantastic start to the term in the Science Department, and we are delighted to share what students have been exploring so far. Our students have only recently begun working



in the science laboratory, and they have taken to it brilliantly. We have been learning how to use equipment safely, follow step-by-step instructions, and build confidence with simple practical activities. Watching students grow in independence and excitement during practical lessons has been a real highlight. Students have been studying the human body and different organ systems. They've been

exploring how the heart, lungs, and digestive system work together to keep us healthy. Students have enjoyed hands-on models, diagrams, and activities that help bring these topics to life.

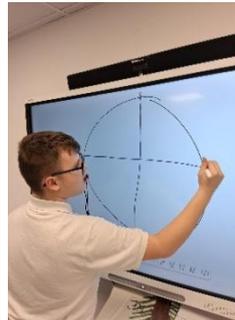


As part of our STEM work, Moonstone have been tackling a creative "Desert Island" challenge, thinking about survival, problem-solving, and the science behind everyday decisions. We are excited to

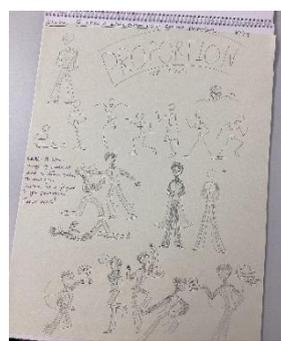


continue building students' confidence in practical work and to explore more topics that spark curiosity and scientific thinking. The enthusiasm shown by all classes so far has been wonderful, and we look forward to seeing their skills grow even further over the coming months.

**Maths:** This half term we have been looking at units and measures, from time to distance to volume, if we could measure it, we did. Students have demonstrated their abilities to measure, read scales and convert units, some even using these skills to create scale diagrams and maps. Some of our students have also developed their ratio skills, dividing and simplifying measures and amounts into a given ratio, even finding the simplest form.



**Art:** This term in Art, we have focused on developing and refining our drawing skills. Students have explored a variety of media, including different grades of pencil, pastels and charcoal, experimenting



with shading, tone and proportion to create depth and realism in their work.

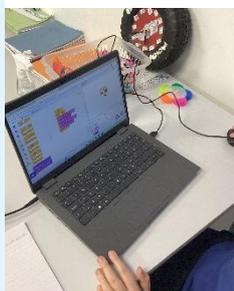
We practised gesture drawing to quickly capture movement, learning how to sketch shapes and forms with energy and confidence. Students also



discovered how to divide the face into sections to achieve accurate proportions when drawing portraits, applying careful observation to their work.

A particular highlight was creating dramatic still life drawings by torchlight, where students carefully observed shadows and highlights to produce striking, atmospheric pieces. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, precision and artistic flair grow throughout the term.

**Computing: Sequencing code:** Crystal Class have been focusing on block coding, learning how important sequencing is. They've created their own music and games by using block coding. There has been lots of problem-solving, or as we call it, debugging, along the way, especially when things didn't quite work the first time. Students have shown excellent resilience debugging their programmes.



Diamond Class have been developing their scripting skills, using code to create patterns and shapes. They experimented with repetition and angles to produce shapes and designs. They've shown perseverance when learning new coding language and hopefully they can continue to develop this further!



Our year 10s in Moonstone Class have been working on a school restaurant project, where they have been creating their own menus, newsletters and posters to advertise the launch for their NCFE Digital Skills qualification. They have learned about layout and formatting, techniques and why it's important. It's been great to see their confidence increase using a variety of tools and working towards their finished products being a professional standard.

**European Geography:** students have been leaning about European countries and their capital cities. They have also been able to identify the major oceans and mountains. Students have been hands on, creating their very own dioramas to show where the various countries that make up Europe are located. Students thoroughly enjoyed creating their maps using a range of materials and papier mache.



### Moonstone Enrichment



Moonstone have been busy in the kitchen, cooking up a storm with delicious dishes including lasagne and pancakes. The group have shown fantastic enthusiasm, diving into each cooking session with energy and curiosity and also supported numeracy life skills. Their excitement has been wonderful to see, and they're already eagerly planning what they'd like to make in their upcoming lessons. It's been a joy to watch their confidence and creativity grow with every recipe.

### PHSCE and Careers

This term, Moonstone have been exploring the wide range of educational pathways available in the local area. They have been researching different colleges and training providers, looking closely at which options offer the courses they are currently interested in. As part of their careers work, they have also begun identifying the entry requirements for these courses, helping them to understand what skills and qualifications



they need to work towards. Their curiosity and thoughtful approach have made this a positive step in planning for their future.

**Reading and Writing:** We are incredibly proud how our students are developing their reading and comprehension skills, from taking part in their timetabled reading sessions, working through phonics for some students and completing their termly progress assessments. Reading in subjects and reading for pleasure is evident across the school and we can't wait to develop our outside space next term as the weather hopefully improves to an outdoor reading area!! Watch this space!

**Chinese New Year** comes early at Barraclough Hall!. As Chinese New Year falls during half-term, students asked if they could celebrate on the last day of term. As we value our student voice, a drop day was organised. Students took part in sessions understanding the purpose of Chinese New Year, created their own decorations, decorated the dining hall themselves ready for a sit-down Chinese meal including fortune cookies.



They even learnt how to use chopsticks after one of our own students did a marvellous front of house demonstration to everyone and showed excellent communication skills. Well done!

### Hip Hip Hurray!!!

Wow!! We have had several birthdays this half term with one student and staff even sharing their birthday. Poor Mr Iredale only had one candle in the remains of caterpillar cake for his birthday. Sorry Sir! Students take priority. It was wonderful having all staff and students together celebrating and singing together as a community.



## **Feedback from parents/carers this term – Spring 1. Thank you**

*"MY son is now starting to recognise emotions and strategies that he can use" – Parent – EHCP Review*

*"The understanding that staff have of each pupil is amazing" – Parent*

*"We are always informed on a regular basis by the staff. Communication is excellent. Thank you" – Parent*

*"Progress evening was excellent. It was lovely to spend time talking to staff and look through the work without being in a hurry" – 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, crisps, 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.

### **Spring term dates**

Half-term Holiday: 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February

Students return 23<sup>rd</sup> February

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Progress/parents evening

March 27<sup>th</sup> – End of term

**Consultations and placements are open for the current academic year and also for September 2026-2027.**

**Please contact the school for enquiries or to arrange a visit.**