

Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Spring 2 - 2026

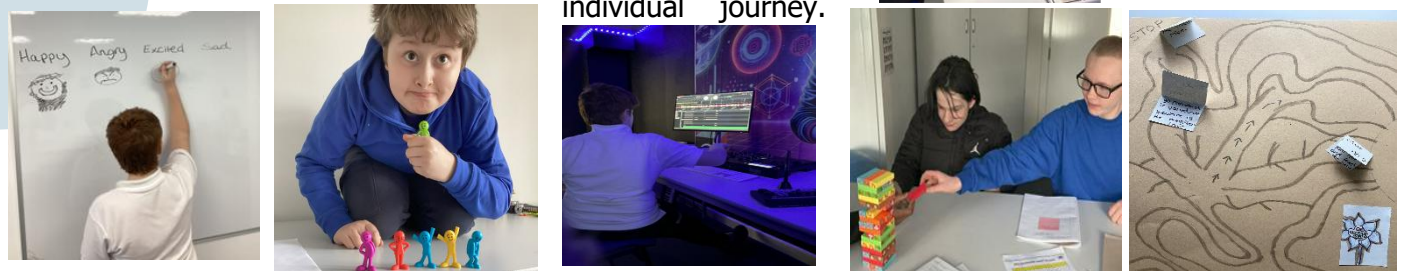
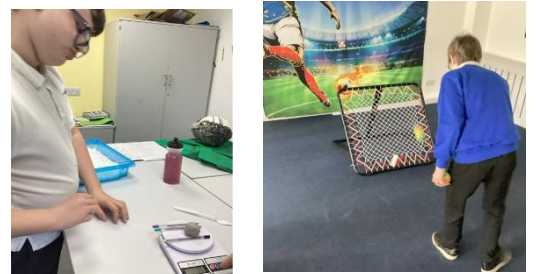
A message from Miss Cubley

Although this has been a short half term, there have been so many exciting things happening at Barraclough Hall. We hope you enjoy reading about our community. Towards the end of this term, **Mr Grace** joined the Barraclough team as the new administrator. We are looking forward to your hidden talents Mr Grace! Thank you to everyone that attended our 2nd progress parents evening this year. It is always wonderful to discuss your child's development and progress. The wonderful feedback is really appreciated. Thank you. Have a lovely Easter break and see you for the new term – please see dates below.

Hip Hip Hurray!!! First and foremost we celebrated our 1st anniversary since opening our doors and of course – we celebrate in style at Barraclough Hall. Students asked if they could celebrate our anniversary and as we always take on board student voice, we came together for a community celebration with a birthday card for the school, cake, banners, party hats and balloons. Further celebrations of other birthdays were amazing and of course we have our signatory Barraclough Hall Caterpillar cake!!



Inclusion: One of our key strengths at Barraclough Hall is inclusion. We believe every child is unique and we work together to understand their needs and how we can help them thrive every single day, whether this be on arrival each morning, during the day, academic and personalised interventions and working with other professionals we develop each individual young person. Our engaging personalised interventions are a key part in every young person's day with personalised targets, fun and engaging activities with half-termly reviews to support their individual journey.



World Book Day: Students and staff really enjoyed taking part in World Book Day with some fantastic outfits and taking part in different reading activities throughout the day. Well done to everyone.

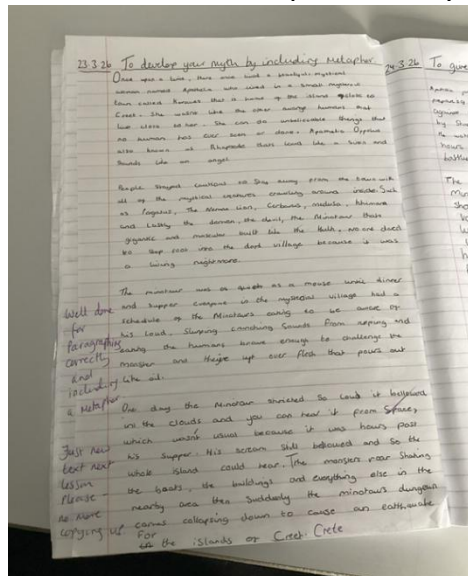


Red Nose Day: Everyone enjoyed taking part in different activities and understanding the purpose of Comic Relief with students showing a great understanding of the purpose and empathy. Even our Barraclough squirrel and Easter gonk got involved.

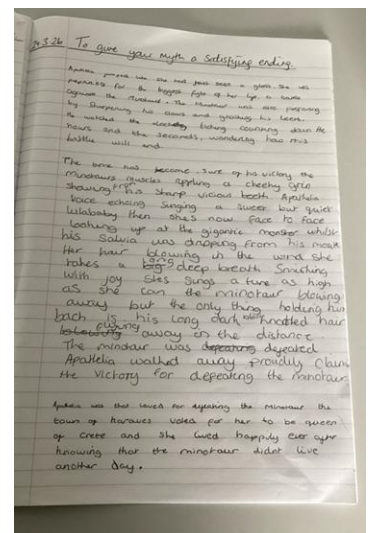


Greek Myths – English:

This term in English, students in Crystal and Diamond classes have immersed themselves in the fascinating world of Greek mythology, with a particular focus on tales of metamorphosis. They thoroughly enjoyed exploring a range of captivating myths, including the stories of Prometheus, Pandora, Actaeon, Arachne, Theseus, and Echo and Narcissus.



Building on their learning, students demonstrated great creativity by designing their own Greek mythical monsters and intricate labyrinths. They have also worked hard to develop their reading and comprehension skills, showing increasing confidence in understanding and analysing texts. To conclude the unit, students crafted their own original myths, drawing on rich descriptive language and vivid imagination. It has been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they brought their unique ideas to life through storytelling.

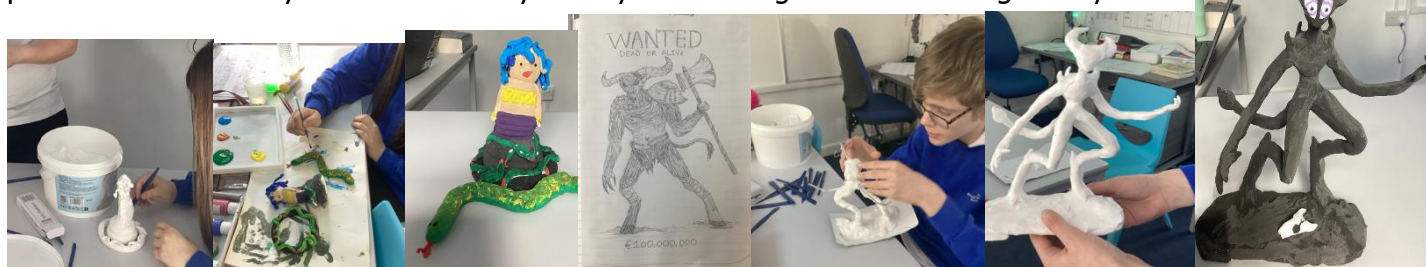


Moonstone students have been developing a range of key literacy skills this term. They have been practising effective spelling strategies and exploring a variety of text types, with a focus on how language choices vary depending on purpose and audience. They have also begun to build their persuasive writing skills, composing letters to Miss Cubleby to advocate for their dream school trip. This involved researching relevant information and carefully selecting ambitious vocabulary to strengthen their arguments. It has been fantastic to see their confidence and creativity grow as they learned how to write convincingly and express their ideas effectively.

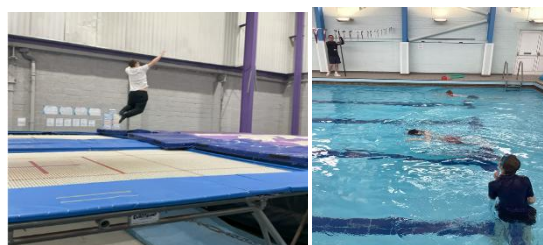
A craft Odyssey– DT: In Design and Technology this term, students have drawn inspiration from their English work on Greek mythology to create a range of imaginative and impressive projects. They have designed and constructed Greek-inspired armour, as well as sculpted their own unique mythical monsters. Using materials such as cardboard, tape, string and paint, students crafted detailed Spartan-style swords, shields and helmets, alongside more ambitious creations including a model of a Greek temple set on a mountain.



Our budding “monster makers” also demonstrated excellent sculpting skills, working with wire to build sturdy frameworks before applying air-dry modelling foam to bring their ideas to life. The final pieces are wonderfully creative and truly worthy of featuring in their own original myths.



Bounce, Swim, Padel – PE: This term our pupils have been getting active! Moonstone class have been soaring through the skies and cutting through the water at trampolining and swimming respectively, making fantastic strides in their stamina and muscular endurance. Diamond class have further developed their water safety and swimming skills and tried Padel for the first time. Crystal class have become our resident padel



experts, showcasing some incredible rallies and a great variety of shots in some awesome games.



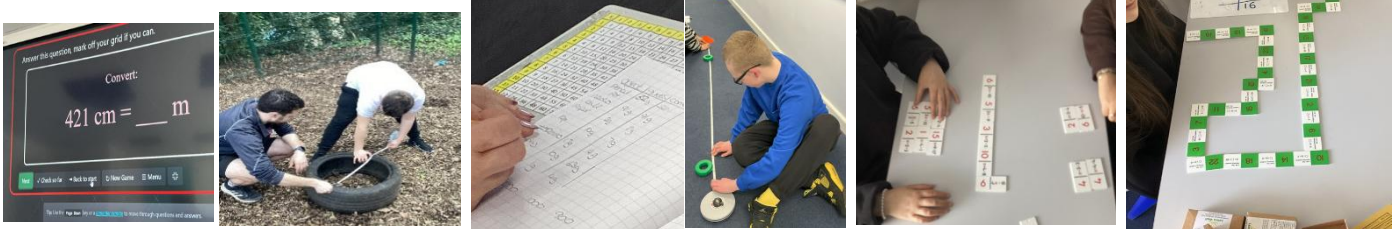
Sparking Curiosity in Science: Exploring Electrical Circuits:

This term, our budding scientists in Diamond and Crystal have been diving into the exciting world of electrical circuits—a hands-on topic that has quickly become a classroom favourite. From lighting bulbs to testing conductors and making their own games the students have been exploring how electricity flows and how everyday devices work. A highlight of the unit was our investigation into conductors and insulators. Using objects such as metal clips, foil, paper, plastic, and wood, students tested materials to see which allowed electricity to pass through.



Moonstone students explored the colourful world of acids and alkalis. Using universal, cabbage and turmeric indicators, they tested everyday liquids to see whether they were acidic, alkaline, or neutral — and the changing colours caused lots of excitement! Pupils learnt how the pH scale works and discussed where acids and alkalis appear in real life, from foods to cleaning products.

Maths: Measurements have remained a large part of maths this term, with pupils mastering metric units and learning to apply and convert the various units. We have been getting increasingly accurate and even progressed to calculating the cost of decorating rooms using our measurement and area skills. Some pupils have been exploring algebra this term, collecting like terms and channelling their inner Einsteins to solve equations.



Fabulous fabric creations in Art: Students have been exploring a range of textile techniques, experimenting creatively with different fabrics and materials. They created their own fabric collages inspired by the work of textile artist Linda Caverly, thoughtfully combining colours, textures and patterns to produce unique pieces.

Students have also developed their sewing skills through appliqué, carefully attaching fabric shapes using a variety of stitches. They further expanded their creativity by trying their hand at weaving with wool to create their own fabrics, as well as paper weaving to produce striking two-tone patterns.

In addition, students designed their own repeating patterns inspired by the work of William Morris, demonstrating an understanding of symmetry and detail. Some students also chose to build on their prior learning by further developing their bag-making skills from last term's DT project. Overall, it has been a wonderfully creative and hands-on term in Art.



Computing and Digital Skills: Databases and Desktop Publishing

Our pupils in Crystal and Diamond Classes have been looking into Databases this half term. From who might store their information and why, to what databases they already use without realising it, to creating and categorising their own branching databases which have been full of investigations and creativity. Both classes in particular enjoyed browsing housing databases for dream homes, looking at small apartments in the local area to mansions worldwide, though it was unanimously agreed that two hundred million pounds for a penthouse in Dubai might be a little out of everyone's price range!



Moonstone class meanwhile have been looking at publishing and advertising. Tasked with designing menus, posters and a newsletter for a new restaurant, pupils have combined computing skills and imaginations to design and present what they have created. They will continue to develop these skills continuing into the next half term.

European Geography: Across the school this term pupils have created some fantastic dioramas, many focusing the European union and it's member countries. Elsewhere we have been looking at why people live where they do, and the factors that might make somebody move. Pupils have assessed why we have settled near rivers and why they are so important.



History: Exploring Two Fascinating Historic Eras: The Vikings and the British Empire

The Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers: Students in Crystal began by exploring the Viking Age, discovering that Vikings were far more than just fierce warriors. The pupils learned about Viking longships, settlements, and their incredible journeys across Europe. We also explored Viking beliefs, including the myths of Odin, Thor, and Loki, which sparked wonderful curiosity and creative storytelling.



The British Empire: A Global Impact: Students in Diamond examined the growth of the British Empire and how it expanded across continents. They explored how trade, exploration, and industry connected Britain to countries around the world, shaping culture, language, transport, and technology. Discussions encouraged thoughtful reflection about the impact of the Empire—both the achievements and the challenges faced by people in different places and periods.

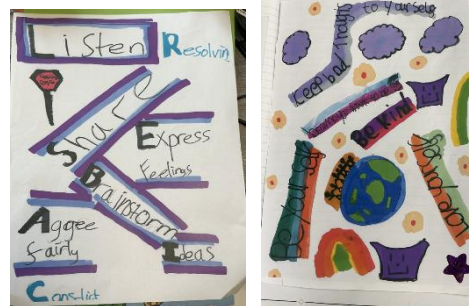
Moonstone Enrichment: Baking Up a Storm: Cupcakes, Cheesecake & Creative Kitchen Skills!



This term Moonstone has truly baked up a storm in the kitchen! Pupils rolled up their sleeves, tied on their aprons, and embraced the challenge of creating delicious treats — and the results were as impressive as they were tasty. We began with cupcakes, chocolate, vanilla and carrot cake, where pupils learned key baking skills such as measuring ingredients accurately, and safely using kitchen equipment. Our next challenge was a crowd-pleasing favourite: cheesecake. They were fascinated to see how combining simple

ingredients could result in such a luxurious dessert. They supported one another, shared equipment sensibly, and took pride in keeping their workstations clean and organised. Our young bakers left not only with tasty treats to take home, but also with new skills they can use for life.

PHSCE and Careers: Year 6 students have been learning about what influences people's career choices, involving exploring stereotypes, career skills, pay influences and developing negotiation skills. They have also looked at how enterprise projects link to real businesses and explored different routes into careers. The Year 7 students have been learning about the children's rights and responsibilities put forward in the UNCRC, why they exist, how they are protected and what their own responsibilities are. They have also explored how school subjects link to careers, the importance of setting goals and having back-up plans and done some great work on understanding emotions. They learned how to identify and articulate different emotions appropriately and how to resolve conflicts in a healthy way, making lovely posters to show off what they had learned.



Year 9 pupils have been undertaking projects to promote wildlife in the school grounds, creating their own bug hotels and designing planters recycling tyres. They have also been learning about discrimination, how this can affect people and what laws are in place to protect against it.



Budgeting for Your Future & Exploring Career Pathways: Year 10 have been looking into important two skills which make a huge difference to their confidence and success: learning to budget and exploring possible careers. Both are aimed at helping our young people to feel more in control of their future—financially, academically, and personally. Budgeting and career exploration go hand in hand. When students have an idea of what they'd like to do, they can set financial goals to support their plans.

Easter: Finally, on the last day of term all staff and young people took part in Easter activities as a whole community. The morning started with a whole school Easter egg hunt. It was wonderful seeing all the young people working together to achieve one common goal and find all 60 plastic eggs. Well done – great team work!



Reading:

We have been continuing to expand our library, adding titles chosen by students and non-fiction books that link to specific interests. We have added books about football, animals, interesting places and different types of transport as well as books that explore the idea of feeling different from others.



Feedback from parents/carers this term – Spring 2. Thank you

"We feel that our voices are listened to and acted upon" - Parent

"Staff go above and beyond for my child" – Parent EHCP Review

"He's making friends and coming home telling me every day about what he's done. He loves being at school" – Parent

"This school is so much better than my last school. I'm so happy" - Student

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 or email 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.

Summer term dates

April 13th - INSET staff training day
April 14th - Students return
April 24th – Parent Coffee Morning 930am – 11am
May 4th – Bank Holiday
May 12th – Open Evening for prospective young people - TBC
May 22nd – End of term

Consultations and placements are open for the current academic year and also for September 2026-2027. We also have a number of enquiries for September 2027.

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