

Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Summer 1 - 2026

A message from Miss Cubley

First and foremost, we are incredibly proud to announce that Barraclough Hall has received a significant outcome from our recent Ofsted inspection in February which reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff team to support our young people's development. Our amazing report has been published on the Ofsted website and on our own. We also have it proudly displayed in the reception area. Our young people are a credit to the school and enjoyed talking to the inspectors and showing how they develop and progress at Barraclough Hall. We hope you have a lovely springbank break and look forward to see everyone again in the new term - please see dates below.



Exceptional	
Strong standard	● ● ●
Expected standard	● ● ●
Needs attention	
Urgent improvement	

At the start of this half term, we welcomed Mr Phillips to our community. Mr Phillips is our SENCO and has a wealth of experience in different settings and is already developing fantastic relationships with pupils and staff.

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. Please see dates below for the summer progress evening.

Hip Hip Hurray!!! Again, we celebrated pupils and staff's birthdays with our signatory caterpillar cake.



Cinco de Mayo!! During last half term's student council meeting, a student suggested that the school celebrates Cinco De Mayo with sampling different Mexican foods. As student voice is paramount, it was lovely to provide Mexican food samples which were enjoyed by all pupils and staff.

Music to our ears! Mr Grace appears to have many hidden talents. Pupils were amazed to find out Mr Grace is a talented musician, so we just had to purchase an electric drum kit and guitar which have been a huge success. It also provided staff the opportunity to dance to "Beat it" whilst our young drummer banged to the beat!!



Mr Grace provides 1 to 1 sessions as part of golden time for pupils. Watch this space for our next musical development!!!

Our first parents' coffee morning! In April we welcomed parents for a coffee, cake and an informal chat with our staff with an array of cakes to share. It was wonderful seeing how the young people joined in as well. Thank you for coming. We are looking forward to our summer coffee morning where hopefully we can share some sunshine in the courtyard with you.



Careers 1 to 1 sessions: In May we welcomed our C & K Careers CEIAG advisor to Barraclough where pupils from year 6 to 10 were able to take part in 1 to 1 careers advice sessions discussing their future ambitions, pathways, skills and ask valuable questions. We are exceptionally proud of

the communication skills and maturity our pupils demonstrated during their first careers experience with an advisor. Our next careers session with the advisor is in June which we are looking forward to.

Inclusion: Every child is unique and part of life at Barraclough is taking part in daily personalised interventions, whether this be on a 1 to 1 basis or small group where our young people can support and develop each other as well as themselves. Some pupils have been focussing on critical thinking skills as a new part of their intervention which is proving not to just develop cognitive ability but also communication, interaction and listening skills within small groups.



Calming courtyard corner! Our young people have been having their say for areas of the courtyard development with ideas of what they feel would be beneficial, with pupils preparing, budgeting and planting natural resources. Pupils helped set up the area of waterfalls, building the furniture and discussing their ideas. Next step - wooded bark area development. *Watch this space!!*



Connections with Bridgewood Trust Horticulture centre continue to grow!!



As we continue to strengthen our community links, two of our young people venture down the road during Golden time activity each week where they are welcomed by the

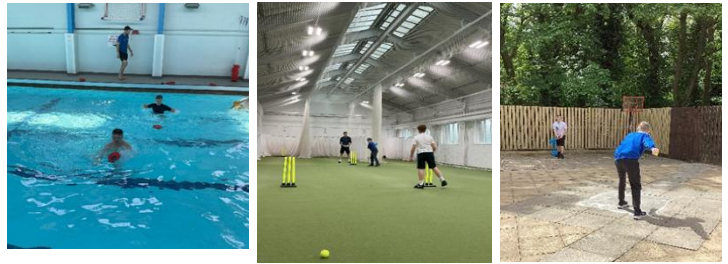


staff at Bridgewood. One young person asked to develop his amazing artistic skills further by drawing nature and another young person takes part in "potting" plants and seeds within the greenhouses. We are grateful to Bridgewood staff who are understanding and welcome all our pupils. Thank you!

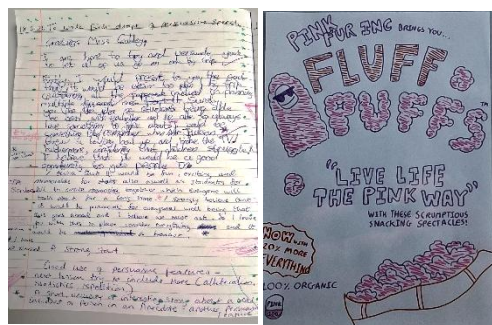
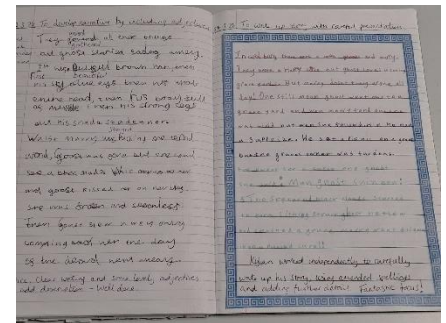
Computing and Digital Skills: Crystal class have been creative this half term learning digital publishing skills. From understanding why templates are helpful to analysing different types of publications. They have enjoyed designing and creating their own adverts, posters and newsletters. Diamond class have been writing and recording their own podcasts, choosing their own topics that they wish to speak about. As well as writing and recording, they have also learned how to edit the audio, as well as combine different audio layers to add sound and music to their recordings.



PE: Pupils have been developing their skills in cricket. They have practised key techniques such as batting, bowling, and fielding, as well as learning the rules of the game and how to apply tactics. It has been great to see their teamwork and sportsmanship improving as they have taken part in matches and small-sided games. In addition, some pupils have been attending swimming sessions, where they have been focusing on building water confidence and developing basic swimming techniques. They have made excellent progress in becoming more confident in water and showing a willingness to challenge themselves to develop.



English: Pupils have been exploring a wide range of engaging non-fiction texts. We have focused on understanding the purpose, structure and language features of non-chronological reports, news reports, reviews, adverts and speeches. The pupils have worked hard to develop their reading comprehension skills, learning to identify key information, interpret meaning and analyse how language is used to influence the reader. A particular focus has been on persuasive language, with pupils exploring techniques such as emotive vocabulary, rhetorical questions and powerful sentence structures to present ideas effectively.

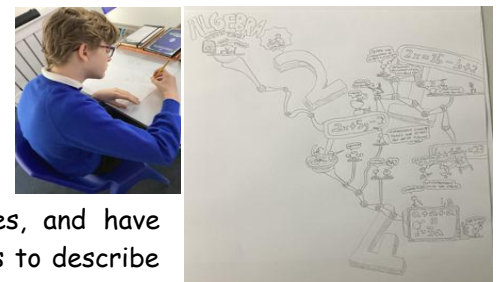


They have thoroughly enjoyed putting these skills into practice by creating their own adverts, thinking carefully about audience and purpose. In addition, all pupils have planned, written, edited and confidently performed speeches, demonstrating both creativity and growing confidence when speaking in front of an audience. It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm and progress, and we are very proud of the effort and achievement shown across the class.

Food Technology - DT: Pupils have developed their understanding of kitchen safety by learning how to identify potential hazards and take steps to avoid them, ensuring they can work confidently and responsibly. They have explored the principles of healthy eating, including the Eatwell Guide, different food groups and the importance of vitamins in maintaining a balanced diet. They have been encouraged to think carefully about their own food choices and how these can support a healthy lifestyle. Pupils have had the opportunity to apply their learning through practical activities, where they have planned and prepared a range of healthy dishes, including smoothies, salads and soups. It has been wonderful to see their independence and enthusiasm grow, and we are very proud of the skills and knowledge they have developed this term.



Maths: Pupils have strengthened their understanding of written methods for multiplication and division, building accuracy and confidence when solving more complex calculations. Pupils have also explored area and perimeter, learning how to measure and calculate the space and boundaries of different shapes and have been introduced to algebra, where they have begun to use symbols to represent unknown values, and have investigated linear sequences, identified patterns and working out rules to describe them. Throughout the term, pupils have demonstrated resilience and determination, particularly when tackling more challenging problems. It has been great to see their confidence grow, and they should be proud of their hard work and progress.

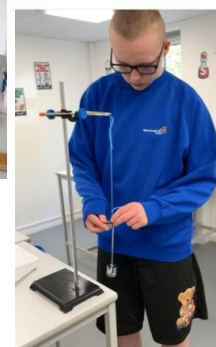
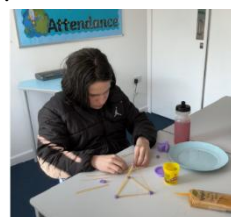


Science: Exploring Living Things: Diamond and Crystal have been exploring living organisms and what makes them unique. We have been learning about the characteristics of life, including how living organisms grow, reproduce, and respond to their environment. A highlight of our learning has been our exciting outdoor exploration of the school grounds, where pupils became real-life scientists! Equipped with magnifying glasses and identification charts, they searched carefully for invertebrates—animals without backbones. They discovered a variety of fascinating creatures, including worms, woodlice, spiders, and beetles. This hands-on experience helped develop key scientific skills such as observation, classification, and questioning, while also encouraging curiosity about the natural world right on our doorstep.



Forces and Investigations:

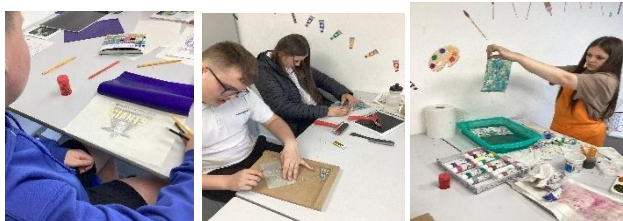
Moonstone has been exploring forces and motion, developing their understanding of how things move and what affects their movement. We have been learning about density, discovering why some objects float while others sink. Through hands-on experiments, they made predictions, tested materials, and discussed their findings using scientific vocabulary. A highlight of the term was our exciting engineering challenge, where pupils designed and built spaghetti structures. We have also carried out investigations into the strength of materials, comparing items such as bones (in a scientific model context) and thread to understand how structure and composition affect strength and durability. Throughout these activities, pupils developed key scientific skills including planning investigations, testing ideas, observing carefully, and evaluating results.



have been learning about density, discovering why some objects float while others sink. Through hands-on experiments, they made predictions, tested materials, and discussed their findings using scientific vocabulary. A highlight of the term was our exciting engineering challenge, where pupils designed and built spaghetti structures. We have also carried out investigations into the strength of materials, comparing items such as bones (in a scientific model context) and thread to understand how structure and composition affect strength and durability. Throughout these activities, pupils developed key scientific skills including planning investigations, testing ideas, observing carefully, and evaluating results.

Perfect printing in Art:

Crystal and Diamond class have been exploring a wide range of exciting printing techniques, allowing them to experiment creatively with colour, pattern and texture. They have learnt and practised screen printing, as well as designing and creating their own lino cut prints and collagraphs, developing both their artistic skills and understanding of different processes. Pupils have particularly enjoyed exploring a variety of hands-on and experimental methods, including carbon transfer printing, marbling with oil and paint, and even painting with marbles. These activities have encouraged them to take creative risks and think imaginatively about how different materials and techniques can be used to achieve interesting effects. Throughout the term, our pupils have shown great enthusiasm and resilience, building their confidence and pride in their work. It has been fantastic to see their creativity develop, and we are very proud of the originality and effort they have demonstrated.



Music: This term in Music, pupils have taken on the exciting challenge of composing their own soundtracks for silent movies. They explored how music can be used to convey mood, atmosphere, and character, learning how different sounds and rhythms can enhance storytelling. Working creatively, pupils planned and performed original pieces to accompany short film clips, thinking carefully about how their music matched the action on screen. They experimented with a range of instruments, dynamics, and tempo to build tension, create emotion, and bring their films to life.



Geography: Pupils have been exploring the fascinating topic of rivers. They have developed their understanding of how rivers form and change as they journey from source to mouth, learning key features such as waterfalls, meanders, and deltas. A highlight of the unit has been a hands-on project where pupils designed and created their own models of a river's course. Using a variety of materials, they represented the upper, middle, and lower stages of a river, carefully including features such as valleys, bends, and floodplains. This creative task helped bring their learning to life and demonstrated excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills. The quality of the models has been fantastic, and pupils have shown great enthusiasm and creativity throughout the topic.



History: Exploring Our Local Past and looking at technology changes in Modern Times:

Crystal has been learning about local history before 1066, discovering what life was like in our area hundreds of years ago. They explored how settlements developed, who lived here, and how people worked, traded, and organised their communities long before modern times. Ending with the importance of the Domesday Book created in 1086 by order of William the Conqueror. They learned how it was used to record land, people, and resources across England, helping the king understand and control his kingdom.



From the Past to Modern Times: Diamond class have been exploring key changes in modern history between 1940 and 2010. They looked at how Britain changed after the Second World War, including developments in technology, transport, housing, and everyday life. Discussions included how people's lifestyles, communication, and opportunities have evolved within living memory. Pupils compared different time periods, identifying both continuity and change, and reflecting on how historical events have shaped the world we live in today.

Moonstone Enrichment: Pupils have enjoyed a range of opportunities, exploring the local area through a series of walking trips. Visits included the garden centre, where pupils observed a variety of plants. This provided a great opportunity to link learning to the natural world and develop an appreciation for the environment. We also visited Greenhead Park, where we explored the surroundings, and enjoyed an ice cream. A trip to the local cemetery allowed pupils to engage with local history in a respectful and thoughtful way. They observed historical features, read inscriptions, and reflected on how such spaces help us understand the past and remember those who came before us. These experiences helped pupils to develop their awareness of the local community, as well as important skills such as observation, respect, and curiosity about the world around them.



PHSCE and Careers:

Healthy Relationships and Wellbeing: Moonstone pupils have been exploring the important topic of healthy relationships, alongside understanding relationship breakdowns, body image, and the influence of the media. Through class discussions and activities, pupils learned what makes a healthy relationship, including key qualities such as respect, trust, kindness, and clear communication. They explored how to build positive friendships and how to support others while also respecting personal boundaries. They considered relationship breakdowns, learning ways to manage these situations sensitively and respectfully. Emphasis was placed on recognising and expressing feelings appropriately, as well as knowing how to seek support from trusted adults when needed. We

have also examined body image, reflecting on how people may feel about their appearance and the importance of self-acceptance and confidence. They were encouraged to celebrate individuality and understand that everyone is unique. Linking to this, pupils explored the influence of the media, including how images online and in advertising can sometimes present unrealistic or edited versions of reality. Well done to all pupils for their mature, thoughtful, and respectful engagement in these important discussions.

In careers Moonstone pupils have been developing important life skills by learning how to complete application forms and write covering letters. They explored what information is required in an application form and practised presenting their skills, experiences, and achievements clearly and accurately. Pupils were encouraged to think carefully about their strengths and how these can be communicated effectively. In addition, pupils learned how to write a covering letter, understanding its purpose and how to make a positive first impression. They focused on structuring their letters, using formal language, and explaining why they are suitable candidates.

Diamond pupils have been involved in a practical and creative project to design and make planters using recycled tyres. They have worked collaboratively to plan, design, and decorate their planters, showing creativity while also learning about sustainability and the importance of reusing materials. In addition, pupils have begun thinking about their futures through meetings with a careers advisor. They have explored different career pathways, discussed post-16 options, and started to understand the skills and qualifications needed for a range of professions. This has encouraged them to reflect on their own interests and aspirations. It has been great to see pupils engaging thoughtfully with both the practical and reflective aspects of the subject.



Reading: We are excited to continue to build our library collection up and this term our pupils have been busily working their way through some of our new titles. After some thoughtful student voice, we now have lots of Roald Dahl classic stories, including *The Twits*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Goerge's Marvellous Medicine*. Proving to be very popular are a series of graphic novels from *Five Nights at Freddie's* and some spine tinglingly spooky tales. We will soon be ready for a new delivery of books to keep with up with our increasingly keen readers!



Writing: Across the school this term we have introduced a new writing intervention designed to support every pupil at their individual stage of writing development. This targeted approach focuses on building key skills that will help pupils make steady progress, improving both the legibility of their handwriting and the fluency of their written work. By meeting pupils where they are and providing structured, personalised support, the intervention aims to boost confidence, strengthen core writing skills and help every child develop into a more confident and capable writer.

End of term trip to Greenhead Park: Pupils and staff spent Friday afternoon at Greenhead Park collaboratively where they took part in rugby, walking, enjoying the sunshine, fresh air and a well-deserved ice cream.



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

"For my child to continue to THRIVE at Barraclough Hall" – Parent EHCP Review

"We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised the hard work and dedication of staff that help our son develop" – Parent feedback

"It's those little steps which are massive steps of progress that help my son" – Parent EHCP review

"I wish school could start at 8am and be open on weekends" – Student voice

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.

Uniform orders for September: Please email Mr Grace on Joshua.Grace@Barracloughhallschool.co.uk with orders for September by June 15th. Uniform prices can be found on the website in the parent/carer section.

[Uniform - Barraclough Hall School](#)

Summer 2 term dates

June 1st - Pupils return

June 9th – Parents forum – opportunity for discussions and time with myself and staff. 3.45pm – 4.30pm

June 30th – Parents progress evening 3.45pm – 5pm

July 15th – Sports day – tbc weather dependant

July 20th – End of term and end of year reports to parents/carers.

Please note the dates for next academic year (2026-2027) are published on the website.

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.