

Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Summer 2 - 2026

A message from Miss Cubley: This academic year has been a wonderful journey, with new pupils and staff joining as we have continued to grow. Highlights this year included welcoming new pupils and staff, our amazing Ofsted result, a visit from Huddersfield MP and links with the local community and a very busy Summer term. However, the most important highlight is watching our young people thrive, in all areas of personal development and academic learning. Without the support of everyone in and outside of school this would not be possible. Therefore, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you everyone for their immense support and collaboration over the past year which has enabled us to achieve and enjoy the growth and development of our school community. I wish you all a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing everyone and our new pupils and staff in September.



At the start of this half term, we welcomed **Mr Maynard** to our community who has joined us as a one to one teaching assistant with a wealth of experience working with young people which adds further skills to our staff team. He has already developed excellent relationships with pupils.



As our tradition of celebrating each persons birthday continues - we had a wonderful **silent** birthday celebration this time as requested by our wonderful pupil.

Thank you to everyone that attended our 3rd progress parents evening this year. It is always wonderful to discuss your child's development and progress. The wonderful feedback is really appreciated. It is a pleasure to see how our pupils are proud to show their work and achievements with their parents/carers.

Inclusion: We continue to be exceptionally proud of the daily personalised interventions for our pupils. The enjoyment and engagement from pupils are a pleasure to see.



These are carefully planned and for part of the provision within the EHCP. Each term pupils have personalised targets which are reviewed and over the past year, the progress we have seen in pupil's personal progress is

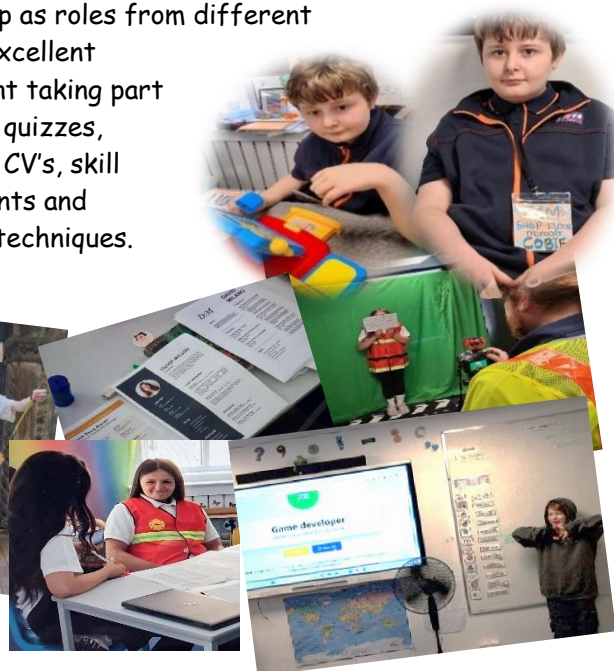
outstanding from developing social, communication

and physical development. We will be continuing these as part of our offer to support every young person as a unique individual.



Careers 1 to 1 sessions: In June we welcomed our C & K Careers CEIAG advisor for the second time 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 experience with a careers advisor.

Drop down Careers Day: Everyone enjoyed engaging in activities during our first drop down careers day, dressing up as roles from different sectors. Excellent engagement taking part in careers quizzes, comparing CV's, skill requirements and interview techniques.



Huddersfield MP visits Barraclough Hall! At the end of June, Harpeet Uppal visited Barraclough Hall. Harpeet met with staff and pupils during the tour. Pupils enjoyed talking and asking interesting questions around recent political developments showing a good awareness of what is happening in the outside world.



Barraclough Bug Hotel: As our pupils enjoy exploring outside in the wonderful tree barked area and looking under stones for differing bugs, one pupil asked for a bug hotel to look after and nurture Barraclough bugs. Each morning the bug hotel is checked by our pupils and enjoy discussing the little creatures that have arrived.



Sports Day: Our first official sports day with a different twist which involved various activities including javelin, 3-legged race, sprints, egg and spoon and welly wanging!! It has been wonderful seeing pupils taking part in a healthy competition whilst having lots of fun throughout.

Afternoon Tea Party + "Come on England!!"



Throughout this term, pupils have been planning, preparing and practising afternoon tea recipes in preparation for our end of year party for all pupils (current and new) parents, staff (current and new) and the local community. Pupils really enjoyed a drop down schedule creating an outstanding assortment of food. They also created the decorations and decorated the dining hall before our important guests arrived. As England had made it through the semi-final, half the dining hall just had to be decorated to support England. This has been an immense achievement for all our pupils from start to finish working collaboratiely as a whole school team. We are exceptionally proud of our young people and the maturing and pride they have taken in organising, creating and running the event themselves.

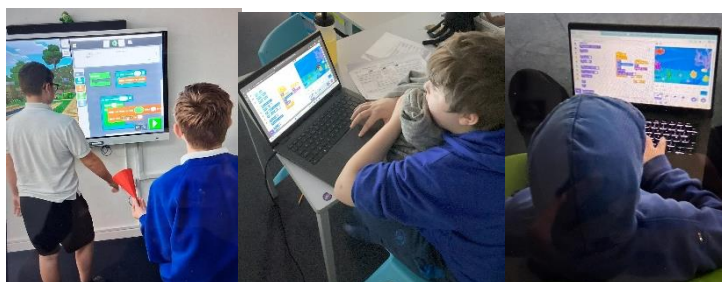
End of year trip: Ponderosa: To celebrate the end of a successful year the whole school went out for the day. The weather was kind to us, providing warm sunshine throughout the day and creating the perfect conditions for



exploring the park. Pupils enjoyed seeing a variety of fascinating animals, including meerkats, sleeping porcupines, tarantulas, marmosets, raccoon dogs and some particularly adorable otters, which proved to be a firm favourite. The visit gave everyone the opportunity to learn more about different species while enjoying the park's grounds. We all enjoyed lunch together, followed by a well-earned ice cream. There was also plenty of time for pupils to explore the play area, affectionately dubbed the "children's enclosure" by the group! Pupils took turns on the zip line, tackled the climbing frames, raced down the slides and enjoyed spending time together outdoors.

The highlight of the day was seeing the pupils have so much fun while supporting and encouraging one another. Their behaviour throughout the trip was exemplary and they were fantastic ambassadors for the school. A lovely time was had by all, and it was a wonderful way to round off a successful and enjoyable term.

Computing and Digital Skills: Diamond and Crystal have both been looking at Repetition in Gaming, using count controlled and infinite loops to create their own small programs. They have used both Scratch and Minecraft education to design and build their worlds, before starting to implement the code they have created.



Moonstone have been looking at how we can stay safe in an increasingly digital world. As well as looking at respectful interactions online, as well as simple methods on protecting privacy and personal information. They have then looked at how different devices have different security settings and how to apply them and have begun to look at software to prevent against online risk.

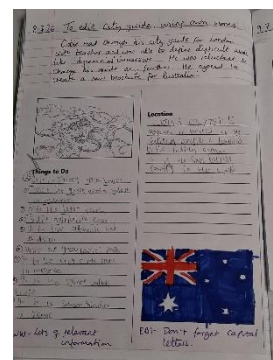
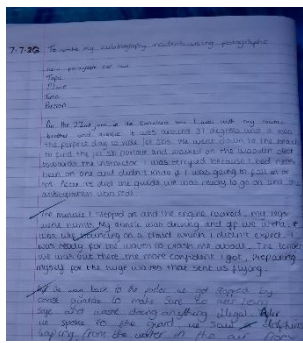
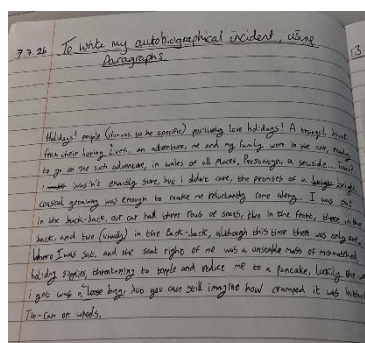
PE: Athletics: Pupils have been developing their athletics skills, with a particular focus on throwing events.



They have been practising javelin, discus and shot put, using specially adapted equipment such as foam javelins and rubber discus to ensure activities are both safe and enjoyable. Pupils have worked on improving their throwing techniques, coordination and accuracy while learning about the skills required for each event. It has been wonderful to see everyone participate enthusiastically, challenge themselves and demonstrate a positive attitude throughout the term. We are proud of the effort and determination shown by all pupils as they continue to develop their confidence and physical skills.

English: Non-fiction- Life and travel writing: Crystal Class have been exploring biographies and autobiographies this term. They have written extracts about the lives of interesting people before creating their own mini autobiographies, focusing on significant events in their lives. As part of their non-fiction writing, they also studied the features of travel brochures. Pupils designed brochures for real destinations and then used their

creativity to produce brochures for their dream holiday destinations, whether real or imagined.



Diamond Class have been studying *Going Solo* by Roald Dahl. Through shared reading and class discussion, they have developed their reading comprehension skills while enjoying this engaging autobiographical text. Their writing skills have been reinforced through a range of activities linked to the

book, including creating adverts, writing letters and diary entries, and devising their own comprehension questions.

Moonstone Class have continued to develop their functional English skills through assessment-style writing tasks designed to strengthen their ability to write effectively for different purposes and audiences. It has been wonderful to see the progress made by all pupils, and handwriting continues to improve across the school.

DT/Food Technology: All pupils have been busy planning and preparing for our Afternoon Tea event. Both Crystal and Diamond researched the tradition of afternoon tea before planning and selecting recipes to make. They then practised preparing these recipes safely and effectively, developing their cooking skills and confidence in the kitchen.



Moonstone Class also played an important role in the project, making delicious cakes for our visitors to enjoy.

All pupils have engaged enthusiastically with the project and have demonstrated excellent teamwork, alongside their ability to work safely, responsibly and independently in the kitchen. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and had a fantastic time sharing the results of their hard work with our guests.



Maths: Data, graphs and shapes: Pupils in Crystal and Diamond Class have been developing their data handling skills. They have explored a range of ways to present and

interpret information, including bar charts, line graphs, pie charts and scatter graphs. Some pupils have also been learning about averages and how these can be used to analyse and compare data. Through practical activities and problem-solving tasks, they have developed their confidence in collecting, presenting and interpreting information.

Moonstone pupils have continued to build their functional maths skills. They have worked hard on improving their knowledge and recall of the four operations, while also completing assessment-style questions to develop their confidence in applying mathematical skills in a range of real-life contexts. It has been pleasing to see pupils engaging positively with their maths learning and making steady progress in both their understanding and application of key mathematical concepts.

Science: Roots to rocks: Crystal and Diamond have studied Plants and Fossils, while developing their scientific knowledge through both theoretical lessons and practical investigations.



Practical

investigations formed an important part of the learning experience. Pupils carried out experiments to investigate osmosis by examining the movement of water across partially permeable membranes under different conditions. They also conducted transpiration investigations to explore factors affecting the rate of water loss from leaves. These practical activities provided opportunities to develop skills in observation, measurement, recording results, data analysis, and drawing evidence-based conclusions. The study of

fossils introduced pupils to the processes of fossil formation and their significance as evidence of life on Earth in the distant past. Pupils examined how fossils provide valuable information about extinct organisms, ancient environments, and the history of evolution. They even made their own fossils with chocolate. Overall, pupils have demonstrated a sound understanding of the key concepts covered this term and have continued to develop their scientific enquiry, investigative, and analytical skills. They are encouraged to build on this knowledge through continued curiosity, careful observation, and active participation in future practical investigations.



Moonstone has recently wrapped up an intensive term exploring the scientific principles that drive elite athletic performance. Their practical investigations focused on 3 core areas: strength, speed and the ethics of performance enhancement. In STEM moonstone has also participated in a range of engaging STEM activities designed to develop their scientific understanding, engineering skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities through practical investigation. Pupils completed a variety of hands-on projects, including constructing and testing model volcanoes to explore

chemical reactions, designing and building solar ovens to investigate the transfer and use of solar energy, and applying these principles by preparing s'mores using renewable energy. They also designed and constructed bird feeders, considering material selection, functionality, and environmental sustainability while encouraging local wildlife.



Perfect patterns in Art:

Pupils have been exploring both natural and man-made patterns. They began by investigating patterns in nature, exploring the school grounds and observing the plants, leaves and creatures they could find. This helped them to identify the many repeating shapes, colours and textures that occur in the natural world.



Pupils also revisited the lino cuts they created last term, using them to produce regular repeating patterns through printing. They developed their understanding of geometric design by creating intricate patterns inspired by Islamic art, using rulers and careful measurement to achieve accuracy and symmetry. The work of the artist M.C. Escher provided inspiration for exploring irregular patterns, with pupils creating their own tessellating designs using interlocking shapes. They also studied the colourful, abstract artwork of Joan Miró and used his distinctive style to inspire their own abstract pattern compositions.

Throughout the term, pupils have shown creativity, concentration and excellent problem-solving skills while experimenting with a wide range of artistic techniques and styles.

Music: All about the bass: Music lessons have been particularly exciting this term, with pupils having the opportunity to make use of our new electric drum kit and bass guitar. These new instruments have been a fantastic addition to our music provision and have encouraged pupils to explore different ways of making and performing music. We have also been fortunate to benefit from the musical talents of our very own Mr Grace, who has been helping pupils work on their basic rhythms and chords. Through these practical sessions, pupils have developed their understanding of how music is structured while building confidence in playing a range of instruments.

In addition, pupils have explored composition by creating their own melodies using repeated improvised patterns. They have used keyboards, percussion instruments and music software to experiment with different sounds, rhythms and musical ideas, producing some imaginative and creative pieces of their own. It has been wonderful to see pupils engaging enthusiastically with music, developing their performance skills, creativity and self-confidence throughout the term.



Geography- Urban/Rural: Pupils have been exploring the differences between urban and rural environments. They have investigated the human and physical features that characterise each type of location, considering factors such as population, land use, transport, natural landscapes and local services.

Pupils have also examined a range of case studies from around the world, comparing urban and rural communities in different countries and continents. They have developed their understanding of how people interact with their environments and how geographical features can influence the way communities live and work. It has been encouraging to see pupils engage thoughtfully with these topics, developing their geographical knowledge while building important skills in observation, comparison and discussion.

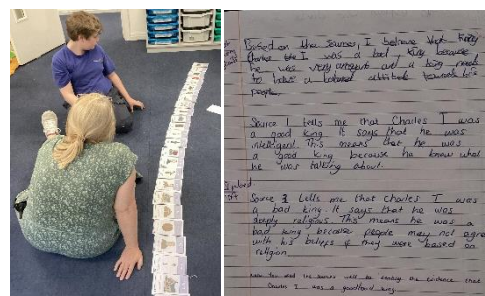


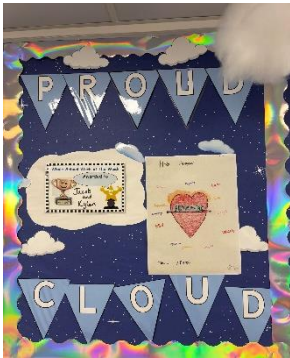
History: Reigns, trains and brainwaves: Pupils in Crystal have studied the British monarchy exploring the reigns of significant British monarchs, examining their influence on political, religious, and social change. They developed an understanding of chronology, continuity and change, cause and consequence, while considering how different monarchs responded to the challenges of their time.

Diamond class studied inventions, discoveries, and innovation, investigating achievements of key inventors, scientists, and explorers, analysing how technological and scientific developments have transformed society. They considered the impact of innovation on industry, communication, transport, medicine, and everyday life, while evaluating the significance of these developments in their historical context.

Pupils in Moonstone have continued to study World War 1 and 2. Moving beyond the battlefield tactics, the pupils investigated the deep, lasting transformations these global conflicts inflicted on everyday citizens and the physical landscapes.

Moonstone Enrichment: From pancakes to playlists: Moonstones enrichment lessons have been full of hands-on learning and creativity. They have been making pancakes and hot dogs, developing practical cooking skills while enjoying a tasty treat. In STEM they made a solar oven which they put to the test and made some yummy s'mores. They have also enjoyed a few visits to the local garden centre, exploring plants, flowers and gardening equipment, encouraging curiosity about nature. They have also explored everyone's taste in music, listening to different genres, and sharing their favourite songs and artists, and then discussing how music reflects our personalities, cultures and emotions.



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"My son now enjoys coming to school" – Parent feedback

"I have complete trust with all staff with what they are doing for my son" – Parent EHCP review

"I can finally be myself at Barraclough without people judging– Student voice

"I think this school actually suits me" Student voice EHCP review

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.

**A polite reminder that from September 3rd – pupils will need to bring their own water bottle.
Please can I also refer to the uniform letter that was sent out July 15th regarding uniform expectations and no white trainers.**

Autumn 1 term dates

September 1st and 2nd: Staff INSET
September 3rd - Pupils return
October 23rd– End of term
November 2nd – Pupils return for Autumn 2.

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

**Consultations and placements are open for the new academic as we continue to grow.
We also have a number of enquiries for September 2027.**

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