

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."

Viktor Frankl



**Barley Lane School**

*Ready, Respectful, Safe.*



# Newsletter: Curriculum Developments and School Improvement Update – Halfway!

30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Curriculum Developments and School Improvement Update

We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we approach the end of another successful term, reaching the halfway point nearly, we wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with an update on some of the exciting developments and improvements happening at Barley Lane School.

Firstly, the team have worked exceptionally hard at ensuring that there is a clear, sequential pathway of education from KS 2 to KS 4 across the broad range of the curriculum. This is always under constant review to find the best opportunities we can.

## Introduction of Accelerated Reader and Reading Strategy

We are thrilled to announce the introduction of Accelerated Reader and a new reading strategy across the school. This program seeks to enhance your child's reading skills, foster a love for reading, and accelerate their progress. We encourage you to support them at home by engaging in regular reading activities and discussing their reading materials.

## Teacher Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

At Barley Lane School, we believe in the continuous growth and development of our staff to ensure the best possible education for your children. Over the past term, our dedicated teachers have engaged in various CPD opportunities, further enhancing their teaching skills and subject knowledge. We are confident that their newfound expertise will positively impact your child's learning experience.

## Vocational Opportunities at Shallowford Farm and Sound Communities

As part of our commitment to providing a well-rounded education, we are delighted to offer our students vocational opportunities at both Shallowford Farm and Sound Communities. These hands-on experiences allow our students to develop essential life skills, foster independence, and explore potential career paths. We strongly believe that these experiences will enrich their education and empower them for the future.

## Sport

Mr Halse continues to develop pupils' skills in P.E, seek and secure a variety of interschool tournaments that build the character, test the pupils against peers from other schools and teach the value in winning and losing, alongside Swimming and Haven Banks - both have been extremely enjoyable experiences beyond the core offer.

## Forest School and Outdoor Education

Our new Forest School and outdoor education programs are beginning to thrive, providing the children with invaluable experiences and opportunities to develop a deeper connection with nature and work-related skills. These activities encourage creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork while promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. We are delighted to witness the enjoyment and growth that these activities bring to our students.

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### Learning outside of the curriculum and curriculum enrichment

Pupils in KS3 enjoyed a wonderful experience at Tiverton war memorial museum, experiencing elements of war, Holocaust memorial activities and role play. They returned to school full of life and energy having thoroughly enjoyed the power of storytelling.

Ms. Brown also conducted a weeklong curriculum enrichment programme related to environmental science, visiting Escot, whereby pupils experienced the Wolves and bears, Red Squirrels and the dreaded death slide – Animal welfare, Geography, forces and gravity – looking forward to the Spring and Summer programmes which are to be confirmed.

### Progress of College Courses

We are pleased to report that our college courses are progressing exceptionally well. Our students continue to progress in their chosen subjects, demonstrating a strong work ethic and commitment to learning. We are proud of their accomplishments and confident in their ability to achieve their desired goals.

### Appointment of Full-Time SENDco and Family Liaison Officer

To further support our wonderful families, we have recently appointed a full-time SENDco and Family Liaison Officer. Their role is to offer tailored support, guidance, and signposting to ensure that all families receive the assistance they need. We are confident that their expertise will help create a supportive environment where every child can thrive.

### Children's Progress and Parents Evening

We are delighted to inform you that our children are making good progress across all year groups. We are proud of their achievements and the dedication they demonstrate daily. As the term ends, we would like to invite you to our upcoming Parents Evening online, where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. Rest assured; we are addressing the issues whereby progress is unsatisfactory.

### Reiterating the Importance of Attendance and Communication

We kindly remind you of the importance of regular attendance, reading the school website, and keeping us updated with your latest contact information. These practices greatly assist us in maintaining effective communication channels and ensuring the wellbeing and safety of all our students.

We will shortly be updating the website with pictures of those who have consented and the parents that have consented to the sharing of educational pictures – enjoy!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education journey. We are grateful for the trust you place in us and look forward to working together for the benefit of your child's personal and academic growth.

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email, contact your tutor and right through to me with any worries or anxieties so that we can work together to improve the situation.

Kind regards,

David Jones

Headteacher

Barley Lane School