

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

Viktor Frankl



Barley Lane School

Ready, Respectful, Safe.



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to update you on some of the exciting things happening here at Barley Lane School and thank you for all your support.

Firstly, I am thrilled to announce that we will be constructing a Forest School over the Easter break. This will provide our students with a unique outdoor learning environment, fostering a love for nature and exploration. Additionally, our Outdoor Education programme has been gathering positive momentum, with children working towards NICAS levels 1, 2, and 3. We are also preparing for the DofE Bronze and Silver Expeditions in July 2024, providing our students with valuable opportunities for personal growth and development.

I am pleased to share that our partnership with Sound Communities and Shallowford Farm continues to inspire our students across Key Stage 3 and 4. These experiences broaden their horizons and instil a sense of curiosity and adventure, career guided learning, speaking and listening skills. Furthermore, as part of our curriculum links to crime and punishment, our Key Stage 3 students recently visited Dartmoor prison, which proved to be a very successful trip.

Looking ahead, we have our annual exams starting the week commencing 13th May 2024. I have full confidence in our students, who have consistently displayed diligence and a conscientious approach to their studies. They have shown great respect for the exam process and conditions, and I am certain that they will excel as they have done in previous years.

Our careers link has recently visited to discuss post-16 transition with our Year 11 students. We are committed to ensuring that our students are well-prepared for their future pathways, and we have secured an excellent vocational partner in 'New Roots'. Some of our Year 11 students have already had the opportunity to construct raised planters, showcasing their construction skills. We are even exploring enterprise opportunities, considering the high quality of their work, so keep an eye out for our online shop in the new academic year!

I would also like to take a moment to celebrate some of our recent achievements. We raised an impressive £260 for Mind over MND, a charity that we are incredibly proud to support, especially considering our links with Exeter City Football Club community trust. In addition, one of our Key Stage 2 pupils had a 'rap' that he designed featured on Comic Relief's 'X' account, which is a fantastic accomplishment. And let's not forget the laughter and fun we had on World Book Day, with the majority of our staff dressing up as Minions and Mr. Jones as 'Gru' - a major improvement, indeed!

On the sporting front, our students have been thriving in inter-school competitions. We finished the term with a staff and children's game of Dodgeball, with approximately 30 people getting involved. We have also participated in football and Boccia tournaments, showcasing our students' skills and sportsmanship.

I am also delighted to share the feedback we received from a recent peer review of our school. Three experienced SEMH headteachers visited us and had the following to say: "Barley Lane School would rank amongst the best SEMH schools I have visited." They commended our friendly and positive staff, as well as our students' engagement and the calm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the school. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that pupils will be returning at 9 am on Tuesday, 16th April 2024, following the Easter break. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Furthermore, our exams will begin in the week commencing 13th May 2024.

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Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's happiness here and their education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Enjoy the Easter break, and we look forward to a successful summer term.

Warm regards,

Dave Jones
Headteacher

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