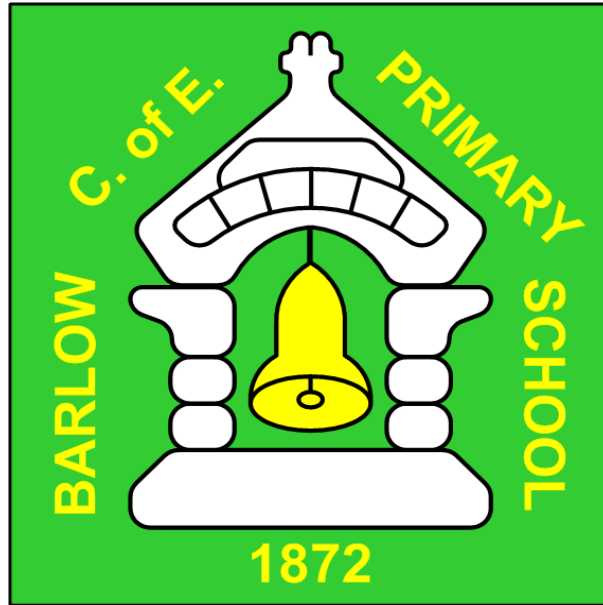


Barlow Church of England Primary School
Learning and growing
in the grace of God



Getting Ready for School

A guide to starting in Amethyst Class

2023/2024

We have 4 classes at Barlow Church of England Primary School.

Amethyst (Reception)
Topaz (Y1/2)
Emerald (Y3/4)
Sapphire (Y5/6)

**Welcome to Amethyst Class!****Key contacts**

Mrs Watkin	Headteacher & Amethyst Class teacher on Fridays.	0114 2890413 Email: parents@barlow.derbyshire.sch.uk Website: www.barlow.derbyshire.sch.uk Address: Millcross Lane, Barlow, S18 7TA If the office is unattended, the answer phone will take your message. If your message is urgent, please ring again to ensure you speak to a member of staff.
Mrs Phipps	Amethyst Class teacher & Senco I am available before and after school most days. Please contact the office if you would like to make an appointment for a private chat.	
Mrs Durnall	Teaching Assistant	
Mrs Morton and Mrs Gregory	School Business Managers All payments for school for trips, lunch etc. are processed electronically via Parentpay. Please post any correspondence in the red postbox inside the children's entrance door.	

Key times		
Gates open	8.45 a.m.	Please wait for the gate to open at the right hand side of the building and then go round to the Amethyst class door.
School day starts	8:55 a.m.	Please enter by the gate at the side of the building. Your child will have a peg in the corridor for their coat and P.E. shoes.
Playtime	10.30 – 10.45	Please provide a healthy snack. <u>We are a nut free school due to children with allergies.</u> No sweets or crisps please.
Lunchtime	12 – 1.10 p.m.	Choose a school dinner, of either a hot meal or a jacket potato and water, or provide a packed lunch. Please contact the

		<p>office for further details and please give two weeks' notice if you wish to change dinner arrangements. School meals are currently free to all children up to the end of Year 2. Packed lunches are kept in the classroom at room temperature. Ideas for packed lunches can be found here: http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx</p> <p>Free milk for under fives is given out at lunchtime. If you would like to order it for your older children please use the online form on the website.</p>
Playtime	2.15 – 2.30 p.m.	The Government provides fruit for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
Home time	3.30 p.m.	<p>Please come into the playground where we can see you. We have a 'Show and go' policy where children show us their adults and we tell them they can go. <u>No dogs in the playground please.</u></p> <p>If you are delayed and are going to be late picking your child up from school, contact us immediately by telephoning. We can make arrangements for someone to take care of your child until you arrive.</p> <p><u>Please ensure that school have up to date telephone numbers to contact you, or your emergency contact.</u></p> <p>If you arrange for another adult to collect your child, you must let your child's teacher know.</p>
Church Services at St. Lawrence Church	First Monday of every half term at 9.15 a.m.	<p>We are a Church School and we have Collective Worship each day. You are warmly invited to the church services: Harvest Service, Christingle Service, Easter Service and a Leavers' Service at the end of the school year in the afternoon and you can take your child home after these services.</p> <p>These services will resume fully when restrictions are lifted.</p>
Birthdays	<p>A very important day for your child! When your child is celebrating their own birthday they may like to bring in little individually wrapped treats to share with their friends at home time. <u>This is optional.</u> They will also be mentioned in our 'Star Assembly' on the Friday after their birthday.</p>	

Parents' Evenings, Reports and Homework	Parents' evenings are held during the Autumn and Summer Terms. Whilst restrictions exist, we will do these online. Reports about your child's progress are sent out in the Spring and at the end of the school year for Reception children. Appointments can be made to chat about your child's progress, or anything else, at any time. When the children have learnt some letter sounds, they will start bringing words home to sound out and read, and 'red' words which are the common exception words which cannot be sounded out. When the children know all the sounds, and can blend them in words they will start to bring simple books home to read. All these activities will have been practised at school. Please try to listen to your child read a minimum of three times a week. They will benefit immensely from this. You are encouraged to share with us your child's activities, experiences and successes using 'Evidence Me'. 'Evidence Me' is a two way sharing platform between parents and teachers.
Holiday Dates and Staff Training Days	You will receive a list of these, or they can be found on our website. We have 5 staff training days a year and each school chooses them independently. However for a general idea of when the school holidays are please go to: School term dates and holidays - Derbyshire County Council Please also look at the calendar on the website.

What to bring

Daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide a book bag for the child's reading book when they start reading. Letters to parents are sent out via e-mail and messages by text. Please ensure you check your emails and texts regularly and that we have a current email address and phone number. Please let us know if emails and texts need to be sent to parents not sharing the same address. Lunchbox –if having a packed lunch Coat – whatever the weather! Morning playtime snack – we are a single use plastic free school so please remove any plastic packaging at home and send snack in a reusable container thank you. 	<p><u>Please label all items of clothing.</u> We cannot emphasise this enough. All school uniform looks the same!!!</p> <p>Toys We encourage children <u>not to bring</u> toys to school.</p>
Monday Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water bottle to be filled with water only in the interests of the health of children's teeth. Please take home each day for washing. 	Please label to make sure just your child uses it.
Start of term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PE soft bag with PE shoes only. 	Please label and show to your child the contents of the bags. Help them to practise putting them on. No shoe laces unless your child can tie them independently.

Uniform

Everyday	<p>Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan, White polo shirt Dark skirt, shorts or trousers Black shoes Optional : Green gingham check dress for the summer. Please ensure that it will be easy for your child to take on and off and that <u>every item is clearly labelled</u>. Polo shirts are much easier than traditional buttoned white shirts, especially on PE days.</p> <p>Uniform can be ordered from www.pindersschoolwear.co.uk, or by phoning 0114 2513275 and they will deliver to their shop in Crystal Peaks Market, for collection. Please see our link in our virtual office under 'forms' on our website www.barlow.derbyshire.sch.uk</p>
Outdoors and Forest School Visits	<p>Waterproof trousers or old trousers that aren't denim Waterproof coat. Wellies (can be left at school) and thick socks or walking boots. Gloves Hat Forest School Mrs Feeney is a fully qualified Forest School practitioner and all children have opportunities to take part throughout the year. Please see the website for further details.</p>
P.E.	<p>A soft fabric P.E. bag <u>with the child's name clearly printed on it with P.E. shoes only</u>. Rucksacks and other sports bags are too big for our narrow corridor Earrings Please remove them for P.E. days. If your child has a recent piercing, please tape them up or put plasters over the earrings for PE whilst they heal, until the earrings are able to be changed. Please note, children are <u>never</u> allowed to take part in school swimming lessons in key stage two, whilst wearing earrings.</p>

Health Matters

Medical conditions	<p>If your child has a medical condition please let us know before he/she starts school. We can then discuss the matter with you and be fully aware of and be prepared for any possible difficulties. Those children with ongoing medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes must have inhalers or emergency medication to be kept in school. It is your responsibility to ensure that this medication is within date.</p> <p>For children with allergies we will need a letter from your child's doctor informing us of the allergies, any medication and doses required. We can then arrange for you to discuss this with the school</p>
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	kitchen manager who will be able to advise you about the school meals they can offer your child.
Absence	<p>Please let us know if your child cannot attend school, by telephone or email on the first day of illness. If your child is ill, please allow a full recovery before returning to school. <u>Children must wait 48 hours after their last episode of sickness or diarrhoea before returning to school.</u></p> <p>If your child is well enough to come to school, but still needs medication please notify the office. The staff can only administer medicines with written parental consent for each dose. Medicines should be brought to school in their original container. Forms are available from the office.</p> <p>If your child is poorly at school and needs to go home, you will be contacted and asked to collect your child. If you are not available we will contact the emergency number you have given us. Please sign the book as you leave the premises.</p>
Appointments	Please inform us if your child is absent due to a medical, dental or hospital appointment. If your child has a non-urgent dental or medical appointment, please ensure that these are made after the school day or during the holidays.
Leave of Absence	We are committed to working with parents and carers to ensure every child attends school and achieves the maximum benefit from their education. As you are undoubtedly aware, there have been revisions in national policy that mean that, as a school, we are no longer able to authorise pupils' leave of absence for holidays unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. Each case is considered individually. If the absence is taken without authorisation, the school will record the absence as unauthorised and pass on details to the Local Authority. The Local Authority may choose to fine the parents. Please note, the school does not administer the fine, profit from the fine in any way, or select the amount that the parent may be fined.

Starting School

Here is some information to help you familiarise yourself with what to expect at school and suggest ways you can help your child both before they start and in their early days at school.

Our new Reception children will attend for the morning only on the first day of school and then full time after that. If you prefer, your child can attend morning only for the first week and build up to full time. If you feel your child needs a more extended transition period, please discuss with Mrs Watkin or the class teachers.

Before they start

Storybooks can help. Discuss any worries they have and what they are looking forward to. Always be positive and try to make school seem like a real, grown-up adventure and something to be excited about.

What sort of things would it help my child to be able to do?

Starting school with some independence always helps to give children a little bit of self-confidence. We fully understand that all children are at different stages but here are a few ideas:

- 1) Use the toilet alone, flush it and wash their hands afterwards.
- 2) Fasten and unfasten coats and shoes - Velcro strips can be easier than buttons and laces.
- 3) Take off and put on jumpers, cardigans, trousers, coats, shoes and boots.
- 4) Sit on a chair correctly at a table – get your child used to sitting at a table when colouring, eating, playing games etc.
- 5) Sit at a table to eat a meal and use a knife and fork.

Toilets

When the children first start school they will be taken to the toilet and reminded to go throughout the day. As time goes on, they will be able to go to the toilet area alone or with a friend when they need to. Children may ask to go to the toilet at any time. Please help them to do this by making sure their clothing is easily manageable and by emphasizing that they must tell an adult whenever they need to go. We do keep a change of underwear in school, in case of accidents.

The first few days

Some children will walk through the door and feel quite settled. Others may feel less happy. If your child is upset, try to appear positive and cheerful and remember that almost all children are fine once their parent or carer has left. If you are concerned, please phone school later in the morning to check everything is alright. If you feel it would be best for your child to attend part time during the first week, please ask.

Behaviour

Good behaviour is encouraged in every area of school life and children are encouraged to follow examples of good behaviour at all times. Children are given 'house points' in recognition of good behaviour, attitudes and work. They stay in this house team throughout their time at this school. They will be in their house colour team for sports day and are in the same teams as their siblings. The winning house is mentioned in Collective Worship on Mondays. Each week two children from each class are chosen to be 'stars of the week', and one child is chosen for showing the school's Christian values. They are mentioned in the Friday star assembly and receive a sticker and certificate which is displayed in the corridor for a week and then sent home.

Learning in Reception

All the children entering Reception will continue to follow the **New Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (Sept. 2021)** which guides your child's learning, development and welfare from birth to five. They will complete a statutory assessment in the first half term.

We plan learning experiences to enable each child to make progress in every area. Often we use planned play activities as a key way for the children to learn with enjoyment and challenge.

The **Early Learning Goals** establish expectations for *most* children to reach by the end of Reception. This then prepares children for learning in Key Stage 1 which begins in Year 1 when the children will follow the National Curriculum Programme of Study.

The areas of learning are:

Personal, social and emotional development	Helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.
Communication and Language	Giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment. Developing their ability to listen and pay attention and engage in back and forth conversations, showing an understanding of what has been said, using a range of new vocabulary and expressing their own ideas.
Physical Development	Developing children's gross motor skills to move in a variety of ways with strength, balance and coordination. Developing children's fine motor control to hold and use a pencil and other small tools with control and fluency.
Literacy	Developing children's abilities to demonstrate an understanding of what has been read or said to them. Teaching children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write.
Maths	Providing children with opportunities to develop their deep understanding of numbers to 10 and the composition of each number, leading to the recall of all number bonds, both addition and subtraction to 5. Observing and exploring numerical patterns to 20, comparing quantities in different contexts.
Understanding the world	Guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the natural world.
Expressive arts and design	Enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Helping your child

We know that parents are children's first and most important educators. If we can all work together, we should make a really positive impact on your child's development and learning. At home, being positive about your child's learning and achievement is the most important way to help them to succeed. Reading regularly with them will also be of great benefit. Remember to make everything you do with your child short and fun and don't worry too much if they don't always want to do it!

Early reading

Books play a vital role in your child's school life. Make time to share different books with your child from babyhood onwards. Let them hold the book and turn the pages. Follow the words on the page with your finger and encourage them to look closely at each picture. Ask your child questions about what's happening and how the characters feel. Encourage your child to retell the story and say which parts he/she liked and why.

Reading in School

Every child will have a regular phonics session, where they will learn the sounds that letters and groups of letters make. We teach the sounds that letters make first, not the letter names, as in the alphabet a,b,c. You can help your child with simple 'I spy' games and letter recognition.

We use the Read Write Inc scheme to teach reading and writing. Your child will progress through books matched to their skills and ability. We do encourage children to read as widely as possible and enjoy familiar rhyme, story and information books too. When the children are ready, they will bring home some flashcards to start learning letter sounds and 'red' (non-decodable) and 'green' (decodable) words. Flashcards are best looked at informally, perhaps as part of a matching game. No pressure should be put on your child to learn the words in a set time. Children learn at different rates and are not all ready to read at the same time. When children are competent at reading short words, they will begin to bring home reading books to share.

We aim to read with your child each week individually along with other reading activities carried out in groups.

Your child will have a reading diary. We welcome any positive comments you make on your child's reading to make learning to read a close partnership between home and school.

Here are a few tips to guide you when hearing your child read.

Do

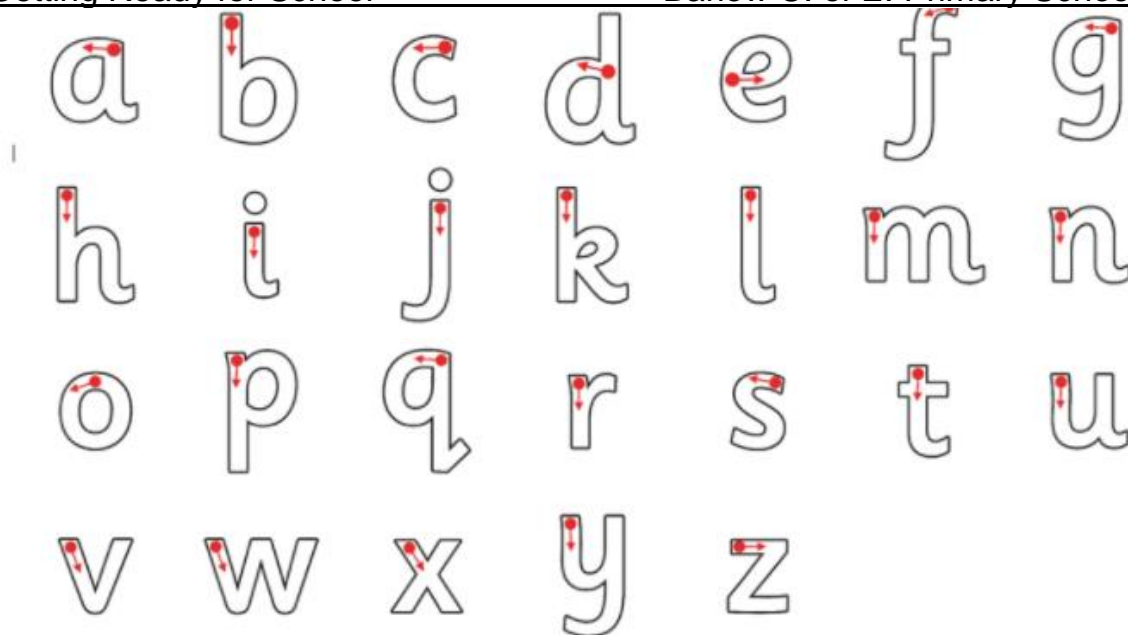
- Make sure the atmosphere is happy and relaxed
- Talk about the pictures
- Give plenty of time to read with you
- Smooth out difficulties by telling them words they don't know
- Encourage reading with expression (it's not a race to the end of the book!)
- Talk about the story to check understanding
- Give your child praise for effort

Please ask for help and advice from any of the teachers.

Handwriting and letter formation

- Your child can practise writing their name by tracing and copying etc. If you do any writing for your child to look at or copy, please use lower case letters, not capitals, except for the start of names, places and sentences.. Please refer to this website for correct letter formation and see the examples on the next page. Start forming the letter on the dot and follow the direction of the arrow. This good practice ensures children are ready for joined handwriting in Year 1.

http://www.ictgames.com/sky_writing.html



Number formation

