

the Barrow Bulletin

Inspire, Create, Discover, Together

What is special about a Church of England School?



The Church of England started the very first schools in England over 200 years ago. They did this out of a desire to serve the communities around them, giving children a chance for an education that otherwise they would never have had. Since then, the government has opened community schools, but still highly values and funds Church Schools. There is always a representative from the local church on the board of governors to ensure that the Church Schools Ethos is being honoured and supported.

So what are the main differences between Church Schools and community schools?

VALUES – most schools have a ‘values scheme’ which helps children develop their characters e.g. compassion, generosity. Church Schools use the Bible as a springboard into understanding these values, looking closely at the life of Jesus as a model for living to love and serve others.

ASSEMBLIES – all schools have times where the whole school community get together to talk, listen and reflect. Church Schools aim for this time to be a time where staff and children can experience what Christian worship is like, through singing, drama, poetry and prayers. Everyone is invited to take part if the wish, or just sit and have a peaceful time, showing respect to others. No-one is ever forced or pressured into taking part. In Church Schools, this is called ‘Collective Worship’. We invite people from different faith groups, and branches of Christianity (such as the Salvation Army or WSVC Food

Bank) to come in and share their stories, as well as visitors from the local community.

BELIEFS AND VALUES LESSONS – Church of England schools are expected to teach religious education (Beliefs and Values as we call it) to a very high standard in order to encourage deep understanding and respect for all the major world religions. There is more emphasis on Christianity in terms of time spent teaching, so that children are an expert in that, and can compare and contrast it effectively to other faiths. Money and resources are put into teacher training in R.E. and organising trips, visits and visitors for the children.

SEASONS – The school follow the church calendar, which has big festivals at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. We love these times, and over the past few years have added in other less well-known celebrations such as Epiphany, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Advent and Lent. This allows our children to have some fantastic fun, and understand more deeply the stories behind these festivals. Like community schools, we also look at festivals from different religions such as Diwali, Sukkot and Ganesh Chaturthi.

If you have an further questions about what it means to be a Church of England Schools, do not hesitate to contact us.

Victoria Bush
Church Schools Ethos Leader



Inside news...

Harvest Festival



Reception Update



Tudor Day



Governor Profile - Annabell Reid



My name is Annabelle Reid and I have been a Foundation Governor for just under a year. I grew up locally but Barrow holds a special place in my heart as we were married and both our boys, Ollie 5 and Josh 1, were christened here. I studied Politics at University, which led to my first job working on political & current affairs programmes for ITV. After a few years I gave in to increasingly itchy feet, decided to train as a TEFL teacher (teaching English as a foreign language) and moved to Hong Kong, where I met my husband. A few years later I persuaded him to follow me back to London so I could return to a career in TV production.

I loved working on various shows from Come Dine With Me to Cops with Cameras before becoming pregnant with my first little boy, Ollie. TV production is not conducive to family life and we wanted to bring our children up among the nature and wide open spaces I had enjoyed so we moved back to the area in 2011. I was so happy that Ollie was able to start his schooling here last year. By becoming a governor, I have

been astonished at the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep things running so smoothly and efficiently for the children and us parents! It is, at times, mind-boggling to watch. In taking up the role as Foundation Governor, I hope I am able to support the strong links between the school and the church and give a little something back to the community of this very special school.



Our New Reception Settle In!

The Reception children have been very busy learning lots of new things in school; to recognise their name and find their drawer and peg, learning the names of their new class mates and teachers, learning about under water creatures, learning to make their fingers strong to hold a pencil, learning to count the legs on an octopus, learning the sounds letters make, learning to dress and undress for P.E., learning to balance a tray of food and learning to keep awake for a whole week in school!! What a packed first half term in school it has been and all of the children have done brilliantly!!

Children learn best when they are inspired and interested in a topic. Our "Ocean Commotion" topic was inspired by a number of the children having visited the beach over the summer holidays. We used this interest to plan engaging indoor and outdoor activities to develop the

child ren's early mark making, counting and physical skills. As part of this topic we looked at the story of Rainbow Fish and linked it to our whole school value "Generosity." The children enjoyed making their own Rainbow Fish and talking about ways that they can be generous towards others.

The staff are really proud of how well the reception children have settled in and how they have had such a positive start to their time at Barrow; long may it continue!



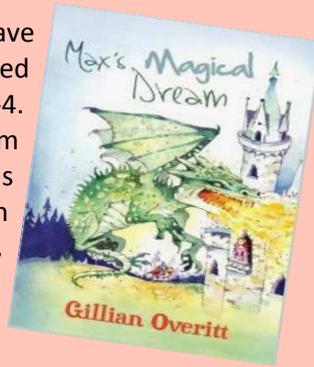
KS1 Beliefs & Values

This half term, KS1 have been finding out about the different names that people in the nativity story gave baby Jesus - focusing on words like 'saviour', 'king' and 'prince of peace'. In order to be ready for Christmas, we had two very fun and messy afternoons, with some parents lending a hand, building a giant junk model nativity set. Look out for it in the school hall and the local church over the festive season!



Author Visit

On Monday 17th October we were lucky to have a special visitor join us for an assembly, followed by a 'Question & Answer' session for Years 2-4. Gillian Overitt, a children's author from Cambridgeshire, has written three children's books including 'Max's Magical Dream'. Gillian even brought with her the dragon, Dakas, who is one of the main characters in her stories! Gillian read the first chapter of her book to the children in assembly, which they listened to beautifully.



After that, Years 2-4 stayed behind to ask Gillian more questions about her life and career as an author. They asked questions such as, "Do you have special place where you write at home?" and "How did you become an author in the first place?"



The children demonstrated great listening skills as Gillian answered all their questions. The children also had the opportunity to buy her books and even get a signed copy!

Harvest Generosity



The 23rd September saw one of the highlights of the School's religious calendar as the children

enjoyed a brisk walk to All Saints Church for the Harvest Festival. With generous gifts from their families to donate, the children enjoyed a service led by Annie Throssell and Nicola Grieves, with a message based on 'What a wonderful world'.

The Children enjoyed singing 'Big Red Combine Harvester', 'Generosity Song' and their Harvest



hymn with a great deal of gusto. There was even a chance for some to test their skills in a Countdown style word creation game. Year Four children were involved throughout the service in sharing prayers and a reading of Psalm 104. Thank you to all who came along or who made contributions to Tayfen House.



Our whole school Value next half term is **TRUST** - a firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something

Fire Fire - Tudor Day

Year 1 and 2 enjoyed an engaging and inspiring Great Fire of London day, when we had a visit from "History Off the Page." The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and this added to the ambience! The day was 'jam packed' from start to finish. With an experienced historian leading the activities, the children were able to develop their knowledge and understanding of history through creative and practical activities, as well as having some hands on experience with artefacts. The day was divided into two main sessions. In

the morning the children were able to explore many crafts and skills from 1666 including making candles, creating potions, making their own ink, embroidery and kneading bread. This proved to be a very successful session with both the children and the adults!

There were lots of roleplay opportunities where children had the opportunity to put out a fire with fire buckets and play the role of a Plague Doctor. We all learnt lots more about the Great Fire and the plague through discussions with the expert and we were also able to ask lots of questions. The children then had a go at archaeology, where they developed their historical detective skills through the investigation of the 'dig boxes.' Children had to describe, then sort and classify their findings just like real archaeologists. It was a very informative, fun filled and interesting day where children's love of history was evident!





NIMO Attendance Update

Whole school attendance for the first half of the Autumn Term so far is 97%. **Well done to Year 2 who are the class with the highest attendance this half term at 97.8%.**

Thank you for your support in helping us to continue to maintain our excellent attendance levels.

Parents' Week 2016

With all the extra pressures modern parents face, we recognise that it can be difficult to find the time that children really need. At Barrow School we also understand that involving parents and carers in their children's education is really important; helping to remove barriers to learning, improve attitudes, behaviour and raise attainment. With this in mind, we enjoyed seeing many parents in school during the last week of the half term to join us in our Annual Parents' Week. There were a wide range of activities planned through the week and we aimed to help our parents create and celebrate those important moments that make being a child and being a parent so special.



October

24th - Half Term

31st - Shakespeare Festival at the Apex - Y3/4



November

2nd - Reception Parents Phonics Workshop - 5.45pm

4th - Diwali Disco at 3.30pm

8th - Flu Vaccinations - Years 1/2/3

11th - Remembrance Service in School at 9.15am

16th - Year 4 to the Cathedral - St Edmunds project

24th - Parents' Evening (Years 1-4) from 3.30pm

25th - FoBs Non Uniform day - bottle donations

30th - Year 1 to the Cathedral -Discover Advent

December

2nd - FoBs Christmas Fayre (after school)

13th - Reception Nativity 9.30am
KS1 Performance 2pm

14th - Reception Nativity 2pm
KS1 Performance 6pm

15th - KS2 Performance 2pm
KS2 Performance 6pm

19th - 21st - Staff Panto at Village Hall 6pm

20th - End of Term Church Service at 9.45am

The Staff Panto is Back...



Oh yes it is!! Rehearsals are already underway for this year's show

Dick Whittington

19th - 21st December 2016

Barrow Village Hall

Tickets on sale soon!