



Barrow CEVC Primary School

Inspire, Create, Discover, Together

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13th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Curriculum Changes for 2021/22

At Barrow Primary School we are committed to teaching a broad, balanced and aspirational curriculum. To ensure that we are as effective as possible in meeting these aims, we are constantly reviewing our curriculum development priorities. This process ensures that our curriculum decisions are responsive and strategic. Indeed, it is more important than ever that our teaching reflects the needs of our children and takes into account the impact of the global pandemic on their learning and wellbeing.

The main aims of our most recent curriculum review were to:

- rebalance the long-term curriculum offer after another year of disruption and
- to see if it were possible to maximise the teaching time in a school day.
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As a result, we have made some changes to our curriculum structure and timetabling from September 2021. We are now delighted to be working with Unity Schools Partnership and have fully launched our updated curriculum known as CUSP (Curriculum with Unity Schools Partnership) which is underpinned by the very latest research evidence from education and the field of cognitive science.

New for September 2021

With some tweaks to the timings of the school day, each class timetable has been very carefully structured to maximise learning time. We continue to provide a knowledge-rich curriculum for our children within our expanded timetable for September. In a change to our usual topic-based approach, each subject will now be taught discretely. This will allow children to:

- build securely on previous knowledge and skills
- enable them to become immersed in and develop depth of understanding within a subject
- help us to better address any gaps as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

Within the long-term sequence for each year group, however, there are still deliberately planned links between subjects that complement each other.

The **key changes** for you to note are as follows:

- Our English curriculum has been updated to include dedicated **daily reading lessons in Key Stage 2** alongside their usual writing session. There are also **additional reading lessons in Key Stage 1**, alongside phonics and writing, as a feature. The English offer is planned with a rich literature spine with ambitious books to inspire and challenge pupils. It is carefully mapped to

enable children to experience a diverse range of social, moral and ethical issues as well as a wide range of authors. Our writing curriculum draws on taught content from History, Geography and Science and from the study of core texts from the literature spine.

- We have **increased the frequency of teaching and length of Science modules** by delivering them on a **weekly basis**. This is so that we are able to respond directly to the challenge of time and gaps in knowledge resulting from the recent disruption to learning.
- The wider curriculum subjects of **Geography, History and Computing will be taught in a series of modules** which are **regularly revisited** within each academic year and also built upon in subsequent years. This is to ensure that core knowledge is securely acquired through clear teaching sequences that are focused, interwoven and built around regular retrieval practice.
- Time for **PSHE and Modern Foreign Languages has been prioritised** and given proportionally more space within the timetable. French will now also be taught in Key Stage 1. The arts have also been given greater emphasis with **Art/DT and Music now being taught weekly** in all year groups. We will continue to teach Beliefs & Values weekly across the school.

Our curriculum is vocabulary focused and aims to equip the children with the necessary academic and technical language required to talk about their learning in a precise manner, across the curriculum. Knowledge organisers will be used within learning modules to support vocabulary development.

The acquisition of knowledge is underpinned by the implementation of a variety of teaching methods intended to help children retain and recall their learning. The children will access mini-quizzes at regular intervals within learning modules, challenging them to recall their learning; research shows that both the 'spaced practice,' and 'retrieval practice,' embedded within the curriculum will enhance pupils' learning.

Our curriculum will continue to provide children with memorable experiences, visits and visitors from which they can learn. It is designed to encourage them to view the world outside of Barrow with excitement and curiosity. We very much hope that this will support us in developing independent and confident learners who know about their community, the wider world and how to make a positive contribution.

We have created curriculum overviews for each year group which ensure coherence and progression in both knowledge and skill development in every subject. These are available for each year group on our website and the Google Classroom class pages. Class timetables and subject knowledge organisers for this half term will be shared on Google Classroom for your information.

Once you have had time to look over the documents provided on Google Classroom, if have any questions or queries, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. The staff team will be more than happy to provide clarification on any of the changes if needed.

Kind regards

Helen Ashe
Headteacher