



Scammonden Road, Barkisland, Halifax, W. Yorkshire, HX4 0BD

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12.9.25

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www.barkislandcofeschool.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Curriculum Newsletter. We hope that you have had an amazing summer break and are really looking forward to a super first term with your children, we can't wait to see how much they enjoy their first experiences at Barkisland School and our Little Lambs Nursery.

Settling Back into Nursery and Reception

At the start of the year, our main focus is helping children feel happy, safe, and secure in their new environment. Over the next couple of weeks, we gradually build up our daily timetable. This helps new children to settle in at their own pace and gives returning children the chance to re-establish routines.

What does a day in EYFS look like?

Once the children are settled, our day will follow a regular structure, which gives them comfort and consistency. A typical day includes a balance of adult-led carpet sessions and child-led play. These might include:

- **Morning Register** – greeting each other and starting our day together
- **Carpet sessions** – short whole-class times for stories, songs, phonics, maths and topic
- **Continuous provision** – children explore, investigate, and learn through play both indoors and outdoors
- **Small group work** – focused activities led by an adult to support specific learning
- **Snack and lunchtime** – a chance to eat together, practise independence, and socialise
- **Collective worship** – a time to come together as a unit to reflect, share and celebrate
- **Story time** – calming down at the end of the session with a book we share as a class

We keep a balance between structured teaching and play-based exploration, so that children have lots of opportunities to develop independence, curiosity, and confidence in their learning.

EYFS Planning

Autumn 1 topics: Marvellous Me
Traditional Tales: The Three Little Pigs
Autumn 2 topics: People Who Help Us
Christmas

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May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed Psalm 20:4*



Attached is a copy of our 3-year planning cycle, Cycle 1 which shows what we will be covering this term. This is also available on the website www.barkislandcofeschool.org.uk.

EYFS Unit staff

Reception teacher and Unit Manager – Mrs Ayrton

Reception teacher (Thursday) – Mrs Watkins

Early Years Educators – Miss Cattermole (full time)

Miss Cole (Monday – Wednesday and kids club)

Mrs Meredith (full time and breakfast club)

Mrs Mitchell (Monday - Friday mornings and breakfast club)

Early Years Teaching Assistant - Mrs Sharp (Monday – Friday afternoons and kids club)

X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram

We are extremely proud of our X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram pages at Barkisland. Every day we upload pictures of the different activities that we have been doing at school on to X. Please give us a follow at @BarkiSchool and like our Facebook and Instagram pages too, then you can enjoy looking at your child's busy day!

Uniform

Please make sure **all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name**. With so many children changing from outdoor play and getting ready for lunch or home time, it is very easy for items to get mixed up. Labelling everything helps us quickly return belongings to the right child and saves things from going missing.

To help the day run smoothly, please ensure your child has:

- **Appropriate clothes for the time of year** (coat, hat, scarf, wellies, gloves etc)
- **A spare set of clothes** in a named bag, kept on their peg (this mainly applies to Nursery but Reception children are also welcome to do this).
- **A named water bottle** every day (please could we ask that only water is in your child's water bottle)
- **Where hair is long enough, it must be tied up** and hair accessories kept to a minimum and are school uniform colours.
- **A school bookbag** in school each day

PE

Nursery – Every **Thursday** morning children will have a PE session in the hall (this will change throughout the year to accommodate all children). This will help to familiarise them with going across to school and being in the hall. **They do not need a PE kit for these sessions.**

Reception - PE is every **Tuesday** and your child will need to wear their PE kit on this day. A pair of navy jogging bottoms or shorts, a blue t shirt and a navy hoodie or school hoodie and a pair of trainers. Please remember to name everything.

Snacks

Fruit and milk are provided daily for the children. Children are welcome to bring a **healthy** snack to enjoy during the school day, such as fruit or vegetable sticks. Please remember that crisps, chocolate and high sugar cereal bars are **not allowed** and we are a **nut-free school**, so snacks must not contain any nuts. If your child is bringing in grapes as a snack, please ensure they are cut into quarters to reduce the risk of choking. Children can access water throughout the day.



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Jofli Bear (Nursery)

At some point this year, your child will bring Jofli Bear home for a special weekend adventure! Jofli will stay with you over the weekend until your child's next session. Along with Jofli, you'll receive:

- A short story to read together
- A journal to record your weekend adventures with Jofli (you can add drawings or photos too!)

When Jofli returns to nursery, we'll share all the exciting stories and adventures with the class during carpet time. We can't wait to see where Jofli has been!

The Reading Suitcase (Reception)

Later this term, your child will take home our special red reading suitcase. Inside, they'll find:

- **A book** to enjoy reading
- **Hot chocolate** to sip while reading
- **A cuddly bear** to snuggle

After your reading adventure, don't forget to:

- Write a **short review** in the book provided
- Snap a photo and **share it on our Twitter page**, @BarkiSchool

This is a fun way to make reading exciting at home and share your child's learning with the class!

Reading

At Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School we like to promote reading and encourage it in every way we can. Reading, and a love for reading, begins at home. Your child's success as a reader begins much earlier than their first day at school. We ask that parents share books and nursery rhymes at home and engage children by making them enjoyable and asking lots of questions.

Nursery & Reception – Today your child has brought home a sharing book to share with you. They will not be able to read this on their own, this book is for you to read and enjoy together. Please spend some time reading this book with your child, talking about the pictures and interesting words and ask questions (e.g. what do you think will happen next? How is The Little Red Hen feeling?). When you are ready to change their sharing book there will be a box of books outside the Nursery classroom door (Nursery) or under the shelter in the playground (Reception) for you change and record the book that has been taken home. If your child attends Kids Club please change their book at drop off or pick up. Thank you.

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Reception - This week we have started 'Monster Phonics.' Your child will be taught to read at school but continuing their reading at home will have a huge impact on their reading journey. Your child will be bringing home their first 'Monster Phonics' reading book in the next couple of weeks. Please return the Monster Phonics book every **Wednesday**, new books will be sent home on a **Friday**. Please listen to them read their book as many times as possible as this will help develop their fluency and confidence in reading. Remember to give them lots of praise! We are holding a Reading and Curriculum Evening on **Wednesday 15th October 2025 at 6pm**, details about this event will follow shortly.

Class DoJo

We are excited to let you know that we will now be using **Class Dojo** instead of Seesaw. This will be the place where we set our half-termly *takeaway style homework*. You can continue to upload pictures of children's work and experiences in the same way as before, so we can celebrate and share these with the class.

Children have come home today with their own QR code. Please keep this safe, as it provides access to your child's account. To log in, you only need the QR code. Please ignore the section that asks you to use a parent account, as you have not been allocated one. Class Dojo can be accessed on a phone or tablet, making it flexible and easy to use at home. Instructions have been attached to support with this.

Please note: **Class Dojo is a homework platform only**. It is not intended for general communication. Any messages or queries should be directed to the school office via the admin email address. Staff will not respond to messages or queries sent through Class Dojo. This is a new system for us too, so please be patient while we work through any teething issues. Thank you for your continued support.

Communication & Drop Off

To help the start of the day run smoothly for all children:

Nursery – Parents are welcome to come in to help put your child's bag in their tray, coat on their peg and change their sharing book. We then ask that you say your goodbye and allow them to enter the nursery room on their own, which helps build independence and keeps the classroom calm.

Reception – Please drop your child off at the outside door to avoid the cloakroom becoming too busy. This also helps build their independence and confidence as they learn to organise their belongings and settle into the classroom routine on their own.

If you have a quick query or question, please feel free to mention it at drop-off or pick-up. Do bear in mind that pick-up can be very busy, so you may need to wait until the end, once all children have been safely reunited with their families.

For anything more detailed, you are welcome to speak to a member of the team or email the school office, who will either answer your query directly or arrange for a member of the EYFS team to contact you.

We are really looking forward to working in partnership with you this year to ensure your child feels happy, confident, and ready to learn. By working together, we can bring out the very best in every child and help them to flourish both in school and beyond.

With best wishes,
The EYFS team