

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage



Barrow Hedges Primary School
September 2023

Barrow Hedges Primary School became an Academy in June 2018 and is a member of Cirrus Primary Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 09642581

A Warm Welcome from Mrs Wood



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Barrow Hedges. We are all extremely proud of our school and are committed to providing the best possible education for all our children. We know that Barrow Hedges is a happy school where children feel valued and where parents are welcomed as partners in their child's education. Every decision within the school is made considering the best interests of the children. In this way, children lie at the heart of everything we do. We recognise that a child starting Nursery or Reception is an exciting time for the whole family. It is also a big step, so if you have any queries or concerns at this time, please don't hesitate to contact us. I look forward to

working with you and your child.

Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher

There's a lot of important information that you need to know about our school, about our mission, values, and guiding principles, for example. Please visit our website (www.barrowhedges.com) to find out more about our school and to familiarise yourself with our school motto and values.

Our Motto: Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly

"Roots to Grow, Wings to Fly" captures what we feel we do here at Barrow Hedges. Additionally, the way that we give children their 'roots to grow' are directly linked to our Trust Pupil Charter, which is our commitment to ensuring that every child has a wide range of experiences during their time at primary school. Examples include every child learning to play a musical instrument, every child having the opportunity to engage in performance, presentation and debate and every child having their talents recognised and celebrated. Securing these "roots" and continuing to develop our children's **resilience**, **collaboration**, **reflectiveness**, and **resourcefulness**, will give them their "wings to fly" as they move on to the next step of their education and ensure they are well prepared for the future.



Our Values:

Inclusion

Ambition

Honesty

Kindness

Respect

Everyone is unique.

**Barrow Hedges
Child's Voice**

All of the members of staff have been really supportive, and caring. They create a wonderful culture, and you can feel how happy the children are.

**Parent/Carey Questionnaire
Feedback March 2023**

The provision is exceptional. You do everything here.

**Early Years
Quality Mark
Assessor - 2021**

From the moment you enter Barrow Hedges, you are made to feel welcome and the environment feels very warm and inviting. Inclusion is reflected in the displays around the school, which are celebratory, informative and show the pride the pupils have in their learning. Staff and pupils appear happy and all interactions seen were positive. During learning times, pupils are engaged in their learning and the environment is adapted to support all learners in all areas of the curriculum.

IQM Inclusive School Award – June 2023

**What we're
told about
our school**



Barney Owl
Our school mascot

What underpins the great practice is the passion for the uniqueness of the children. Everyone is embraced. Everyone is special and unique. We want the children to go home with a treasure box of memories.

The EYFS Lead

We get the chance to do so many things.

**Barrow Hedges Child's
Voice**

A truly inclusive school.

OFSTED 2022

Barrow Hedges is a truly inclusive school, where pupils are supported to achieve to the best of their ability in a nurturing and caring environment. Teachers are committed to their pupils and want the absolute best for them, whilst parents are made to feel like there are part of a wider family.

Barrow Hedges Governor

Welcome to the Foundation Stage where we Learn, Play and Grow.

The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) is aptly named; it provides the foundation to prepare the children for school, Year 1 and beyond.



Everything the children learn in the EYFS at Barrow Hedges provides a foundation for future learning. For example, in Reception children learn to read and write a range of sentences, building on from earlier mark making opportunities experienced in Nursery, enabling pupils to successfully access the English curriculum in Year 1.

There is a common misconception that children 'just play' in the early years, this couldn't be further from the truth. Adults provide a rich learning environment and skilfully intervene in play, helping children to make links in their learning, and to build on from what they already know.

Adults work to develop the 'Characteristics of effective learning.'

"Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life."

Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework

*"The **Characteristics of Effective Learning** describe behaviours children use in order to learn. To learn well, children must approach opportunities with curiosity, energy and enthusiasm. Effective learning must be meaningful to a child, so that they are able to use what they have learned and apply it in new situations. These abilities and attitudes of strong learners will support them to learn well and make good progress in all the Areas of Learning and Development."*

Birth to Five Matters

By the end of the Reception year, children's attainment is assessed against the Early Learning Goals. You can find out about these goals and our exciting and engaging curriculum [here](#) or by following this pathway on our website: 'Learning and Curriculum > Curriculum > Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum' and in our year group pages [Nursery](#) and [Reception](#) or by following this pathway on our website: 'Year Group > Nursery' or 'Year Group > Reception'.



Our Setting:

Nursery

We have three Nursery classes:



Caterpillar class
(8:45am until 11:45am)



Tadpole class
(12:15pm until 3:15pm)



Dragonfly class
(8:45am until 2:45pm or 3:15pm)

What a current Nursery child says about our Nursery:

"I like Nursery because I like building a Batmobile with the great big bricks. I love to play with all my friends. Shops is fun to play because it has a till, and money and I love pressing buttons. I was special friend because I was kind and that happened at Nursery. My teachers are kind because they help me".

Our Setting:

Reception



Ms Janine Whittle
Fox Class Teacher and
EYFS Lead

Fox Class

What a current Reception child says about our Reception:

"I love reception because you do really cool things like go to Littlehampton and a farm. You get to learn tennis and even hold a baby chick. My teacher took a picture of that so my mummy could see. I've got lots of friends and I like playing on the big field with them. I liked learning about being an author best because I like making up Pokemon stories. I like my teachers because they look after me and do silly things to make me laugh and they read good stories"



Meet Fox class's mascot:
'Foxy Loxy'



Meet Hedgehog class's mascot:

'Harry the Hedgehog'

Hedgehog Class



Mrs Tina Bennett
Badger Class Teacher

Badger Class

Meet Badger class's mascot:

'Billy the Badger'

In EYFS, we use a variety of strategies to engage children in their learning, from themed carpet sessions to using the children's interests in play. Here are some of the things we get up too!

Exciting themes to enthuse and motivate the children include:

Yr	Aut 1	Aut 2	Spr 1	Spr 2	Sum 1	Sum 2
Nur	Can I Make A New Friend?	What Can I Celebrate?	How Can I Make Patterns?	What Changes Can I Spot?	Can I Tell You a Story?	Can I Become a Writer?
Recp	Don't Eat the Teacher, Pirates Ahoy! & Where Does Our Food Come From?	Did Dragons Exist?	Can a Penguin Live in a Hot Place?	Are Eggs Alive?	Can I Become an Author?	Do You Like to be Beside the Seaside?

Adult Led Learning

Adults teach responding to the children's next steps using a range of strategies such as, whole class carpet sessions, small groups, individual teaching and by sensitively intervening in play, in order to deliver the curriculum. For example:



Sharing a story



An "animal boogie"



Drinking hot chocolate to keep us warm on our 'arctic' expedition



Getting ready to write letters to Santa

Child Initiated Learning

In Nursery and Reception, we use the children's interests to motivate and engage children across the curriculum. They initiate their own play activities within our outstanding environment.



"We are knights! We beat the dragon."

Expressive arts and design, building on play and ideas.



**"We made you a delicious chocolate cake!
Would you like some?"**

Developing fine motor control, trying tools and techniques.



"The floor is lava!"

Gross motor development and using alternating feet to climb.



**"This snail has a curly wurly house. He has to
carry it on his back."**

*Understanding the world and making
observations of animals in the environment.*

Visits

Visits bring learning to life and provide a real-life context and hands on experience.



Trip to Littlehampton



Trip to Bocketts Farm



Engagement Days

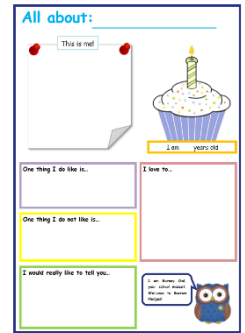
We hook the children into their learning with exciting engagement days such as:

- We dress up as pirates to launch our 'Pirates Ahoy!' theme
- Dorothy the Dragon leaves her eggs for us to hatch to launch our theme of 'Do Dragon Exist?'
- Clifford the big red dog goes to the grocery shop and delivers a very special red box to launch the theme of 'Where Does Food Come From'
- We have a magical ball to launch the theme 'Can I be an Author?'

Settling In

1. All About Me

The 'All About Me' tells us about things that your child likes to do (and doesn't like to do). This informs our provision during Autumn 1. This means your child will have their favourite toys to play with from the fun session and beyond. Happy, busy children will settle in quickly.

A template for an 'All about me' form. It includes a box for a photo labeled 'This is me', a box for a drawing of a child labeled 'I am years old', and several boxes for writing about likes and dislikes, such as 'One thing I do like to do...', 'One thing I do not like to do...', and 'I would really like to tell you...'. There is also a small owl illustration.

2. Tapestry



Tapestry (more about this later), after you have activated your account, you will find a video of your child's teacher and teaching assistant/s introducing themselves to you and your child. Watching this together supports your child to become familiar with their new adults so that they settle in happily.



3. Home Visits

This enables your child to meet us in their familiar environment. This is a very special time for your child as they share their home life with their teachers, creating happy memories.



"Ms Whittle, can you remember when you came to see my hamster at my house?" **Fox Class child.**

4. Fun Sessions

This is a chance for your child to play with you in our setting and to meet their new friends and teachers supporting them to be familiar with their new environment.



5. Staggered start

Whilst some children have been in a setting previously, some children haven't attended any setting previously. Regardless, starting school/Nursery is a very busy and tiring time for your child. It can be overwhelming for them as they adjust to new routines and their new environment. Therefore, we build up the time that children spend in school/Nursery during their first week at Barrow Hedges.

All children start school on Thursday, 7th September 2023, see staggered start below:-
Gates open at 8.30am, Thursday, 7th September – Start time 8.40am finish at 12pm
Friday, 8th September – Start time 8.40am finish at 1pm (please send your child with a packed lunch).
Monday, 11th September children in school full time – Start time 8.40am finish at 3.10pm (Your child will receive a free school dinner).

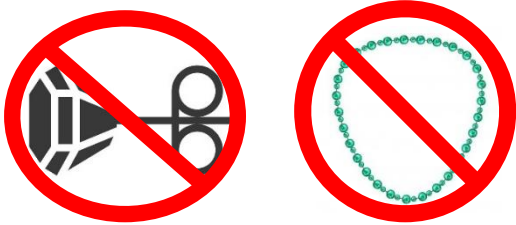
6. Uniform

We have a school uniform which children wear with pride. We ask for parental support in ensuring that children come to school smartly dressed in school uniform each day.

You can find our uniform guidelines on our website (Parents > Uniform Guidelines) or by clicking [here](#).

As every day is a 'P.E' day in Nursery and Reception, we do ask that you adhere to our guidelines. We also ask that you note the following:

- **children must not wear any jewellery**



- **must have their hair tied up**



- **must be wearing Velcro shoes**



- **no nail polish**



- **fake tattoos are not allowed**



7. Pegs – Bags

The children will learn to find their pegs. There is only room for a coat and a bookbag. No rucksacks please.



8. Saying Goodbye

By the time your child starts school, they will already be feeling more confident because of our settling in procedures. They will already be more familiar with:

- their environment
- other children in the setting
- their teacher/teaching assistant by watching introduction videos on Tapestry and/or home visits



We heartily recommend that you have positive conversations about starting school and about how all the things that they love to play with will be waiting for them. Please be rest assured that their teachers and teaching assistants will make them feel happy and safe so that they can begin their learning journey in Nursery or Reception.

On your child's first day at school, reassure them that you will be coming back to get them soon and that they will have a fun time which will aid their transition. As we know this can be an anxious time for parents, no matter how you are feeling on the inside, if you are smiling and happy, your child will be too!

9. Lunch Time (Reception children only)

At our welcome evening you will get to sample the delicious and nutritious food that is offered to our children. We strongly recommend that you choose the free school meal option rather than making a packed lunch every morning. We have found that children are



much more willing to try new food at school than they are at home. Teachers and teaching assistants support the children to use their knife and fork, to carry trays when needed and to select food that they would like to eat. Children are gently encouraged to try new foods but are never forced to eat anything that they do not like.

"The lunch ladies are really nice, they greet you with a smile. And the food is delicious!" **Barrow Hedges child**

10. Collection

Safeguarding is our absolute priority. We will never let your child go home with an unknown adult. We use a home collection book, which is located by the garden gate of Nursery and Reception however, you can always call or email the school office to inform us if another adult is collecting your child.



Keeping Safe and Healthy at School

Keeping Hydrated

Children will need a water bottle at school every day. We fill this up if the children drink all of their water. Please name the bottle.

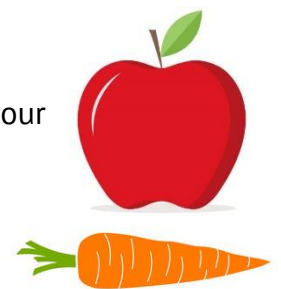
Milk *Cool Milk*
www.coolmilk.com

To find out more information regarding CoolMilk and/or to sign your child up to receive milk at school, please click [here](#) or visit the 'Key Documents' page on our website (Our School > Admissions > School Admissions > Key Documents). You can provide dairy free alternatives if needed (please speak to your child's teacher about this).



Fruit Scheme

The children are able to select from a wide variety of fruit and vegetables from our snack bar throughout the day. You do not need to provide a snack.



Weather – sun hats / gloves / scarfs / sun cream

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.

In winter, your child will need a coat, gloves and hat.



In summer, please send your child in with a sunhat. Please apply sun cream to your child before school (school staff are not permitted to apply it).



Going to the Toilet

Children need to be toilet trained ready to start Nursery/School. Staff will help your child, if needed, by verbally giving them instructions on what they need to do. If further help is needed, staff will follow the guidance within our Intimate Care policy.



Occasionally a child may have a toileting accident and therefore we would appreciate it if you could provide a set of spare underwear and socks in their bags and a spare carrier bag in your child's book bag.

Appointments

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please let the office know by emailing or phoning at least 24 hours in advance. Please report to the school main office (via Harbury Road entrance) to collect and sign out your child.

Absence due to illness

If your child is unwell and unable to come to school/Nursery, please contact the school office by email on office@barrowhedges.com or call our absence line on 020 8643 4428 between 8.30am and 9am. This is important firstly, so we know your child is safe and secondly, to ensure your child's absence is recorded correctly.

If your child has either sickness or diarrhoea they must have a clear 2 full days following the day they were unwell.

Medication

We are only permitted to keep certain medications on the school premises (such as asthma inhalers/Epipens or other prescribed medication). These must be fully labelled with your child's name and in a clear plastic wallet. Usually, most medication is kept in the classroom to be used when required. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that this medicine is within the date of expiry (Epipens and Asthma inhalers) and the medication does not run out. Please note: a Care Plan may be required to enable us to administer these. The School Nurse can assist with the Care Plan.

If your child is on antibiotics, we would recommend that you ask your doctor for one that can be taken three times per day so that it can be administered before school, after school and at bedtime. If your child does require medication during the school day, either yourself or a nominated adult may come into school and administer it. However, if you are unable to administer this yourself and require the school to, please speak with the school office as paperwork must be completed before we can do so. Any medication must be handed to a member of staff by an adult and must not be in your child's bookbag.

Any other forms of medication (such as Calpol, Piriton etc.) cannot be administered to your child by the school.

We are a Team!

Parents as Partners

Research shows that involving parents and carers in their child's learning is the most important factor in enabling children to do well regardless of background. Working collaboratively together maximises on children's outcomes and attainment.

Communication

We offer a range of opportunities for you to become involved in your child's learning which is important.

Your class teacher is your first port of call when you want to find out about how your child is progressing with their learning, friendships and general wellbeing.

To speak with your child's teacher, please either:

- Speak with them at the end of the school day (please wait until we have dismissed the children).
- email into the school office (office@barrowhedges.com) to request an appointment and/or stating any queries/concerns that you may have. This will then be passed on to their teacher. Please ensure you state your child's name and class within the email. We try to ensure all emails are responded to within 48 hours.

Tapestry

You will have seen, as part of your child's admission process, guidelines for Tapestry along with how we will use this platform to document your child's progress. Updates are provided on a weekly basis where you can find out more about your child's learning and what they have been up to whilst they are at school. Once you have read an observation, we ask that you 'like' the post to signify this to us. You can also add your own observations to Tapestry which will form part of your child's Learning Journey (which you will receive electronically at the end of the school year – this is a very special memento showing the progress they have made throughout their Nursery/Reception year).



Helping at School

Once your child has happily settled in at Nursery/school, we love to welcome parents/carers volunteers where we have many jobs waiting for you, from filing, to helping children to read, to more creative projects! If you are able to offer your time, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Information Evenings

There will be an opportunity in the Autumn and Spring Terms to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's progress. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, come and see us!

Making Payments

We are a cashless school and dinner money, activities, trips and donations are paid for via ParentPay. This is a secure online payment service and is a convenient and secure way of paying.



Once your child has started at Barrow Hedges you will receive an activation email to enable you to log in to ParentPay. This letter will contain a personal activation username and password. During the activation process you will be guided through changing your username and password to something more memorable.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring in sweets/cakes for my child's birthday?

As we are a healthy school, we ask that you please do not send in sweets/cakes for your child's birthday. Instead, we ask that if you wish to celebrate your child's birthday by sending something into school, you either bring in fruit for our snack table, or a book for the class.

What if my child is a really fussy eater?

Staff are very patient with children who find it difficult to try new foods and make choices. They are gently encouraged, given extra time and reassured. Staff plan on an individual basis to support children so that they have eaten, are not hungry and can concentrate on their learning in the afternoon.

I'm worried about my child making friends, what can I do?

Naturally, children play alongside other children as part of their social development, and we will support them to develop highly positive relationships. Talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns and they will be able to give advice and support, including sharing their observations of your child's social interactions with their peers.

What do I do if my child has lost something?

There is a lost property box in Nursery/Reception for any unnamed items. You are welcome to look in this after school. However, if you name everything, your child's belongings will not get lost!

Can you wipe my child's bottom for them?

While we won't wipe their bottom for them, we would of course support them and talk them through, ensuring that they aren't in any discomfort. We ask that this is something you practise with your child in the summer holidays (and on an ongoing basis if needed). We want the children to be as independent as possible.

Independence = confident, resilient and courageous children.

Independent skills like being able to use the toilet, being able to undo their own zips, putting on their shoes and carrying their bookbags in turn helps the children to be confident, resilient and courageous in their learning.

When will my child need a PE kit? (Reception children only)

We will let you know when your child will need a PE kit. You do not need to buy one for September.

Will you celebrate religious/cultural festivals?

Yes, we do. The children learn that we are all unique with different likes, dislikes, hair colour, skin colour, beliefs and cultural backgrounds, for example. We recognise and celebrate diversity, which is personalised to the children in the year group so that everyone is 'seen' and recognises themselves within our curriculum.

How can my child get help?

Teachers/teaching assistants sensitively build positive relationships with each and every child. They will get to know your child's facial expressions, giggles for the toilet, their general demeanour etc. and will respond to their needs so that every child feels happy and safe at school. We have found it to be really beneficial for parents to encourage their child to approach familiar adults while at school and say, "help me, please" if/when they feel this is needed. This will help children to use their words which in turn builds their independence.



Welcome to Barrow Hedges.

We are so excited to meet your child and family and look forward to supporting your child's progress and development, making lots of happy memories together on the way.

