



Our School's Theologically Rooted Christian Vision

At Barton, our vision is to engage and to inspire our pupils to become creative and independent thinkers, evidencing a love for learning and a thirst for knowledge. We aspire to promote the skills needed to persevere with learning challenges and the curiosity to enquire further.

With God's help, our Christian vision binds us together from the moment of arrival until the final day of departure. All members of the Barton School community are bathed in and supported by our Christian ethos: implicitly in our core values and personal relationships; explicitly in the Religious and Worldviews Education, Collective Worship, PSHE and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development opportunities that are a part of our everyday life.

Our Christian ethos and school values focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding so that they can achieve their full potential. These are woven, like a golden thread, into every aspect of school life.

Whole School Visit to Ely Cathedral

On Tuesday, the whole school spent the day in Ely Cathedral, marvelling at the awe-inspiring architecture and enjoying a full day of teacher-led activities and learning. Many staff and visitors at the site commented that the children were remarkably well behaved and engaged, and we felt very proud of them all.



The children were helped to identify medical herbs in the physic garden and created their own pomanders to ward off unpleasant smells, using lavender, cloves, rose petals, thyme and rosemary. They also pretended to be monk-doctors and prescribed medieval herbal remedies for common complaints such as headaches and colds.



We were all impressed by the beautiful stained-glass windows in the cathedral and the museum, and learned all about how glass is made, shaped and coloured. We explored a range of stained-glass windows through the ages and took part in some creative practical activities with light and colour. There were also opportunities to create personal shields and dragonflies to look like stained glass.



Finally, the children explored the nave of the cathedral through a retelling of the creation story. The children from Kingfisher Class were delighted to be asked a question about safeguarding the future of bees!



We are very grateful to all the staff and teachers at the Cathedral who made it such a smooth and enjoyable experience, to all the families who supported the children, making sure they had all they needed on the day, and the pupils, staff and parent-helpers who came along, got stuck in and made it a memorable and worthwhile event. Thank you, everyone. It was so lovely to take part in this whole school experience.

The Diocese of Ely encourages all its Church schools to visit the Cathedral at least once during each pupil's primary years.



Barton School and the Church of England

As a Church of England Primary School, we are tasked with serving the needs of pupils of all faiths and none, and are open to children and parents from across the community regardless of background, perspective, religion or culture (<https://www.elydiocese.org/schools/>). Whilst they are not faith schools, but community schools, they are, however, part of the Church of England's continued mission to educate children in an environment that reflects Christian values. Each school's vision statement (see ours at the top of this bulletin) should be theologically rooted and explicitly Christian in its content and aims.

The Church of England National Society was established in 1811 and encouraged its parishes to build village schools for local children to learn to read, write and master basic number work. The Education Act 1870 committed the state to the building of additional schools to augment, rather than replace, these early church schools. Subsequently, the Education Act 1944 allowed the Church of England to oversee some schools without any financial liability for them, (Voluntary Controlled), whilst continuing to fulfil their financial commitment to others with a higher level of oversight into the day-to-day provision (Voluntary Aided). Typically, the land and buildings are owned and maintained to some extent by the Church of England, whilst everyday operations are funded by the local authority.

From early on, the educational emphasis of church schools has been upon the quality of education for all its pupils rather than on any religious mission, although the obligation to provide a daily act of predominantly Christian collective worship, high quality religious education, within an explicitly Christian ethos remains. The original Trust Deed (1872) remains at the heart of the Cambridge County Council's articles of Government for Voluntary Aided schools such as ours.

Barton is a Voluntary Aided school which carries consequences and responsibilities for the way in which we organise everything we do. For example, in addition to Ofsted, Barton is overseen and monitored by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) according to seven key inspection questions focusing on our effectiveness as a church school. We are expecting a SIAMS inspection to be within the next academic year.

Within the SIAMS framework, we are expected to ensure that 60% of the religious education we provide is Christian and that the remaining 40% is shared between other world religions and world views such as humanism. We must also take steps to ensure that the children at Barton experience key dates in the Christian calendar such as Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and that our collective worship reflects some of the features of a Church of England service, for example, opportunities to wish peace upon one another and to sing Christian songs as part of choral worship time.

Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus and Religious and Worldviews Education (RWE)

The religious education we provide must also satisfy the requirements set out in the locally developed agreed syllabus. This was updated and revised in 2023 and we are in the midst of redesigning our provision in order to comply fully. There were many minor amendments made, but the most significant include:

- the need to include non-religious worldviews in our teaching (hence RE is now known as RWE)*
- the requirement to plan a spiral curriculum building on previous learning year on year*
- the replacement of Attainment Targets 1 and 2 with Progression Targets (PT) 1 and 2. PT1 refers to learning about religion and PT2 refers to learning from religion, including each child's personal reflections on what they believe. We try to capture our pupils' spiritual development through regular 'I Wonder' opportunities during lessons. For example, within a unit on Judaism, children may be asked to consider how they mark important events in their own lives.*

RWE teaching and learning in Barton Church of England (VA) School

In keeping with our obligations as a VA school, RWE is treated as a core subject at Barton, alongside Maths, English and Science. It is taught regularly each half term in extended afternoon slots by qualified teachers. From September 2024, we will use the 'Understanding Christianity' programme as

a basis for all our Christianity learning, returning to key concepts such as Creation, Salvation and Incarnation each year at an appropriate level for each year group. All other religions will be addressed through the Emmanuel Project. Generally, Christianity will be taught in the Autumn and Spring Terms only. Our website shows what topics will be taught when and are amended according to the needs of changing cohorts each year.

Collective Worship

We begin each week with a whole school gathering in the hall to launch the value, theme or topic for the week. We have redesigned our collective worship so that the children take a more active role in each part of it, helping to dress the table-altar, taking part in a daily response, signing the school prayer and participating in the offering of peace to one another. Our Year 5 Collective Worship leaders greet the other children at the door and Year 6 children collect their Robin Class buddies and sit with them throughout. We try to make our collective worship meaningful, interactive and interesting, supporting the children to understand our Christian vision, the values encapsulated in our 'Values Cross' (see below) and developing a sense of spirituality through the discussion of British Values and SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) Education.

The themes for each half term are shown on our school website and noted in our Barton Bulletins (see above). Opportunities for reflections at home are also provided.



Robin Class

This half term Robin Class have been thinking and learning about 'People Who Help'. As part of our journey we invited some very special visitors to come and talk to the children about how they help people in their jobs. A huge thank you to Dr Boulos (who helps develop cancer medication), Miss Foneska (who is a primary school teacher), Dr Marie (who teaches University students and works with a team to ensure the University is a good place to work and learn), PC Bertozzi-Wilson (who is a local police officer), Ross (a volunteer fire-fighter in Australia) and Neil (a fundraiser at the Romsey Mill charity). Standing in front of 30 Robins can be daunting, but our visitors all left the children buzzing! The children realised that there are so many different ways to help people and have been inspired not only for any possible future careers, but also to see what differences they can make by helping others now.

The Robins have been thinking about how they can make our visitors feel welcomed into our classroom, respected whilst they are talking and how they can ask thoughtful (and relevant) questions.

Some of our favourite questions have been "What is your favourite part of your job?" "How many people do what you do?" "What happens when it doesn't work?" and "How many people do you help every day?" (Special mention to "Why are there Narwhals in the Ocean?" which appeared in one of the first sessions!).

Mrs Hedges



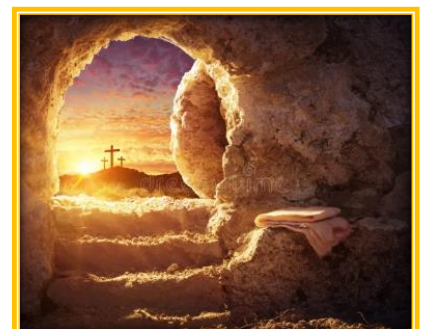
Dear parents and friends,

I'd just like to say a huge 'thank you' to all those who came to help with our 'big clear up' last weekend. As the saying goes 'many hands make light work.' From painting indoors and outside, to digging up dead bushes, planting bulbs, filling raised beds with compost, to chopping back overhanging tree branches, to felling a tree and then taking loads of rubbish to the dump . . . there really was a hive of activity at Barton. The help and hard work of all involved was and is much appreciated, thank you.

And so to end this very busy half term, we had our whole school Collective Worship, enjoying an Easter Breakfast together, as Revd. Priscilla led us through Holy Week, from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Wishing you all a lovely Easter break, enjoying time this holiday season with family and friends.

Mrs Julie Martin

Headteacher





Class photographs

The class photographs are ready to view and purchase at

the following link: <https://htmp.st/Barton24>

The deadline for orders is **Monday 1st April**.

If you need any assistance, please call 01736 751555

(option 3) or click on the "contact" button on

htempest.co.uk

Amazon Wishlists for school

Thank you very much for your ongoing support.



Garden Wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/aeKTeng>

Robin Class wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/jeA9hhv>

Kingfisher Class wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/iVJetZK>

Swallow Class wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/2ZoaTze>

Owl Class wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/8vE1QMX>

Premier Sports Clubs – Summer Term

Please see the attached leaflets which offer a **free trial session** at the Gymnastics and Football Clubs next term. If you would like to book on to the clubs for the rest of the term, please follow the links below:

After School Gymnastics Club

premier-education.com



After School Football Club

premier-education.com



Early Intervention Family Worker Newsletter

Please find attached Sam Stacey's newsletter for March and details of a number of workshops which are taking place in May covering topics such as:

- helping your child to manage the transition from early years to primary and primary to secondary school
- managing sibling rivalry
- managing challenging behaviour
- helping children to build resilience



Cambridge United vs Norwich City Women's Fixture – 7th April 2024 @ 2pm

Once again, Cambridge United are kindly offering **free tickets** to all students, staff and their families for this match. The game will be played at the Abbey Stadium in Cambridge. To book your tickets, please use the discount code and link below. (There is a small booking fee of 50p).

Discount code: NORWICHCUF

www.venuetoobox.com/cambridgeunited/asp/selectArea.asp?bookEvent=true&eventID={7CF4A151-E276-4C45-8BF3-EBEB4D9173DD}&homeArea=home

Cambourne Music School – Summer Term

Cambourne Music School is offering sessions for Beginner **Guitars** starting on Tuesdays after Easter. The Music School also offers sessions to learn Flute, Clarinet or Saxophone on Mondays, and Keyboard on Wednesdays. New players are very welcome.

[Cambourne Music School - Application Form \(office.com\)](https://www.cambourneprimary.com/office.com)

Cambourne Primary Music School

Mondays: 4:15 - 6pm
Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone lessons - £12
Or join the band (all instruments welcome) - £10

Tuesdays: 4:15 - 6pm
Guitar lessons - £10 New...

Wednesdays: 4:15 - 6pm
Keyboard lessons - £10

Find out more online...
Sign-up at any point
in the year...

Dates for the Diary



15 th Apr	First Day of Summer Term
17 th Apr	Welcome Wednesday
17 th Apr	SATs meeting for Y6 parents
18 th Apr	Netball B Team Final
19 th Apr	Mini Medics session for Y5/Y6
22 nd Apr	Y3/Y4 Bikeability
29 th Apr	Roman Britain Workshop (Swallow Class)
6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
27 th May – 31 st May	Half-term
3 rd June	Inset Day (no pupils in school)
19 th July	Last day of term
(22 nd July	Inset Day – no pupils)

For details of Easter activities and camps, please see Bulletins no. 23 and 24.

HAPPY EASTER!!