

August Newsletter 2024

OUR VISION AND VALUES

Vision: Inspiring the Barsail family to:
'Dream Big, Aim High, Achieve More!'

We want all of the Barsail family to hold these **VALUES** in their **HEARTS**:

Honesty
Empathy
Ambition
Respect
Teamwork
Success



Welcome back to a new school year. The children have made a great start to the session. A warm welcome to our new pupils and parents. I know that you will very quickly feel part of the Barsail family.

In Barsail, we value working in partnership with all parents. Our Parent Council support the school and raise money for exciting items and events for the children. The next meeting is an AGM at Park Mains High School on Monday 16th September.

We look forward to working with all of our families and partners. Together we will ensure that our children reach their full potential.

Uniform

It is wonderful to see pupils in their uniform. The grey trousers, school shorts, skirts and pinafores along with blue polo shirts and jumpers or a shirt and tie contribute to our lovely Barsail identity.

We have moved away from the relaxed uniform such as joggies and leggings which were introduced during Covid. We had pupils wearing brand names and various colours which was leading to some peer pressure and the Barsail identity was not as evident.

P.E. days

Some of our children are wearing gym shorts underneath their uniform to school for P.E. days and that is absolutely fine. A lot of girls like cycling shorts on anyway as they cartwheel and twirl around the bars on the trim trail.

Indoor P.E. - arrive in uniform and change into shorts / have shorts on underneath. They should not wear leggings or joggies.

Outdoor P.E. - arrive in uniform and then change into shorts or joggies/leggings (particularly when cold).

Indoor shoes

We ask that all children have indoor shoes. The children should be changing into these each day. It helps keep our school clean particularly when children are using the trim trail / getting muddy or when they are on the ash pitch. The indoor shoes must be suitable for indoor P.E. Plimsoles are comfortable and perfect for this purpose. Please avoid crocs. If you have not sent in any can we ask that you do so as soon as possible.

We are conscious of how costly it can be at the start of the year. If this is causing stress then please let us know and we can support.

School Improvement Plan



Our improvement priorities this year are:

- Priority 1 - Skills Development. We are working with colleagues in all of the cluster schools who feed into Park Mains High School (PMHS). We are developing the six skills which are promoted in PMHS: Teamwork, Communication, Thinking skills, Social skills, Creativity and Problem solving.
- Priority 2 - Raising Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy. Our Literacy Champion, Miss Baird, and our Numeracy Champions, Miss Connell and Mrs McLean, are training teachers, support staff and volunteers on interactive approaches. We are looking at standards in Reading across the cluster later this session. We continue to embed Talk for Writing where the children learn a model text leading to them imitating the text and then creating their own version. Numeracy approaches will also be a main focus this session.
- Priority 3 - Young Leaders of Learning. A group of Primary 6 pupils will be involved in a project with Dargavel Primary where the children will evaluate aspects of learning and help identify priorities for the School Improvement Plan. This is an Education Scotland initiative and it is new to Barsail.
- Priority 4 - Continue to implement Renfrewshire approaches to Inclusion and Wellbeing. We are aiming to retain our Gold accreditation for the Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA).

Our Standards and Quality report will soon be on our website. It documents the progress we made last session. I shared the end of year movie with you in June which encapsulates this.

Barsail's Relationships Policy

Information about our policy can be found on our website. I have also included a link for you to watch if you wish to find out more. Please note that there have been staffing changes since this video was created e.g. Mrs Gibney is no longer at Barsail but the information about the policy remains relevant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-otLtDxzNI>

Barsail Relationships Policy		
The Adults Will <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motive relationships 2. Model our values 3. Train 4. Train positive classroom 5. Provide a safe environment. 	Barsail Values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honesty Empathy Ambition Respect Teamwork Success 	Over to Adults Behaviours <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showing our school values 2. Empowering the whole school community 3. Showing shared systems.
Our Vision Message 'Dream Big, Aim High, Achieve More'		
Classroom Plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline 2. Low chance 3. 20 second 4. Support language script 5. Reinforce communication 6. Support step 	Language Scripts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Verbal Responses • 20 Second Script • Language Frames • Counting to 10 • Drawing • Drawing • Drawing • Drawing • Drawing 	Behavioural Questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What happened? 2. What were you feeling/thinking at the time? 3. How did this make other people feel? 4. What has been affected and how? 5. What should we do to put things right? 6. How has your opinion, how could you do things differently?

We have high expectations

In Barsail, we have high standards and expectations for all of our pupils. We talk about 'Barsail Standard' and by this we mean that the pupils show the school values. 'Barsail Walking' is encouraged. This is where pupils walk calmly and with pride as they move around the school. We are encouraging pupils to go 'OVER and ABOVE Barsail Standard!' Pupils who go over and above may be recognised in various ways e.g. thanked by staff, given a house point, invited to have hot chocolate with the Head Teacher, have an appreciation letter sent home, receive a sticker or values business card etc.

Pupil Voice

House Tutor Groups All pupils will be in a house tutor group with pupils from P1-7. Each house has 3 tutor groups. Through this we aim to: improve the house system; further develop pupil voice and pupil leadership; provide enhanced pastoral care and build a sense of community. The children will work in multi-stage groups on various challenges and tasks for 45 minutes on a number of Fridays across the session. Teaching staff mentor a tutor group and the pupils will remain in the same group in the coming years.

Pupil Groups - We are continuing to ensure that every child plays an active role in a pupil group. Every class has a leadership responsibility. There are also additional pupil groups such as Rights Respecting Heroes, Eco Committee, Pupil Council, Restore Reps, STEM Ambassadors and Captains and Vice-Captains. The pupil groups allow the children to lead initiatives and influence changes in their school - their opinions matter. These groups will meet on a number of Fridays across the session. Later in the year there will be a pupil leadership week similar to last session. I wonder what the children will organise this year!

Contacts

We pride ourselves on our positive relationships with our families. We politely request that you do not use social media as a means of complaining. Instead, we have an open doors policy to address concerns promptly and proactively. You can phone the school to request a call from the class teacher. If you wish to speak to a member of the management team then we are happy to arrange a phone call or appointment. Mrs Cochrane, Depute Head Teacher, tends to respond to concerns relating to additional support needs. Mrs Baird is our Principal Teacher. Mrs Mavers, Head Teacher, is also available for P1-7.

Accelerated Reading Primary 4-7

Children at Barsail participate in the computer-based Accelerated Reading programme. The children select a book at their own level and read it at their own pace. When the book is finished, the children take short book quizzes on the computer. Our Accelerated Reading library is organised into book bands and colours for easy selection. Each morning the pupil librarians are available to support the children to select their next book. As well as reading at the recommended book level, children can select a book that is an easy read for them and they can also pick a book that is challenging - they may wish you to help them read tricky books.

Accelerated Reading has thousands of quizzes and our school library has over 3000 titles in it for the children to choose from. We track how many words the children have read. Pupils who become word millionaires by reading over a million words join our school Millionaire Row. Your child's teacher will monitor their progress regularly. If you want to check to see if a book you have has a quiz you can check on the following website: - <http://www.arbookfind.co.uk>. This website will also tell you the book level for Accelerated Reading.

Barsail's Spelling Programme

P1-P2: Primary 1 and 2 follow the Jolly Phonics progression of sounds.

P3-P7: P3-P7 learn a new sound every week and participate in spelling daily in class. All of P3-7 will focus on the same sound. Therefore, if you have more than one child in the school, they will be learning the same sound but each class will learn this sound through a differentiated set of words (the words will be more challenging further up the school). **All P3-P7 will be assessed on their spelling words on a Friday and there will be a termly assessment.** To support your child with this, you can find the weekly sound/words on page 2 of the pinned homework post on your child's seesaw.

Times Tables Rock Stars (P3-P7)

We bought this resource in January to encourage children in P3-P7 to practise their times tables in a fun and engaging way. This resource can also be used at home and your child's teacher will be putting log in details on seesaw. Knowing your times tables is a requirement for so many different maths topics therefore it's important that our children are confident with them. The feedback and progress from those who used this resource last year was excellent.

Reporting to Parents

Reporting:

- All year - We will share your child's learning journey through Seesaw
- Term 1 - Meet the teacher. All class teachers will open their doors and warmly welcome parents into the class with your child as the tour guide. You can see what your child has been learning so far and have an informal chat with the teacher. This will be from 3:05pm - 4pm on Wednesday 4th September. Please note that this is not a time for an individual report. During Meet the Teacher we have a parent workshop being delivered by the Educational Psychologist in the hall. Parents can take their child to the Music Room where there will be a creche for Barsail pupils if the parent is at the workshop. The times are 3:10pm and 3:40pm. It is the same talk - it is just being repeated so that you can visit your child's class before or afterwards. To split the numbers we are suggesting families with more than one child in Barsail should attend the first session and those with one child should attend the later session.
- Term 2 - Parents' nights - you will be able to choose an in-person appointment or a phone call - whatever is best for you.
- Term 3 - Report card.
- Term 4 - Parents' nights (optional) - This is for families who have concerns or who wish to discuss the report card. You will be able to choose an in-person appointment or a phone call - whatever is best for you.
- Parents attend events and shows.
- You can arrange to speak to the class teacher to discuss progress at any time if you have concerns / queries. Please call the office to arrange.
- We are arranging parent volunteers who will help support learning and teaching. PVGs are required before anyone starts. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Achievements and Assemblies

Should your child win a medal, compete in a tournament or competition, move up a grade in a hobby or learn a new skill, we would like to hear all about it. Parents / pupils can share achievements on Seesaw for teachers to see by adding a post to the achievements folder. Photographs and videos can be included. Major achievements will be celebrated during assembly which takes place each Friday. Medals, certificates etc can be brought in to be shown at the assembly on a Friday.

Absence Procedures

We would like to remind you of our absence procedures. Please phone the school office before 9.15am to inform us of your child's absence. If we have not been informed then an SMS text message will be sent to your contact number. If we do not have a reason for the absence it will be logged as an unauthorised absence. The school office also appreciate being informed of doctor or dental appointments. Please remember that all holidays taken during term time are categorised as unauthorised.

Both absence and late coming are monitored continuously. In Barsail, we have a system of issuing letters and arranging meetings if attendance falls below 90% and if late coming is an issue.

If your child arrives late, he/she should go to the front entrance.



Upcoming dates

- 23rd August - Homework grid begins
- 4th September - Tempest photographs for all pupils
- 4th September - Meet the Teacher P1-7 3:05pm
- 4th September - Loch Insh talk for P7 4:15pm
- 16th September - Parent Council AGM
- 23-26 September - Maths Week Scotland
- 27th and 30th September - School closed for September Weekend
- 11th October - Inservice day - staff only. Holiday for pupils.
- 14th -18th October - School closed for October Holiday.