

Michaelmas & Lent
2020/2021



BARNARD
CASTLE
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

THE BARNNEY WAY





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PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

HEADMISTRESS'S
WELCOME



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What an interesting and exciting couple of terms at Prep School all whilst living amongst a pandemic that has swept throughout the country and across the world over the last year. However, despite this, a host of memories has still been conjured up for all.

Each term we have an exciting itinerary of planned events and experiences to complement the children's academic studies. Learning occurs on so many different levels and the enrichment we offer is arguably as important as what the children learn in the classroom.

I am astounded at what we have managed to achieve despite bubble restrictions and COVID-19.

This issue of 'The Barney Way' captures some of our highlights from when we were both in and out of School across the two terms including, our 'Barney Run', Remembrance Service and highlights of our Learning@Home programme.

I hope everyone enjoys reading and reliving the moments that are just simply a snapshot of our unique Barney Way!

Our newest starters embark on their Barney journeys!



In September 2020, we welcomed 17 new starters to Reception. It has been heartening to see our Preppies develop friendships and explore their classroom and new surroundings. They have all settled into Prep School life really well!

Meet your Michaelmas Term
Head Boy and Girl, Head of Houses,
Monitors and Year 6 Councillors!



Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival service was certainly one to remember!

While there was no singing or guests and pupils gave their offerings in a structured way within their year group bubbles, our Preppies were still able to observe a lovely Harvest Festival service.

It was great that this Barney tradition was able to continue in some capacity, although family members and friends, who would usually attend, were sorely missed.

Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, which banned singing, Barney's Resident Chaplain, Father Darren, led the service and carried out all readings at a social distance.

Earlier in the week, Dr Harrison, Prep School's Director of Music, and several of our very talented singers and musicians performed two hymns in a safe, controlled manner, which formed part of a video that the children were able to enjoy afterwards.



VIDEO



Bon Appétit!

One of the highlights of the Prep School calendar is our annual French Café – an opportunity to talk with fellow Preppies and friends in French, while indulging in some delicious hot chocolate and pastries!

We were delighted to be able to continue this tradition, in spite of COVID, albeit with pupils gathering in the Atkinson Hall in their year group bubbles.

Prep School Wellbeing Week

From 5th-9th October 2020, Preppies enjoyed five, fun-filled days of activities and learning with a different theme for each day, as we celebrated Prep School Wellbeing Week.

From 'Move-It Monday' all the way through to 'Friendship Friday', everyone had a great time – teachers included!

On 'Move-It Monday' everyone took part in physical activities and tried new things and hobbies within their year group bubbles.

On 'Teamwork Tuesday', members of each House worked together to create something special, learning new skills and making new friends!

On 'We Like to Help Wednesday', our Preppies enjoyed fine dining at the French Café in aid of the School's charity of the year, 'Mary's Meals', raising more than £350 for this amazing cause!

On 'Thoughtful Thursday', everyone took time out for mindfulness activities.

Last, but certainly not least, on 'Friendship Friday', the children created friendship chains to display in the classrooms.



The 129th Barnard Run

For the second year in a row, we hosted the 'Barney Run' behind closed doors – for obvious reasons.

Nevertheless, despite the presence of members of our community and an indifferent weather forecast, these failed to dampen our Preppies' spirits!

Hosting the 129th Barnard Run marked the culmination of a lot of hard work and training in PE and Games lessons, as well as pupils' own regimes.

Well done to all runners, who ran exceptionally well and displayed plenty of courage and resilience as they crossed the finish line!

We look forward to hosting next year's event, which, we hope, will be open to friends and guests, should government guidance allow.



VIDEO



Halloween!

As everyone prepared to unwind for the half term break, Prep School enjoyed a 'spooktacular' final day, as many of our Preppies donned fantastic fancy dress costumes!

Our thanks, as always, to the Barney Friends for its support in organising various Halloween-related initiatives, especially members' exemplary work preparing trick or treat goodie bags for our Preppies to take home with them.



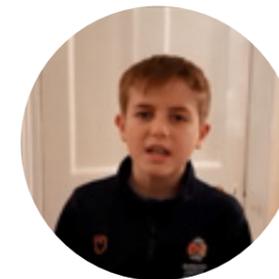
The Show Must Go On!

Despite not being able to host our increasingly popular and special Have a Go Concerts this year, their virtual renditions did not disappoint.

Featuring videos of singing and piano solos to excellent brass and flute performances, the children did a magnificent job!

The children were set on their way with no input whatsoever from teaching staff and it is clear that all participants worked very hard over the half term break to produce such excellent performances.

Well done all and we look forward to welcoming the Prep School Community to next year's concerts, should government guidance allow.



Barney Remembers

On 11th November 2020, the entire School Community observed a safe, impeccably beautiful Remembrance Service as Barney paid tribute to our fallen heroes.

It was wonderful to bring the entire School together for the first time in eight months, albeit outdoors scattered across our playing fields to ensure everyone's safety.

Barney's strength has always been its community and the 2020 Remembrance Service was like no other.

We remain incredibly fortunate and it is important that we continue to remember and pay our respects to those who sacrificed themselves to leave the world a better place.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.



Children in Need

Well done to everyone in the Prep School Community, who contributed towards the £300 raised for Children in Need 2020!

We held a fancy dress day and bake sale for pupils and staff, which supported this amazing cause.

From Batman and pirates to princesses and, of course, 'Pudsey Bears', it was a day to remember!

Thank you to everyone in the Barney Community, especially our heroic kitchen and catering team, who provided the treats for the bake sale!

Barney - United Against Bullying

From 16th-22nd November 2020, Barney supported Anti-Bullying Alliance's #AntiBullyingWeek across both Schools, hosting a range of activities, assemblies and competitions to champion this very important cause.

Each pupil was also given a commemorative Barney - United Against Bullying wristband.

At Barney, we are proud to have such active and thoughtful students, many of whom are Anti Bullying Ambassadors (ABA) across our Prep and Senior Schools.

Thank you for your continued support and for looking out for one another.

House Activities!

Well done to each and every Preppie who competed in House events during the Michaelmas Term.



VIDEO



Ho! Ho! Ho!

As the Michaelmas Term drew to a close, Reception pupils enjoyed a pleasant surprise when a certain VIP visited Barney!

Santa Claus, taking time out of his incredibly busy schedule, dropped by Prep School to meet our Preppies.

He read our Reception pupils a festive story and each child received a gift, before he departed to tend to matters in the North Pole.

Thank you for visiting Barney, Santa!

VIDEO



Merry Christmas, Prep School!

From Christmas Jumper Day to our annual Christingle, Carol and Nativity services, Christmas at Prep School is always a wonderful time of the year.

As with the many events and performances covered in this latest issue of The Barney Way, we terribly missed welcoming guests and family members to Barney during the festive period.

For the first time in our School's history, we pre-recorded each of our flagship Christmas events, so that families could still enjoy the children's excellent performances from the comfort of their homes.

We hope you all enjoyed the services and hopefully we will be in a position to host these events next year.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support over the course of the Michaelmas Term.



On the evening of January 4th 2021, the Prime Minister addressed the nation confirming a second closure of schools across the UK, in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

While it was unfortunate not to be able to welcome all Preppies back to Barney for the start of the Lent Term, the success of our earlier Learning@Home programme ensured a swift and seamless transition to online-based learning. Despite the challenges our School Community faced, everyone resiliently persevered to deliver a memorable Lent Term.

We were still able to offer Preppies a broad curriculum and, crucially, a diverse range of activities as part of our well-renowned Co-Curricular provision, albeit virtually. Our teachers put their creativity to the test and introduced many fun-filled activities for Preppies throughout the Learning@Home programme.

Mrs Turner and the wider Prep School staff could not contain their excitement when the Prime Minister addressed the nation again in February, announcing the return to School for the final three weeks of the Lent Term!

It was a joy to behold when we safely welcomed all Preppies back to Barney on Monday 8th March 2021, with plenty of happy faces as our pupils made their way up the Prep School drive for the first time in what seemed like forever.

Read on to find out more about all the exciting things our children got up to over the course of the Lent Term!

Meet your Lent Term Head Boy and Girl, Head of Houses, Monitors and Year 6 Councillors!



Clap for Heroes

VIDEO

We are grateful to all key workers within the Barney Community and beyond for their hard work throughout these unprecedented times.

Our entire School Community showed their appreciation once again on a snowy day in January.



Random Acts of Kindness

Well done to all Preppies who displayed random acts of kindness to family members, their teachers and fellow pupils during the Learning@Home programme, embodying that while we were apart, we were always there for one another.

We are fortunate to call upon such a caring and friendly Prep School Community.



Barney Bake Off!

Our Preppies did a fantastic job in their House Baking Competition - it was just a shame that, because it was a virtual event, we were not able to taste their delicious creations!

Feast your eyes on just some of their entries, which would make Mary Berry proud!



Founders' Day Service

We would normally gather in Chapel for our annual Founders' Day service to celebrate our rich history, but, owing to these current unprecedented set of circumstances, we were unable to do so and instead prepared virtual services for our School Community to enjoy.

It is always lovely to see how much the children can relate to the past and appreciate the wonderful foundations laid previously, while understanding how fortunate they are to be part of something so special.

Our thanks to the children in Year 6 for their contributions to the service, who did an excellent job with their pre-recorded readings from home.



World Book Day 2021

World Book Day is always an important initiative in the Prep School calendar, and this year's was no exception, despite children Learning@Home.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, Preppies took part in a weeklong 'The Masked Reader' challenge.

They were tasked with guessing the titles of books and the teachers describing them, who were all hiding behind masks!

It was great fun and complemented our pupils' learning, as time was dedicated over the course of that week for Preppies to read books in addition to Mrs Robertson's Storytelling activity.



Junior Boarding during Lockdown

VIDEO

Throughout these unprecedented times, our boarding staff, in particular, have continued to go above and beyond for our pupils.

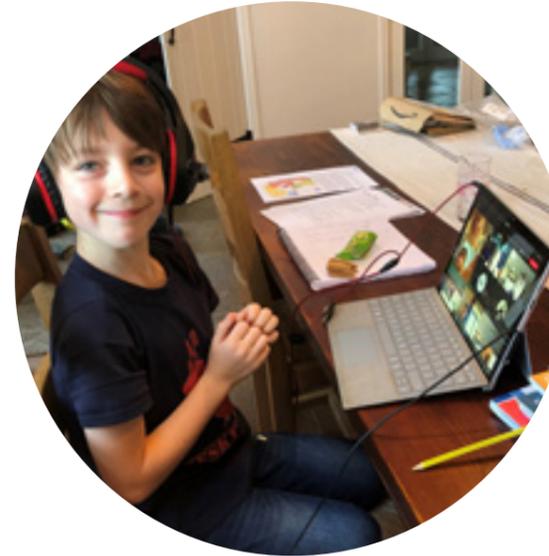
During the most recent lockdown period, before the Prime Minister announced the second closure of schools, we welcomed the vast majority of our boarding pupils back to Barney, including our Junior Boarders to Old Courts, the junior boarding house.

Our Preppie boarders continued with their Learning@Home studies during the day, along with the rest of their day pupil classmates, and were treated to an array of activities at weekends and in their spare time, including archery, laser tag and even axe throwing!

Our thanks to Mr Edwards, Old Courts' Housemaster, and his team for their fantastic, dedicated work during these difficult times.



Learning@Home with Prep School!



Welcome back, Prep School!

Prep School was a positive hive of energy when we opened our doors to welcome everyone back on Monday 8th March 2021!

It was wonderful and an absolute delight to hear and see the giggles and smiles that radiated throughout the playgrounds and for our Preppies to experience classroom-based learning combined with Forest School and Outdoor Education once again.

A highlight of the year, no doubt!



Well done, Preppies!

As pupils returned to Prep School for the final three weeks of term, we have supported various causes through fun-filled initiatives.

It was lovely to see the children model their 'Red Noses' for Comic Relief and equally entertaining to see the different hats pupils wore for 'Wear A Hat Day' in support of Brain Tumour Research.

Because of their efforts, we were able to raise hundreds of pounds for these two worthwhile causes – well done, Preppies!



Happy Easter, Barney!

We enjoyed a busy final week of term, culminating in our End of Term Gathering in a socially distanced Chapel.

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back for the last three weeks of term and get back into a routine, with beautiful weather the icing on the cake!

Over the course of the week, we played House Football and Netball matches, enjoyed a communal House 'Bubbled' picnic, collected litter and carried out a little spring cleaning around the School site, initiated by School Council - it really was a great week in Prep School!

Addressing pupils and staff at the End of Term Gathering, Mrs Turner instructed everyone to switch off from their devices and to relax during the Easter break, ensuring a fully refreshed start to the Trinity Term in April.

Thank you to every single person and member of the Prep School – and wider Barney – Community for supporting us throughout the Lent Term and during these unprecedented times.

Our Preppies took to Learning@Home really well and continued to excel as we returned to the classroom.

We hope you have enjoyed reading our latest edition of The Barney Way, and we look forward to sharing more memories and highlights of Prep School in the next issue.





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To learn more about Barnard Castle Preparatory School and what makes a 'Barney' education so special, contact a member of our Admissions Team on 01833 696030 or admissions@barneyschool.org.uk

www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk

