



St Barnabas C of E Primary School  
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Headteacher: Miss K Boardman (BSc Hons)

*"Barnabas, the Encourager"*

14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

Below is some information about arrangements for the rest of this term as well as some of next term's events so that you can get the dates on your new calendars!

### **Nativity**

Thank you for sending in the costumes for your children. If you haven't already sent them in, please do so by Wednesday at the latest in a bag marked with your child's name. If you are not sure what costumes are required please ask the class teacher or pop into the office for a copy of the letter that was sent out.

If your child is not able to come to the evening performance, please let us know as soon as possible – we do not want to be re-arranging parts at the last minute!

We hope that you will be able to come along to one of the performances on Thursday at 1:45pm and 6:30pm in church. We do not allocate tickets but as the church is small we ask that each child ideally has no more than 3 people come to see them across both performances. We understand that you will want to take photos of your children during the performance but please ensure that these are not posted on social media. Please also share the space so that everyone who wants to can get a good photo.

On Thursday, children need to be at school by 5:45pm – please bring them down to their classrooms. They will be walking across to church at 6:15pm prompt ready for a 6:30pm start. At the end of the Nativity all children must be collected from the usual place that they are dismissed from at the end of the day. Please let us know in writing if someone other than the usual people is collecting your child.

### **Good Work Assembly**

You are welcome to join us for Assembly on Friday when we will be celebrating December birthdays and also holding our attendance draw. Children who have attendance of 96% or above for the term will be entered into the draw. These are children who have been absent for 3 days or less this term. Both children and their parents will win a prize if names are drawn out.

**Huge thanks** go to the PTA and all who supported the Christmas Fair last week. The PTA worked incredibly hard to organise it and find the amazing selection of raffle prizes. It raised the wonderful sum of £300 which will be used to fund activities and resources for the children.

### **Thank you and Goodbye**

This week we say 'Goodbye' to Mr McKay who has been the part-time caretaker at St Barnabas for the last 5 years as he is retiring. He has been invaluable in keeping the school in good repair and looking fantastic. We send him our thanks and wish him a relaxing retirement.

We also say 'Goodbye' to Mr Nogan who has taught PE across school and run after school clubs on a Monday for the last 5 years. Before becoming a PE teacher, he was a professional footballer and he is returning to football to take up the post of Assistant Manager at Gateshead FC. We send him our best wishes in his new role. I will let you know who his replacement will be when we return to school.

### **NEXT TERM**

The children return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. The Holiday Club will be open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at a cost of £16.50 for the day. Please contact them directly to make a booking.

Parents' Evenings will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 3:20-6pm and 13<sup>th</sup> January 4-7pm. Appointment slips will be sent out in the first week of term. We ask that Year 5 and 6 children attend the meetings with their parents this year so that teachers, parents and children can play a full part in discussions about learning and progress.

At these meetings, you will be able to find out about your child's learning in a number of ways – talking to the teachers, looking at children's books and also looking at some new assessment records that we have begun to use in reading, writing and maths for children in Years 1-6.

As national curriculum levels are no longer in use, schools have been free to develop their own system to assess children's learning. We will be holding meetings to tell parents/carers more about this new system on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 2:30pm and 6pm. Attending this meeting will hopefully give you a better understanding of the new assessment record sheets that you will see at Parents' Evenings the following week. Reception children are not being assessed using this system but parents of these children are still welcome to attend the meeting as it will be relevant for the future.

Children in Luther-King Class will be swimming on the first day of term and separate letters have been sent out today about this. Please return permission slips by Friday.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, in Good Work Assembly, the choir will be performing some of the songs that they will sing at the Young Voices Concert earlier that week. After assembly, Chartwells, our catering company will be serving complimentary bacon butties and tea/coffee for visitors and will be on hand to answer any questions about school lunches.

Clubs information will be sent out when we return to school and there will be no clubs except choir in the first week.

A dance teacher who we know has offered to run an all age street-dance club next term on Tuesdays. This will cost £2 per week and the total amount of £10 for the half term will need to be paid before the first session. Separate flyers have been sent out to interested children - please send replies by Thursday as the dance teacher needs to know if there is sufficient interest.

Please remind your children to bring Children's University passports in January to be updated and keep collecting stamps if they visit museums and take part in clubs out of school.

Finally, I wanted to let you know as soon as I could that Mrs Christison will be leaving at Easter to take up the role of Headteacher at Naburn C of E Primary School. I'm sure that you will want to join me in congratulating her on this promotion although we will be sorry to see her leave St Barnabas. I will be giving you more information about her replacement later next term.

On behalf of all the staff at St Barnabas, I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to another action packed year at St Barnabas in 2016!

Best wishes

Miss K Boardman  
Headteacher