



St Barnabas News

12th April 2016

"Barnabas, the Encourager"

THE BIG PEDAL

During the weeks of 18th and 25th April we will be taking part in The Big Pedal, a national inter-school challenge. Schools compete to have the greatest proportion of pupils, staff and parents who cycle or scoot each day and are entered into a national daily prize draw according to their results.

We will also have school prize draws to include anyone who has cycled, scooted or walked to school.



Well done to those children who took part in the 'Scooter Skills' and 'Get off your Stabiliser' sessions at the end of last term, run by Erin Gray. The children really enjoyed them and hopefully are now safer when riding their bikes and scooters.

The Golden Lock weekly competition continues to run where the owner of the bike/scooter showing the golden lock wins a prize.

Look out for further activities that we will be running as a 'Bike It School' this term.

New Deputy Head

We gave Mrs Christison a good send off at the end of last term. Thank you to those of you who sent in your good wishes.

After a rigorous recruitment process, we have now appointed a new Deputy Head, Miss Connolly, who will take up her post in September. She will be making some visits to St Barnabas later this term to get to know the children and staff.

We will not have a Deputy Head during this term but in my absence there will be a nominated teacher in charge. If you need to speak to me urgently and I am not in school, please ask the office if you can speak to the teacher in charge on this day if the matter cannot wait.

Mrs Abbot will be covering Mrs Christison's teaching time as a temporary teacher this term.

Sports Relief Sponsor Money

Thank you to those who have already sent in their sponsor money after running the Sport Relief Mile. Please send it into school in the next 2 weeks so that we can send the cheque to Sport Relief.



Attendance - Every Day Matters!

I am disappointed to report that at this point in the year, our overall attendance rate of 94.7% is well below the national average of 96% (2014-15). This is also below our attendance at this time last year. Only half the children in school have had average or better attendance so far this year (above 96%). The proportion of children that have very poor attendance (below 85%) is almost double the national average.

Attendance is considered during an Ofsted inspection and it is very difficult to be graded a 'good' school when attendance is below average.

More importantly, these figures mean that a lot of children have missed a lot of education at school this year through illness and other reasons.

The school staff work extremely hard to provide excellent learning opportunities but children need to be in school to benefit from this.

We certainly don't expect children to come to school when very unwell, but please consider the effect on your child's education when you are requesting a holiday in term time, making a non-urgent dentist appointment during the school day or keeping your child off for other non-essential reasons. Absences in term time are generally not authorised unless as a result of illness or exceptional circumstances as it is important that children come to school every day possible.

You will receive an upto date copy of your child's attendance record at the next Parent's Evening. Please consider this carefully and get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

Clubs

The following clubs will run this half term and will begin next week. Please complete the slip sent home today and return to school by this Friday.

Monday – KS1 Summer Sports (*Tennis, Cricket, Rounders*)

Tuesday – Allotment Club (*slips already returned last term. You have been notified about a place for your child*)

Friday – KS2 Summer Sports (*as above*)

New Lunch Menu

You should now have received a paper copy of the new summer lunch menu.

Remember that children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free lunch and the price of lunches for KS2 children is now £2.05.

We are trying to move to a cashless system for lunch payments and we ask you to pay using Parent Pay if possible. This is a really easy system to set up and use at home. Please ask at the office if you need details of how to access Parent Pay.

IMPORTANT PTA NEWS

St Barnabas PTA is now in search of new members as from the 20th of April 2016 I, Lauren Rowell and Catherine Krenz will be resigning from our current positions. As many of you already know the PTA runs things such as the Christmas Fair, Leavers' Discos and also other events which raise money for the school. This helps to pay for School Trips and other additional equipment for the children. If the PTA does not get enough members then unfortunately the PTA will no longer be able to carry on, meaning that these events will no longer happen. The children may then also miss out due to a lack of funding. Many people think that being on the PTA would mean a big time commitment. This is not the case. If a number of people can contribute a little then a lot can be achieved! We are holding a meeting on the 20th of April after school at 3:15PM. This will allow us to discuss future events and positions. We hope to see you there.



Thank-you for your time.

Lauren Rowell (current chair of the PTA)

Catherine Krenz (current secretary of the PTA)

Dates Spring & Summer 2016 (11.4.16 version)

Date	Event
12/4	Edison Class begin swimming lessons at Energise for whole term
Weeks 18/4, 25/4	The BIG PEDAL (national competition). Please support children to bike/scoot to school in these weeks.
20/4	3:15pm PTA meeting. Please come to reception.
26/4	Parents' Evenings (usual 10min app) 3:20-6pm
27/4	Parents' Evenings Meetings 4-7pm
May	Year 2 Assessments take place throughout May – please do not book holidays/appointments.
3/5	8:45-9am Parents in Class Sessions. Edison & Key Stage 2 Classes
5/5	Police Commissioner Elections in School. School staying open for children.
Wk 9/5	Year 6 SATs Tests - please do not book holidays/appointments this week.
10/5	Evening – Shakespeare Class perform at Theatre Royal as part of West Schools' Shakespeare Project.
Week 16/5	Walk to School Week. Please encourage active ways to travel to school this week.
24/5	Visit from Olympian (swimmer), Chris Cook
27/5	Break up for half term
6/6	School reopens for children
10/6	Queen's 90 th Birthday Party Lunch
Wk 13/6	Year 1 phonics screening- please do not book holidays/appointments this week.
14/6	8:45-9am Parents in Class Sessions. Key Stage 2 Classes
16/6	8:45-9am Parents in Class Sessions. Edison (year 2) Class
8/7	12pm – 3pm Family Picnic and Sports Day
15/7	Reports out
21/7	Evening Leaver's Disco (R/KS1 6-7pm, KS2 7:30-8:45pm)
22/7	1:30pm Leaver's Service School closes for summer.
Tues 6 th Sept 2016	Children return to school