



# St Barnabas News

12<sup>th</sup> January 2018



"Barnabas, the Encourager"

'Community, Friendship, Trust, Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Courage'

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Spring Term.

## IMPORTANT - Changes to the Start of the Day

To give a more prompt start to lessons in the morning we are making a few changes.

At the start of the school day (8:45am) the outside bell will be rung and children will now be asked to line up in their classes (as they usually do at the end of break times).

The class teacher and TA will lead them in and the cloakroom door closed after the last class. Late arrivals should enter via the main entrance.

Parents are asked to say 'Goodbye' to children before they line up and not to come with children to the line or into the cloakrooms with the children. Children should be expected to bring all their belongings into school themselves as this helps them to learn skills of independence.

There were a lot of children arriving late for school in the weeks leading up to Christmas. We understand that unexpected circumstances can lead to occasional lateness, however it is important that children are in class from the start of the day as they can miss important messages and introductions to learning activities if they are not.

For safety reasons, parents are not able to take children down to their class if they have arrived late. If you need to visit the office or speak to the Out of School Club in the mornings, please do so via the main entrance. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



## Stay and Learn – Spring Term

You are invited to visit your child's class, to find out more about what and how they are learning in class in the half termly Stay and Learn Sessions.

These are usually about 20 minutes long unless specified otherwise. We hope that you will be able to come in on the dates below this term:

- **Simmonds:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2:30-3pm; Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2-2:30pm
- **Malala:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 8:45am; Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 8:45am
- **Edison:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 8:45am; Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 8:45am
- **Luther-King:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 8:45am; Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 8:45am
- **Shakespeare:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 8:45am; Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 8:45am
- **Anderson:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 8:45am; Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 8:45am

If there is an area of learning you would like to know more about (e.g. maths number lines) please let us know by emailing or sending a note via the office and teachers will do their best to provide further information / demonstration of these through the Stay and Learn sessions.

Thank you for all your support with our festive celebrations. I'm sure you will agree that the children performed brilliantly in their Nativity and sang and read beautifully at the Carol Service. They all had a wonderful time on Christmas Dinner and Party day too. The choir gave a wonderful performance of carols when they visited Barleyfields Sheltered Accommodation and enjoyed chatting to some of the residents. I hope you all enjoyed your celebrations at home too.

## Change to Lunch Menu Next Week

To brighten up these cold, gloomy days we will have a [Fun at the Beach Theme Menu](#) (click/attached) on Thursday. The usual Thursday menu (Week 3) will be served on Friday.

## This Term's Value is Respect

We are thinking about what respect looks like and how we can treat all people, objects and the environment respectfully. This includes the importance of treating others with respect even if we don't agree with the way they behave or things that they say. You may like to look at the [home-school sheet](#) together (click or see copy sent home)

Children who bring in something to show they have completed an activity from the sheet will receive a special certificate in celebration assembly.

Also, we are looking out for children who show respect in school. Some children from each class will be given a special mention and a sticker in Celebration Assembly each week for this.



## Active Travel

Last term it was great to see so many of you making an effort to walk/scoot/cycle to school (all or part of the way). Walking Wednesdays will continue with classes competing for the highest number of children travelling actively to school on that day. The Golden Lock will also be awarded on a random day of the week to a bike/scooter in the shed.

Well done to all the Year 5 and 6 who took part in the Bikeability Training last term. This term, Reception children are having balance bike lessons and activities as part of their PE / Safety curriculum. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Erin Gray from Sustrans will be running Scooter Skills lessons for Year 1-3.



## No E-Cigarettes on School Premises Please

We ask that e-cigarettes are not used on school premises as we feel that they do not promote the healthy lifestyle that we encourage at school. Thank you.

Everyone is welcome at the all age Christingle Service at St Barnabas Church on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 10:25am (tea and toast from 10am)

## New Outdoor Equipment

You may have noticed our new outdoor classroom at the back of the school which was installed over the Christmas break. We were fortunate to be awarded a grant from the Big Lottery for this and a few other items: an outdoor weaving trellis in the Prayer Garden; a large outdoor play kitchen and outdoor whiteboard/chalk board for the Reception/Year 1 outdoor area.

Later this term, this outdoor area will also be extended slightly.

These items will give more opportunities for children to do more of their learning outdoors in the fresh air. The outdoor classroom will also be used by Playgroup, Toddler Group and Out of School Club. We will be having an official 'opening' with a day of outdoor themed activities, including tree planting and a visit from a poet on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

We have had to contribute a small amount to this outdoor project which we hope to fund through various fundraising including non-uniform days.

We now need long pieces of fabric for our weaving trellis so if you have any old duvet covers or curtains please send them in for us to cut up and use.



## Please sign in for assemblies and class events

As part of improvements to our fire safety procedures we are asking parents/visitors to sign in when attending Celebration Assemblies or class events such as Stay and Learn. There will be a simple signing in sheet at the office (with less detail than the usual signing in book) or in the classroom for this purpose. You will not need to wear a visitor badge for these events.

## School Governors

There have been a few changes on the Governing Body recently with some long standing governors, (Amanda Wilson and Michael Backhouse) stepping down. We are really grateful for all their support over many years. They are replaced by Jessica Gilmour (Parent Governor) and Lorna Longman (Co-opted Governor) who are both parents.

Governors will be spending the afternoon in school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January as part of their monitoring role and will be on the playground at 3pm if you would like to chat with them to give your views of the school or find out about their role. A new [list of governors](#) is attached (or click to view).