



St Barnabas C of E Primary School  
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*"Barnabas, the Encourager"*

**Headteacher: Miss K Boardman (BSc Hons)**

4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents

### **Class Arrangements**

Attached to this letter you will find the class arrangements for September 2016.

Miss Connolly, our new Deputy Head, will be starting in September, teaching Shakespeare Class and Mrs Mann will teach across various classes and groups.

As you can see, some classes are mixed ages as is the norm for St Barnabas. The way in which we mix the year groups varies from year to year according to pupil numbers and needs. When we mix ages, we consider very carefully the best group for each child to be in. Every year, however, we hear parents saying that children are 'kept down' or 'moved up'. This is absolutely not the case and it is unhelpful for children to hear this language.

Children will be having a session with their new teachers on Wednesday morning.

Many parents ask why we need to mix ages in classes, especially now that we have more classroom space. This is linked to the sizes of our year groups and the way that schools are funded. Some of our year groups contain approximately 20 children as our admissions number has been 20 pupils for a number of years due to the size of the building before our extension last year. The funding that comes into school generally supports an average of one teacher per 27-30 children. Having classes of 20 or fewer children (single age classes) throughout the school cannot be afforded even if we have the space to put the classes in. It will still take a while for us to fill up to the position where we can choose to have all single age classes if we wish. Children still spend one year in each year group regardless of which class they are in.

Teachers have non-contact time which is covered in a variety of ways and you will be informed about the details of this for your child's class in September. Most teaching assistants will each have a class that they are linked to but may also work with children from other classes too.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions about these class arrangements.

### **Thank You and Goodbye**

We are saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Bradley and Mrs White, two of our School Support Assistants, at the end of this term. Mrs Bradley has worked at St Barnabas for 11 years and Mrs White for 5 years. Both ladies have supervised children over the lunchtime period and have also supported children's learning in classes, Mrs Bradley with the very youngest children in school. Mrs White previously worked at St Barnabas Out of School Club and Mrs Bradley has supported the school community in a number of ways over the years, including being a member of the PTA.

I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking these ladies for the tremendous amount of care and support they have given to the children and families of St Barnabas during their time here. We will miss them!

## **Rest of the term**

The **Family Picnic, Sports Day and PTA Summer Fair** will be held this Friday starting from 12 noon. Information has already been sent home about this. We hope that you will join us for a great afternoon. The PTA invites children to enter a **BAKE OFF** competition with an Olympics theme (flyer attached). The cakes will be sold at the end of the day and there will be some amazing prizes for the winners.

There will be no Good work Assembly this Friday (7<sup>th</sup> July). The last one will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you to those who have attended them this year.

There are no clubs in the last week of term.

The **school trip** will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July and a letter has been sent out today (paper and e-mail).

The **Leavers' Disco** will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 6-7pm for FS and KS1 7:30-8:45pm for Key Stage 2. More information to follow.

The **Leavers' Service** will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 1:45pm in Church. We hope you will join us as we say 'Goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils'.

### **Finally..**

Thank you for all your support over this year. I hope that you have a very relaxing and sunny summer break. The Holiday Club is open daily each week and on the INSET day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. School begins again on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Best wishes

Miss K Boardman  
Headteacher