



St Barnabas News

13th September 2018



"Barnabas, the Encourager"

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

Clubs

Clubs running this term are below. Please book your child's place via the online system <https://stbarnabasyork.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/v2/> by 9:30am on Wednesday 19th September. A sports club will run for Key Stage 1 on Thursday lunchtime but places do not need to be booked. Y5/6 have already had information about sports clubs and competitions – thank you for your replies. We hope to have a further sports club running later this term and will send details when we have them.

- Monday 3-3:45pm – KS1 Choir (Y1&2) with Miss Denley
- Tuesday 3-4pm – KS2 Homework Club with Miss Connolly
- Wednesday 3-4pm – KS2 Dance Club with York Dance Space

The dance club will be preparing for the Yorkshire Schools Dance Festival to be held at York University on Sunday 25th November (rehearsal am, performance in afternoon). We hope that all children will be able to take part in the performance but they can still attend Dance Club if they can't take part in the performance.

Importance of Good Attendance

It is important that children attend school as much as possible to learn as well as they are able to. It is quite normal for children to have some time off due to illness but if holidays are taken as well this leads to them missing a lot of school and possibly falling behind with their learning.

At St Barnabas, we do not authorise holidays or leave of absence in term time, except in exceptional circumstances, in line with the guidance from the Department for Education.

Parents do not have an automatic right for their children to have authorised absence to go on holiday. If unauthorised leave of absence is taken, school may consider asking the LA to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. A Fixed Penalty Notice can require a parent to pay a sum of either £60 or £120. Each parent can be issued with a notice for each child so two parents with two children can potentially be issued with four notices.



If you wish to apply for leave of absence for your child, please complete the 'Leave of Absence' form available from the school office. You should allow 2 weeks for this request to be processed.

Please make routine appointments out of school time.

Remember that the school day and learning begins at 8:45am. Children should be on the playground ready to line up at 8:45am.

This Term's Value is Thankfulness

Children will be thinking about not taking things for granted, how it feels when someone thanks you, and remembering to let people know you are thankful. You may like to look at the home-school sheet together by clicking on the link below.
<http://stbarnabasprimary.co.uk/church-school/our-values/>



Planners

We have decided not to continue using the planners this year. Although they contained some useful sheets, they are very expensive and there are other more important items that we need to spend our school budget on. These have been replaced by reading records or exercise books for older children.

Home –School Partnership

At our consultation at the end of last term, parents told us they would like more informal opportunities to come into school.

We have introduced a number of new activities for you to come in to support your child. Each term, we will hold a 'Learning Café' from 9-9:30am where parents and children can take part in a fun activity together in the hall with breakfast refreshments. These are detailed on the dates sheet. The first ones are Reading Cafes later this term.

Each class will lead a short service of about 15-20 minutes in Church this year (see dates sheet). Parents are invited to come along to the service and stay for refreshments with their children and class teacher afterwards.

The Stay and Learn sessions will continue each half term. This is an opportunity to visit your child's class and take part in a learning activity with the children. Please let your child's teacher know if there are any areas you would like covering (e.g. how to help children with times tables) and they will do their best to arrange this in a Stay and Learn session.

If you have any other ideas about how we can work together better to support the children, please let us know.

Class Newsletters

The class newsletters (attached) have been re-designed to give you more detailed information about what your child will be learning this term. We hope that they are useful.

School meal payment

Please be advised that the new catering company (abm) runs a cashless system so all lunch payments must be made via Parent Pay. If you have difficulties using Parent Pay, please contact the school office.

New app

Our new app is now available. To download it, please search for Smart School Parent App in your app store and choose St Barnabas School. At the moment, anyone can download the app so please ignore the section that asks you to link your children to the account. We will send further information about this feature soon.

A useful feature is the settings section where you can choose to receive content directly related to your child's class. Therefore you will only receive relevant information.

We will be adding information into the app over the next few weeks, starting with 'Events' so please bear with us.

We aim that by Christmas, we will use the app for sending reminders and newsletters rather than the current text and email service. This way, all the information should be in one place. Attached is a booklet with more information about the app and its features.

Pupil Details Update Forms

We will be sending out new forms to those who haven't returned them yet. It is essential that we have the forms checked and returned asap so that we have the correct emergency contact details. We are now required to hold at least 2 contacts so please ensure that we have this information.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Miss Boardman or Miss Connolly who will be pleased to help you.