



St Barnabas C of E Primary School  
Jubilee Terrace  
Leeman Road  
York, YO26 4YZ  
Tel: 01904 653323  
Email: [stbarnabas@york.gov.uk](mailto:stbarnabas@york.gov.uk)

Headteacher: Miss K Boardman (BSc Hons)

*"Barnabas, the Encourager"*

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are all well.

Apologies that it has been a few weeks since my last update.

We have been busy in school taking in more pupils gradually since 1st June in line with government guidance.

We began initially by increasing the key worker group, we then opened for all Reception children who wanted to return.

Today we have welcomed another two groups, including all Year 1 children who want to return and a lot more key worker children. Apart from 1-2 spaces in key worker groups we have reached our capacity as we have no more available staff at the moment.

This means that we are still not in a position to bring back Year 6 or any other year groups. We would love to have all the children back in school but following the government's current guidance it is not possible. I am still hoping that guidance might be relaxed to enable us to invite Year 6 back even if just for a few days or a one off socially distanced event.

It has been so lovely to see children back in school and their amazing smiles. The classrooms look quite different and there are new routines to get used to but I have been so impressed with the way in which children have quickly adapted to the changes. They are being so sensible and should be very proud of themselves.

## **Home learning**

Teachers continue to set home learning for children who can't come to school. However if your child's teacher is working in school, they only have a small amount of time each week to manage the home learning. They will do their best as always but this means you may see reduced communication and support from the teacher.

The teachers keep me up to date with how children are getting on with their learning at home. Please tell them a huge well done from me as they continue to try hard and produce some excellent work. I am very proud of them! Thank you parents for your continued support with this. I appreciate that levels of motivation may be lower now and you may have increasing work demands. As always, we ask that you do your best in your different situations.

If you need additional paper / exercise books / pencils etc we will be happy to supply these. Please message your child's teacher or contact school and we can arrange for you to collect it. Unfortunately we can't provide paper packs of resources for everyone at home as there isn't the time for staff to prepare these as well as in school lessons, home learning and daily cleaning of equipment. We do not expect you to print off sheets that the teachers send you. If your child can see the sheet on a device they can write the answers on some blank paper.

If you do not have a device and /or internet access at home please let the teacher know and we can make arrangements with you.

Teachers will continue to keep in touch with children not in school and are hoping to arrange Zoom meets where the class can say hello to each other. These will not be 'live lessons'.

Teachers will be in touch with you directly about this as there are certain rules that need to be followed for everyone's safety.

## **Arrangements for September**

As you may have heard, the government has announced that all children will return to school in September. We haven't been given any further details about this at the moment but I will let us know about arrangements as soon as I can. We don't know if all children can return full time or what social distancing measures will be needed.

You may also be aware of the catch up funding announced last week. Again we are awaiting further details, but we are already considering how we will use this to support all children to do as well as they possibly can in school.

We are planning our priorities for when all children return to school and alongside English and Maths we will be prioritising social and emotional development, mental health and physical activity as we know that children have not had the same opportunities to mix with friends and exercise over the last few months. We would like to know what you think is important for your children when they return so look out for a survey about this soon.

## **Staff changes**

We are sad that several members of staff leaving at the end of term.

Mrs Entwistle in the office is leaving to take early retirement.

Miss Connolly, our Deputy Head, SENCO and Luther-King Class teacher is leaving to pursue other career opportunities.

Mr Jach, Shakespeare class teacher, is relocating out of York to be closer to family.

I would like to thank each of them for their excellent work and commitment to supporting children and families of St Barnabas. We will really miss them and wish them happiness with their future plans.

We have been busy recruiting new staff via Zoom interviews and I will be able to give you details of these very soon once all their checks have been done.

The new teachers are planning ways to introduce themselves to their new classes and to find out more about the children before September.

Class and staffing arrangements will be sent out in the next few weeks along with end of year reports (based on the period September to March).

## **New Class Names Project**

Thank you for your fantastic suggestions for our new class names based on people who you think are inspirational. It would be great to have some more ideas so the closing date has been extended to Monday 29th June. Please send in your ideas on this

form [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GT0e3aNNrCHMdT0zIt\\_8NYs8ABXOdDwvjbSkrQigQV0/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GT0e3aNNrCHMdT0zIt_8NYs8ABXOdDwvjbSkrQigQV0/edit) .

Click [here](#) for more information. Don't worry if you can't explain reasons for your choice - just names of people is fine. You might also like to look at the ideas on this website to help you to choose <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/famous-people>

## **Out of School Club**

Under the current government guidelines it's not possible for the club to run at the moment or in the summer holidays. I know some of you will need childcare during the holidays and this message is being taken back to the government. We are expecting more information about summer holiday opening at the beginning of July. The club would need a certain number of children to make it financially viable to run, unless funding can be found to make this possible. The club will be contacting parents very soon to ask what childcare you think you will need in summer and in September.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please do not hesitate to contact me by phoning or emailing school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Boardman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Miss K Boardman  
Headteacher