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Headteacher: Miss K Boardman (BSc Hons)

*"Barnabas, the Encourager"*

30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Updated Covid Safety Information**

I hope that you have had an enjoyable half term despite the rainy weather.

There have been a few slight changes to the DfE Covid guidance for schools recently. We have also reviewed some of our procedures and updated our full risk assessment which can be found on the link below.

[St Barnabas Covid Risk Assessment update 30.10.20](#)

The DfE has also updated the [guidance for Parents and Carers](#).

All the key safety measures remain the same e.g. regular handwashing, enhanced cleaning, not attending school and getting a test if anyone has symptoms of coronavirus, keeping children in smaller 'bubbles' in order to reduce contact, following the self-isolation rules.

A summary of the changes to and reminders about our procedures are below. Some of these have already been communicated to you.

### **Drop off and Collection Times**

These remain at 8:40am / 2:55pm for Group 1

The times for Group 2 have moved 5 minutes earlier to 8:50am / 3:05pm.

The playground gate will now be shut at 9am.

### **Safety at Drop off and Collection Times**

Please follow the social distancing rules, avoid gathering in groups and approaching staff closely to speak to them. As an additional preventative measure, we recommend that adults wear a face at these times as social distancing may be more difficult.

To help to reduce congestion at the entrance we will be opening one of the main gates. The car park remains closed to cars. We started by having the gates open to allow more space for pedestrians but then had to close them as cars had started to drive in, causing a different risk.

Please also remember to park safely and responsibly in the area around the school. We encourage children to walk / scoot/ bike to school where possible. However please remember that bikes and scooters should not be ridden inside the school gates.

It is important that everyone plays their part in keeping the whole school community safe!

### **Keeping Children in Consistent Groups**

Children will continue to spend the vast majority of their indoor time with their class group. We have made some changes at break times so that each Key Stage is split into 2 bubbles, each in a different zone of the playground (hence the barrier down the middle). This reduces contacts between children. Although it is a shame that children aren't mixing as much across the school, it should mean that fewer children need to isolate if there is a covid case in school.

### **Children who are unwell**

It remains the case that if your child or any member of your household displays Covid-19 symptoms, your child should not come to school and the person with symptoms should get a test.

If a child shows symptoms of Covid-19 during the school day, we will need to send them home as soon as possible.

In addition, if we receive information about a positive covid test during the school day, we will need to send the children / staff identified as contacts home as soon as possible.

Therefore, please ensure that you check your phone regularly and that we have the correct contact details for you.

Thank you for engaging with school and discussing your child's symptoms with us when they are unwell.

### **Ventilation of classrooms**

Good ventilation has now become one of the 'essential measures' that has to be in place. The classroom windows will need to be open when the room is occupied. We have been told that they can be open slightly and do not need to be wide open, however this may mean the room is cooler than we would normally have it.

We therefore recommend that children wear an additional layer such as a vest and wear tights rather than socks with skirts. In addition, children are free to bring an additional layer to wear over their uniform in class if they are cold in class. This does not have to be school uniform but should be something that isn't too restrictive. For example, a fleece jacket, large jumper or cardigan. Children should ask if they would like to wear their additional layer.

We will increase the heating if necessary to ensure that the classroom is a comfortable environment and move children's places so they aren't always sitting by the window.

### **Remote Learning**

On our INSET day before the break, staff were trained in the use of our new Chrome Books to make learning more exciting in school as well as and a new improved way to deliver remote learning.

Over the next few weeks, children in Key Stage 2 will be learning how to use the Chrome Books and access Google Classrooms with their own username and password. We plan to start using this platform for KS2 homework and to set work if children have to isolate at home. This is a better way for teachers to monitor the work that children are doing at home and be able to give feedback.

Although Key Stage 1 children won't be using this just yet, we will be sending out information to parents so that you can hopefully help your child to access work in this way if they have to isolate at home.

Look out for more information coming home soon about this! If you haven't already completed our survey about the device your child uses at home, the teachers will ask you about this at parents' evening.

### **Message from the Governors**

*"The Governors are pleased that the children have happily come back to school, settled in well and we have heard and observed some good work emerging in the first half of the Autumn term, thanks to the hard work of all the staff in school. Thank you, too, to parents and carers who have helped with the children settling back at school and following all the extra regulations which have had to be in place in these uncertain times to keep everyone safe."*

I hope these measures reassure you that we continue to put in place all the necessary measures in place to keep your child as safe as we can and to support their learning if they have to be at home. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Other reminders**

Remember to send back the forms with your child's Christmas card design on Monday. We need to get them ready to send off on Tuesday.

Remember to book an appointment for a video call parents' evening appointment. <https://stbarnabasyork.schoolcloud.co.uk/> or arrange for a phone appointment with the class teacher.

From 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November, send your filled shoeboxes or items for a shoe box into school for our [shoebox appeal](#)

We have some flat pack pre-printed shoe boxes available if you would like one. They will be on a table outside after school one day next week.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes



Miss K Boardman  
Headteacher