



St Barnabas C of E Primary School
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Headteacher: Miss K Boardman (BSc Hons)

"Barnabas, the Encourager"

19th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe we are almost at the end of our first half term - it seems to have flown by! It has been a really positive time in school and I am really proud of all the children and staff for adjusting quickly to the new routines, working hard and showing fantastic enthusiasm. Even though the school community doesn't physically come together in school at the moment, there is still a strong sense of community and belonging. Thank you parents for all your support as we all adapt to the ever changing situation.

This week in school..

- School is closed on Friday for a staff training day.
- On Thursday, children are invited to wear non-uniform or fancy dress (theme - something to make us smile!) for a donation of £1. The donation can be sent into school or paid as £5 for the whole year of non-uniform days on Parent Pay. Outfits must still be practical for school suitable / safe for playing outside. Children who usually have PE on Thursday do not need to bring / wear PE kits as well.
- Thursday is the closing date for the PTA Design a Pumpkin Competition with winners announced.
- The PTA will be selling sweets (2 stalls so please maintain distancing) after school on Thursday.

Small change to drop off and collection time for Group 2

As the school site clears quickly after Group 1, the times for Group 2 will move forwards 5 minutes at both ends of the day. The new times are as follows:

Drop off: Group 1: 8:40am Group 2: 8:50am (new time)
Collection: Group 1: 2:55pm Group 2: 3:05pm (new time)

Please remember to maintain social distancing and avoid gathering in groups. We strongly recommend that adults wear a face covering on the school site, even though they may be outdoors.

Parents' Evenings

The parent-teacher meetings will take place via video call this year on the following dates:

- Tuesday 10th November 3:30-5pm
- Thursday 12th November 3:30-5pm
- Tuesday 17th November 3:30-5pm

The booking system is the one we have previously used so this should be familiar to most of you. The difference is that it will generate a video link for your appointment.

To book your appointment slot, please visit [School Cloud](#).

Bookings will open at 4pm on Thursday 22nd October and will close at 12 noon on Friday 6th November.

If you have problems booking an appointment, please contact Mrs Galley in the office.

We are hoping that the vast majority of parents will be able to attend via video call. To do this, you will need a smartphone or tablet (with broadband or enough data) or a laptop/ computer with a webcam. If you do not have this technology, teachers will be happy to arrange a phone appointment with you although this may need to be on a different day. Please contact them via Clasdojo to arrange this.

You can find full instructions for attending your video call appointment [here](#).

Christmas Card Designs

Whilst it is a little earlier to be mentioning Christmas, your child will be bringing home a design by the end of this week with a form for parents to complete. Your child's design will be made into Christmas cards and other items that you will be able to purchase. In order to do this, the form with your child's design must be returned to school on Monday 2nd November.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Appeal

This year, we would like to support a campaign called Operation Christmas Child, run by the UK charity Samaritan's Purse. This involves sending shoeboxes full of gifts – things like cuddly toys, games, balls, hats, gloves and scarves, stationery and hygiene items – to children in need around the world. Through this campaign, we want to teach children here about generosity for others, and compassion, to make them aware of the fact that there are children elsewhere in the world who have nothing, and give them the opportunity to do something practical, yet so simple, that can make such a difference.

There are two ways in which you can get involved:

1. Find your own shoe box. Wrap it and fill it with items. Send a complete shoe box into school by Monday 9th November.

2. Send one or more individual items into school by Monday 9th November. These items will be put together to make complete shoe boxes.

See the links below for information about how to pack your shoebox and items to include.

[Samaritans Purse Information](#)

[What Goes In My Shoe Box](#)

PTA Meeting

Thank you to those who attended the PTA AGM and contributed ideas about how to fundraise in the current situation. The minutes of the meeting can be viewed here.

Over the past few years the PTA have been raising funds not just to support school visits and treats for the children but also to purchase some new much needed IT equipment for the school. We were very excited to receive our order of 30 ChromeBooks last week which the KS2 children will start using in class in the next few weeks to support learning across the whole curriculum. We are hugely grateful to the PTA for the donation of £2000 towards this equipment and look forward to telling you more about the difference they are making to children's learning.

You can help raise funds for the PTA whilst doing your online shopping by signing up to

[Easy Fundraising](#). Each time you shop via this app, a donation is given to St Barnabas PTA. It is very easy so take a few minutes to sign up now!

Flu immunisation

Public health advice is that children should have the flu vaccine this year which takes the form of a simple nasal spray administered in school by nurses. The deadline to sign up electronically is 25th October. [Sign up here.](#)

Harvest Donations

Thank you for your very generous donations which will support the charity Christians Against Poverty. They were a wonderful addition to the harvest display in church.

[Twitter Post](#)

Dates - see attached sheet

We have planned as many dates for the year as we can at the moment and will continue to add to these. These dates will be added to the ParentMail app and can also be found on the [Dates section](#) of our website.

A note about non-uniform days: PE won't take place on these days so children can wear non-uniform instead. For this reason, the days of the week vary through the year.

Christmas: We will not be able to have the traditional nativity performance and carol services this year. We are looking at how each class can take part in something that can be shown to parents though.

New school phone number:

Remember to update your contact information for school with our new number 01904 555152, however this is still presently appearing on your phone as 01904 553300 when the school calls you.

Remote Learning / Devices at home survey

If children can't attend school because they need to isolate (but not unwell), the class teacher will set some learning that will match the learning of the whole class as much as possible. Children are expected to complete this work. We now have a remote learning policy ([click here](#)) which sets out our responsibilities and how we will provide this learning. Now that we have our Chrome Books, we will be teaching the KS2 children to use Google Classrooms so that we can eventually move to setting work on this platform. This will enable the teacher to give better feedback to the children.

It is really important that we understand more about the device your child will use at home for remote learning if they can't attend school. Thank you to those of you who have already completed this survey. We ask that you complete this as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

[Devices at home survey](#)

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break and that the weather stays good enough to have fun outdoors.

With best wishes

Miss K Boardman
Headteacher