



School Newsletter

Barnabas the Encourager

Courage, Compassion, Creativity

Message from Miss Richards

What a busy (and long!) half term we have had. It has been wonderful to see the children settle into their new year groups and classes so well—it has been a great start to the new school year. Already, we have made great strides in our journey of school improvement and I am excited for what lies ahead of us this year.

Whilst we have made the decision to not send weekly newsletters, we will share updates, news and celebrations with you at the end of every half term. A reminder that to help streamline communication, our use of Class Dojo will change after the holidays. School staff will be able to send messages home but we ask that all contact to school is made either via teachers at drop off and pick up or through the school office.

Alongside the newsletter today, you have also received information about parent governor elections. Our local governing body is essential to the effective running of our school. The attached letter outlines the role of a parent governor and the nomination process. If you would like to find out more about the role then Anne Williamson, our Chair of Governors, would be more than happy to chat with you. Please direct any questions to the school office.

Wishing you a wonderful week.

Miss Richards
Executive Headteacher

Diary Dates

Weds 6th Nov: Birch Yorkshire Museum Trip

Thurs 7th Nov: Non-Uniform Day- Bring an item for a PTA Christmas Hamper

Thurs 7th Nov: Pedestrian Training -Birch

Mon 11th & Tues Nov—Parents Evening (please book online)

Thurs 21st Nov—Murton Park trip – Birch

Tues 26th Nov—New starter open afternoon (reception starters 25/26), 1:30—2:30pm

Thurs 28th Nov—Robotics & VR Space workshop, Oak and Birch (in school)

Fri 29th Nov - Minster Visit – Birch plus Y5 choir

Thurs 5th Dec—Choir – St Olaves School

Thursday 12th Dec—Whole school nativity PM (time tbc)

Monday 16th Dec—Whole school nativity PM (time tbc)

Tuesday 17th Dec—A Christmas Cracker – Panto (in school) am

Tuesday 17th Dec—Christmas Carol Service at St Barnabas Church, 2:15pm

Thursday 19th Dec—Christmas Dinner

Further events and details of those listed will be shared next half term.

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Fundraising

At the beginning of term, we put out a plea for any parents and carers interested in setting up a PTA.

We are delighted to have had willing volunteers come forward who are committed to raising funds to support our school. All funds raised through PTA events goes directly to the children.

Our first fundraiser is a raffle for Christmas Hampers! Children are invited to attend school in non-uniform on **Thursday 7th November** in return for a donation towards a hamper.

If you would like to be involved in fundraising for school or have any time or ideas to offer, please speak to Mrs Andrew.



A huge thank you to Mrs Bowman who has been running the bake sales this half term. This has been to raise joint funds for school and for Tourettes Action, a charity that supports children and families living with Tourette's syndrome. Whilst we are keen to raise money for school, it is equally important to us that we support charities that directly help our families

To further support fundraising for Tourettes Action, please see the link below for Mrs Bowman's Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/danielle-bowman-1726772558713?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fdanielle-bowman-1726772558713&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share



Enrichment

At St Barnabas, we are committed to giving our children opportunities to enrich their learning beyond the classroom.

As you can see from the diary dates above, we have some wonderful events planned for next half term. Funds raised through the PTA will hopefully be able to subsidise some of these experiences as we appreciate that trips out of school can be costly.

So far this year, we have been able to offer the following enrichment opportunities:

- Willow and Hazel classes trip to Tropical World.
- KS2 Choir Club
- Oak class participation in Pathfinder's football festival
- Play leader training
- Participation in the National Schools Singing Project for Birch class and Y5
- Pathfinder schools' virtual Dance-a-thon
- YoYo workshop for Blossom class
- NSPCC workshop for Hazel and Oak classes
- Harvest workshops and service with Anne, Marion and Rev Paul

Next term, we are looking forward to more sporting events through Pathfinder Sports Offer and 'Chance to Shine' cricket sessions in school.

We will also be planning more enrichment clubs for after school and lunchtime as well as trips out to enhance learning.

It has been lovely to welcome parents into school too. Thank you for attendance at class welcome meetings, celebration assemblies and phonics information sessions.

Next half term, we look forward to planning more opportunities to share what we do with families.

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Our children, our leaders

At St Barnabas, we believe in the power of pupil voice and the importance of providing children with opportunities for leadership roles in school.

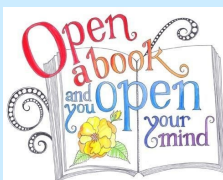
This half term, we have appointed a School Council and Play Leaders; next half term, Mrs Bruce will be appointing school librarians.

School council have an important role in terms of gaining wider pupil feedback and leading events and projects in school. In the first week back after half term, school councillors will sell poppies and other items to raise money for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal. Everything will be 50p and councillors will be selling at playtime.



In Years 4 and 5, we have appointed **Play Leaders**. The children gave up their own time to attend training after school at Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School as part of Pathfinder's Sports Offer. They were trained on a range of activities to lead in school at lunchtimes. This is a fantastic way for children to teach their peers fun games, encourage interaction and ensure active playtimes. We will be using part of our Sports Premium funding to purchase some new equipment so that Play Leaders can be up and running at the beginning of next half term.

We are very lucky at St Barnabas to have a wonderful central space to celebrate reading. We are champions of reading and Mrs Bruce will lead on making our library a more welcoming space that can be used more effectively by everyone in school. She will appoint **librarians** to help organise, design and run our school library over the course of this year—we can't wait!



Key Reminders

Cycling

We are pleased that so many of our children choose to cycle or scoot to school. We ask that children do not ride their bike or scooter until they are out of school gates. It can be very busy at drop off and pick and we would hate for someone to be hurt on the playground or on the path in and out of the playground.

Uniform

Wearing uniform gives children a sense of belonging and pride in their school. How smart our children look reflects their attitude to learning and to school life. Please ensure your children attend wearing the correct uniform, including shoes. We still have many children wearing white or coloured trainers.

This also includes our PE kit. Please ensure your child has a plain white t-shirt and black or navy shorts and joggers/ leggings as part of their PE kit.

Water bottles

It is important that children have access to a drink of water throughout the day. Please remember to send a water bottle into school each day and that it is taken home to be washed.

Booking lunches

We continue to have parents who do not book their child's meal in advance. It is vital that we know if your child requires a meal and what their choice is, even if you do not need to pay. Every day, meals are cooked based on the numbers booked. Often we have children at the kitchen hatch with no booking who we need to feed. We will never see a child go hungry but often, their first choice is not available and they are left feeling disappointed and reluctant to eat.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Andrew.

Admissions Consultation for 2026-27 Entry

In conjunction with City of York Council, we are currently consulting on our admission arrangements for 2026-27. The consultation is running from 7 October to 18 November and includes the admissions policies and planned number of places (PAN) available at each school in York for entry in September 2026. For more information and to respond to the consultation, please see the admissions page on our website or visit: <https://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissions2026To2027>.

As part of the joint admissions consultation, we are also consulting on reducing our planned number of places (PAN) from 30 to 15. This is due to projected lower pupil numbers within our catchment area for the 2026-27 admissions round. You can provide your feedback on the proposed PAN reduction and admission arrangements by visiting the link above.

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St Barnabas

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPEN AFTERNOON
Tuesday 26 November
1.30pm - 2.30pm

Will your child be due to start school in September 2025?



We are a small, friendly and inclusive school with a family feel. A school that aims to ignite curiosity and delight in learning, located in a spacious, modern building with extensive grounds.

Come and see us and find out about our:

- child centred quality provision delivered by experienced and highly qualified staff.
- excellent Early Years facilities and resources both inside and outside the classroom.
- seamless transition from Leeman Road Playgroup (based at the school) into our Reception class.



Can't make our open afternoon?
Give us a call on
01904 936330 to
arrange a visit!



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