

*We are a global community, learning and growing together.*



9<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful first week back. After three productive INSET days, it was a delight to open our doors to the children once again, and settle them quickly back into school. We have several new families joining us this term from all over the world. Welcome to the St. Barnabas family. We hope you soon feel at home.

Congratulations to our youngest children on their first few days of school. We are so proud of you! Year 6 are also worthy of a mention. You have stepped up admirably. You have been tremendous role models both in assembly and at playtimes, and we are particularly impressed with your focus and determination in lessons. Well done!

As we look forward to the term ahead, we hope that you find the information below a useful starting point. Please read it carefully as there is much to digest. Please could I draw your attention to two important events taking place this coming week. On Wednesday you are invited to meet your child's teacher (see below), and on Friday we invite you to a celebration assembly and a parents' coffee morning (see further details below).

### Staffing

To avoid any confusion, below is a list of staff and their roles in the school

Headteacher:	Beccy Harris
Deputy headteacher:	Luisa Penman
Office:	Debbie Cullen, Thao Thomlinson and Alison Barnett
Year 6 team:	Jules Christie (teacher), Eniko Canea and Libby Cullen
Year 5 team:	Shifa Furqan (teacher), Eniko Canea and Sarah Fletcher
Year 4 team:	Luisa Penman (teacher) and Jake Sanderson (sports coach/support teacher)
Year 3 team:	Dani Cameron (teacher) and Marie Thompson
Year 2 team:	Johnny Florida-James (teacher) and Phoebe Scotland
Year 1 team:	Vicky Zetterstrom-Sharp (teacher) and Anouska Saunders
Reception team:	Rebecca Tillotson (teacher) and Siham Moundji
Nursery:	Kate Ivey (teacher) and Alison Aston
SENCO:	Mary Whitlock
Music Teacher:	Tania Garrod

### Breakfast club, after school club and activity clubs

Breakfast Club and After School Childcare are up and running. Some activity clubs will start this coming week with more planned for later in the term once contracts and safeguarding checks have been finalised. You should have received an email from the office instructing you how to sign up for the clubs that are ready to start.



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### 'Meet the teacher'

Parents and carers of children in Reception and Years 1-6 are invited to visit their child's classroom and meet the teacher for a short briefing session. This will take place on Wednesday at 3.20pm and will be repeated at 3.45 pm for parents with more than one child. Key information will be shared about the curriculum, homework, PE days and class routines. If you are unable to attend, we will send you the PowerPoint slides afterwards.

### PE lessons

Our new Sports coach will be teaching PE to Years 1-6. Timetables and kit information will be shared at the 'meet the teacher' briefing. Details will be forwarded to parents who cannot attend.

### Forest School

We are finalising plans for Reception and Year 1 to take part in forest school activities this term. We will update you with more details next week.

### Choir and Orchestra

Tania Garrod, our music teacher will be running a choir and orchestra this term. Plans are being finalised on Monday

### Collective Worship/Assembly

Every school in the UK is required to hold a daily 'act of worship'. This may take the form of an assembly, a quiet moment of reflection in class or a prayer. Assemblies give us the opportunity to explore the big ideas in life, to think about why we are here and who we might become. We draw on different world views and religions, with examples from Christianity as our historic foundation. These sessions should be invitational, inclusive and inspiring. There should be something of value for all attending and no one should feel compromised or compelled to participate. Please work with us to get this right. We will shortly invite you to a community workshop to discuss it further.

### Celebration Assemblies

All parents and carers are invited to our weekly celebration assemblies (attended by Reception and Years 1-6). This will take place at 9am every Friday (i.e. after drop off) and will involve celebrating the week's key triumphs, large and small. We will also be celebrating birthdays. Please join us if you would like to for this joyous event.

### Parents and carers coffee morning

All parents and carers are invited to our first coffee morning. This will be on Friday 15th September after the celebration assembly in the school hall. This will be an opportunity to meet other parents,

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and to find out more about the community of the school including the governing body, the parent teacher association and the role of class-parent representatives. Please join us if you can.

### Meetings for children with special needs/additional needs

If your child is on our special needs register, you will soon receive an invitation to a short review meeting. If you are unsure whether your child is on this register, please contact the school office for clarification. These sessions will be held in 2-3 weeks' time.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Please make a careful note of term dates for this year. These are available on the school website. Attendance and punctuality are non-negotiable. Please ensure that your child is in school on every day that they are fit enough to attend. Please do not request authorisation for holidays during term time as it cannot and will not be given. Any routine and non-urgent medical appointments should be booked for after school or during the holidays. Our curriculum has been very carefully planned and sequenced. When your child misses lessons, it disrupts their learning and creates gaps in their knowledge. Furthermore, it impacts others in the class as learning often has to be reviewed.

The attendance rates at St. Barnabas last year were well below national average which is why Ofsted have rightly identified it as an area requiring immediate improvement. Please don't let us down. This has to be a community effort!

### Parent/Carer events for the term

We are finalising dates for the parent and carer events for the term and will share them with you shortly. We know how important it is to you to have advanced warning. Events are likely to include a phonics/reading workshop, a harvest festival celebration at the church, an international evening, parent-teaching meetings, an 'open classroom' morning, assemblies to mark key world religious festivals and several Christmas events.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your warm and generous welcome. I look forward to working with you over the coming weeks and months. Have a good weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Best wishes

Beccy Harris  
Headteacher



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