



Welcome to St Barnabas C of E Primary Academy

0161-223 3593



Early Years Information for Parents and Carers

Preparing our children to shine brightly

Shine like stars in the universe – Philipians 2: 14-15

-love, courage, service, forgiveness, compassion, generosity-

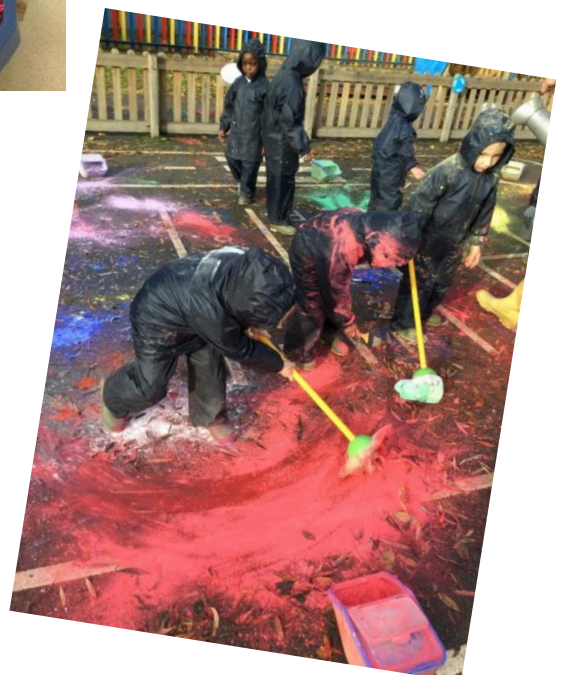
Welcome

Welcome to **St Barnabas C of E Primary Academy**. This is an exciting time for your family as your child begins their school life here. We hope that your child will be very happy, and enjoy many achievements, while they are with us.

St Barnabas is a vibrant school in the heart of Openshaw. We place a strong emphasis on the individual child and encourage our children to make the most of each opportunity, in order to gain the best from their education within our Christian setting. We work with the children to help them prepare for the ever-changing world in which we live, and to develop their skills in order to sustain life-long learning as well as strong self-belief and spirituality.

I consider it a privilege to be able to work with you and your children and know that together we can build a community of which we can be proud.

Charmain May
Principal



The Early Years Curriculum

At St Barnabas, we are proud of our curriculum offer, which enables all of our children in Nursery and Reception to learn and challenge themselves to become independent and motivated learners through direct teaching and the provision of learning based activities.

We help children to build on their social skills and develop their curiosity, fostering imagination and creativity both indoors and outdoors. We support children to make the right choices and to reflect on their experiences and behaviour.

All of our learning activities are carefully structured and planned in accordance with 'Early Years Outcomes for the Early Years Foundation Stage' and the International Early Years Curriculum.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is divided into eight areas of learning, all of which have equal importance.

- 🌈 **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- 🌈 **Communication and Language**
- 🌈 **Physical Development**
- 🌈 **Literacy**
- 🌈 **Mathematics**
- 🌈 **Understanding the World**
- 🌈 **Expressive Arts and Design**
- 🌈 **Characteristics of Effective Learning**



Our indoor and outdoor learning environments are organised into different areas of learning which provide activities to enable your child to make good progress.

Routines

Start of Day: parents must bring their child to the classroom door. Doors open at **8.40am**.

End of Day:

Nursery children are collected from the classroom door at **3.10pm**

Reception children are collected from the classroom door at **3.10pm**.

At the main gate each morning will be a member of staff to answer any quick messages from you regarding your child. If you would like a more in depth discussion, please either phone the office, contact the teacher on Class Dojo or email in to stboffice@vantageacademies.co.uk

Once inside the classroom, your child will remove their coat and put it on a named peg with the support of the staff.

Children have access to a range of indoors and outdoors activities each day. Some activities are directed by staff, and some your child will choose and lead themselves. Children will have a daily phonics lesson and will access Literacy and Mathematics through the activities in the learning environment. They will also receive a weekly RE (Religious Education) lesson, PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education) lesson and IYEC (International Early Years Curriculum) lesson. Reception children will also have reading 1:1.



PE

Children in Nursery and Reception have a weekly PE lesson. In Reception, the school provide a PE kit of shorts and a t-shirt and ask parents to provide black pumps. Please help your child learn to take their shoes and socks off and put them back on again, to help them to become more independent.

Uniform

Wearing uniform is important in giving children a sense of pride in belonging to our school. We expect all of our children to wear school uniform, which is clearly marked with their name.

Nursery

- 🌈 White short sleeved polo shirt.
- 🌈 Plain royal blue sweat pants (available from the school office).
- 🌈 Royal blue jumper or cardigan (available from the school office).
- 🌈 Plain white or black socks.
- 🌈 Plain black school shoes.
- 🌈 Plain black or royal blue headscarf or turban.
- 🌈 Plain black or blue hair accessories.

Reception

- 🌈 White short sleeved polo shirt.
- 🌈 Black school skirt, school trousers or school pinafore dress
- 🌈 Royal blue jumper or cardigan (available from the school office).
- 🌈 Plain white or black socks or tights.
- 🌈 Plain black school shoes.
- 🌈 Plain black or royal blue headscarf or turban.
- 🌈 Plain black or blue hair accessories.

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery as it can get caught on clothing and pulled / damaged. If children have pierced ears a single pair of stud earrings can be worn. These must be removed on PE day.

Food and Drinks

Children in the Early Years are provided with a piece of fruit and a carton of milk each day. They should bring a named bottle to school each day, containing water. **No fizzy drinks, milkshakes or juice are allowed.**

Toast is on offer termly at a cost of 20p per day, payable termly on Arbor. If you would like your child to have toast at snack time please speak to the office who will guide you through.

Reception children will have lunch at school. A school meal is provided for all children in Reception at no cost to parents. If you so wish, you can provide a packed lunch, however please make sure you tell the office about your choice to provide a packed lunch. We are proud of our Silver Healthy School award and as such we ask that packed lunches are healthy and nutritious for example: a sandwich, piece of fruit, yoghurt and sugar free drink. We do not allow chocolate bars, sweets or fizzy drinks – these will be taken off children and returned to parents at the end of the day.

All Nursery children will be asked to bring in a healthy packed lunch from home. We do not allow nuts to be brought in. All fruit should be cut up into manageable pieces.

Collecting your Child

At the end of each day, a responsible person must collect your child from school. This person must be over 18 years of age, or the child's parent / legal guardian. This person must be known to your child and known to the school as a person who is able to collect your child. If there is a change to the person collecting your child, please telephone the office and let us know in plenty of time. We will not let your child go with a person not known to school without this criteria being met.

Please keep the school informed of any changes to people able to collect your child and please keep your contact details up to date.

If there is an emergency whereby you need to collect your child early, then please go to the main office and a member of staff will collect your child. You will need to sign them out using the Inentry system.

Attendance, Punctuality and Absence

To give your child the best chance at shining and reaching their potential, they need to attend school every day.

However, it is quite normal for young children to suffer from a variety of childhood illnesses during their first year in school. Please inform school on the first day of your child's absence if your child is ill. Having a cold is not a reason to keep your child off school; some illnesses have specific timeframes for being off school and when you call we will let you know the guidance.

Being late for school is one of the biggest causes of upset for children. Please plan your morning routine to allow you to get to school in plenty of time and for your child to start the day well. If you are late, you will need to bring your child in through the office and sign them in on the Inventory system. A member of staff will then take them to their classroom.

If your child is taken ill during the school day, we will contact you or a person on your emergency contact list so that arrangements can be made to take your child home.

Time off for holidays during term time will not be granted, and if taken you could be fined by Manchester Local Authority. Leave from school may be granted in very exceptional circumstances and should be requested in writing to the Principal at least 2 weeks before the event. The Principal will then decide whether this can be authorised or not.

Our Learning Mentor leads on attendance and will contact you if your child is absent from school without a reason

being provided or if your child's attendance is causing concern.

Illness

If your child suffers from a long term or chronic illness it is imperative that we know about this before they start school.

Asthma – you will need to complete an asthma plan which details triggers and medication. This can be obtained from the school office. You are responsible for making sure that your child has an in-date inhaler and spacer in school. All staff receive annual asthma training.

Diabetes – working with the diabetic nursing team, we will complete a care plan for your child. Staff will be trained to spot your child's specific symptoms and to manage the care your child needs in monitoring blood-glucose levels, monitoring ketones and administering insulin.

Epilepsy – working with school health, we will complete a care plan to ensure that all staff working with your child are able to manage your child's condition.

Allergies – if your child has an allergy we will require their allergy care plan which will feed into our care plan. Staff receive annual training on anaphylaxis and administering adrenaline pens.

Head lice – at some point children in a school will catch head lice. Please let staff know if you have spotted head

lice so we can alert other parents (anonymously) to be on the look out. For advice on treatment for head lice, you can visit your local pharmacy.

Sickness and Diarrhoea- if your child has been sick or experienced a bout of diarrhoea they must be off school for 48 hours from the last episode.

We have several **First Aid** trained members of staff. We do not routinely call home when a child receives first aid unless they have a facial injury, head bump or a more significant injury. If your child receives a bump to the head you will receive a telephone call and they will come home wearing a wrist band to remind you they have had a bump.

Safeguarding

We have a duty of care to protect and safeguard children from harm and abuse. At St Barnabas we have a safeguarding team: Ms Kirk, Miss Nelson and Mrs Ennis, all of whom have the responsibility for championing the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Dealing with possible abuse of a child can be stressful for all parties involved; as educators we are required to record facts, allegations and notes of concern. Our main responsibility in cases of abuse is to prevent further abuse from happening. All staff at St Barnabas receive regular training to ensure they can recognise the indicators of abuse and understand the actions that need to be taken. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on our website.

Toileting

Children starting school must be able to independently use the toilet, unless there is a medical reason that they can not.

If you need to, remind your child every 20-30 minutes if they are not yet fully toilet trained. Use the Summer to continue the process until they are independently accessing the toilet, washing and drying their hands.

If your child has a toileting accident in school, we will help them to clean themselves and change their clothes. We ask that parents leave a named bag in school containing baby wipes, spare underwear, spare socks and spare clothes (this does not need to be uniform). If you do not provide this, then we will need you to attend school to change your child if they have an accident.

Communication

All of our communication will be electronic – we are a paperless school. The class teacher will send information and photographs using Class Dojo. You can also send in photographs of any home learning.

All other communication is carried out through Arbor. This is an information management and communication system used by school to safely store all of your child's information and also to send you emails and text messages.

Before your child starts school, we will send you the details to sign up to both Class Dojo and Arbor. It is crucial that this is done immediately.

School Funding

When your child starts at St Barnabas, we will ask you to check whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals. This is a funding stream for schools and if you are eligible, it can be worth up to £1320 each year which school can use to support your child's learning. Children are eligible if parents receive certain benefits. We ask you to check irrespective of whether your child will be taking a free school meal or not.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/vantage>

Starting School Top Tips

- Name all of your children's clothes including hats, gloves, shoes, coats. Clothing easily gets misplaced and names make it easier for us to return it to its owner.
- Buy sensible shoes, with Velcro fastenings, that children can run and play in – remember trainers are not allowed.
- Start as you mean to go on – establish a morning and end of day routine and stick to it wherever possible.
- Your child will tell you they have done nothing all day.
- Your child will settle as soon as you leave.
- The messier your child gets in Early Years – the more they have learnt. Every splodge of paint, smear of mud and line of pen tells a story of their learning.
- There is no such thing as bad weather in Early Years – the children will be outside learning (we provide waterproofs) in all weathers so make sure they have appropriate clothing including hats, gloves, sun cream etc..
- Read with your child each day – read to them, get them to tell you what they see in the pictures, get them to join in with repeated phrases like 'I'll huff and I'll puff...'
- Talk to them about their day – even when they tell you they have done nothing.
- Put your mobile away when you pick them up and make them your focus for the walk home.
- Treasure every painting, lollypop stick covered in feathers and card covered in glitter - they were made with love for you.
- You will be invited to far more school based events than you can realistically attend. Don't feel guilty – attend those that you can and don't worry about those you can not. Be aware that your child will tell you that EVERYBODY else's parents are coming – it isn't true!
- Engage with us – talk to us; tell us if your child didn't get enough sleep or if nana is poorly; sign up for Dojo – educating your child is a 2 team job: home and school.
- Enjoy watching your child grow and develop – don't worry that another child can do something quicker, bigger or better. Every child is unique and every child develops at its own pace.