



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to St Barnabas'. We look forward to working alongside you all to achieve the best possible Early Years education for your children. This year Miss Creegan will be assisting me in the EYFS classroom. Our main focus for the next few weeks will be settling the children into school routines, acquiring positive learning behaviours and building friendships.

- Termly topics will be in the form of Big Questions. Our Autumn 1 Big Question is 'Who am I? The big questions will allow a more open-ended approach to the topic, with learning activities largely based on the children's interests.
- Our online learning journal 'Tapestry' will be used to share your child's learning journey through photographs and videos. Each child will have his/her learning journey recorded through a range of learning experiences covering all the areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.
- In class we will be using floor books to record children's learning and ideas.

<u>Nursery Key Skills</u>	<u>Nursery Activities/ Experiences</u>
• I know who to talk to if I need help at school. • I can use kind words when interacting with peers and adults. • I can listen to stories and poems during carpet time • I can identify some of the things that make me special. • I can talk about my family, likes and dislikes	• Writing, talking, social skills and counting in role play. • Show and tell sessions for the whole class and I-I. • Musical interaction sessions. • Reading stories that relate to our big question Who am I? • Adults modelling turn-taking. • Engaging in turn-taking games and activities with adult leadership. • Friendship bangles and bracelets. • Talking about friendships inside and outside of school • Working towards a self-portrait

<u>Reception Key Skills</u>	<u>Reception Activities/ Experiences</u>
• I can develop social phrases • I can engage in story time • I can build respectful relationships • I can line up and follow school routines • I can talk about my family • I can follow simple instructions • I am familiar with the school setting and classroom routines, being able to access the activities set up for me • I can use mark-making or writing tools to create work of my choice • I can recognise numbers to 10	• GES Phonics • White Rose Maths • Role Play - Home Corner in class • Exploring the topic Who Am I? • Talking about our homes and family customs • Work towards a self-portrait inspired by Piet Mondrian • Finding out about ourselves, our family and friends and where we live • Turn taking and sharing games • Exploring numbers and shapes • Recognising and writing numerals • Listening to, acting out and retelling stories • Practice name writing • Learning about differences and similarities • Discuss our feelings and use of the zones of regulation • Fine-motor activities such as threading or play-dough • Action and movement games and activities • Singing nursery rhymes • Learning how to move safely around school • Speed agility travel and gymnastics in PE lessons

Suggested vocabulary -

My Body: head, eyes, ears, mouth, nose, arms, legs.

My Family: Mum, Dad, Brother, Sister, Grandma, Grandad, Auntie, Uncle, Cousin.

Feelings: happy, sad, worried, tired, excited, calm, nervous.

Home, House, Flat, Bungalow, School, Pimlico Class, Reception, Classroom.

Like, Dislike, Favourite, Similar, Different, Friend.

Phonics, Letter, Sound, Phoneme, Grapheme, Word, Sentence.

Maths, Number, Shape, Counting.

Curriculum Goals for Nursery:

- To be independent in simple hygiene needs (washing hands, toileting and dressing)
- To talk about feelings and to begin to understand how others are feeling
- To develop an interest in shapes, space and number; with a deeper understanding of numbers to 5.
- To move confidently and safely across different environments
- To show an understanding of the world around them and to begin to make observations and

comparisons.

- To give meanings to their marks and to write some or all of their name.
- To sing a variety of simple songs and nursery rhymes from memory
- To explore a range of media and materials in creative projects.
- To use talk to organise themselves using vocabulary based on their own experiences.
- To listen and follow a range of stories and explore through simple questions, role play and conversations.

Curriculum Goals for Reception:

- I can show understanding of my own feelings, those of others and I know how to regulate my feelings
- I can demonstrate engaged attitudes in a variety of activities
- I can share own ideas and thinking in conversations
- I can retell stories, rhymes, songs and events and I can show awareness of the listener
- I can demonstrate and share a love of reading
- I can read and write a meaningful sentence using phonics knowledge
- I can use equipment and tools with control
- I can move my body with safety, balance and control
- I can observe, explore and ask questions about the world around me noticing the changes and differences
- I can become a confident mathematical thinker who can apply my skills and solve problems
- I can express myself creatively using a range of available resources

In addition to the Parent Information pack on our school website, the following information will also be helpful as your child starts at St Barnabas’:

- **School Uniform:** All the children must come to school wearing the correct school uniform. Please ensure that all uniform items are named (especially sweatshirts and cardigans) as this helps to return lost items to the right children. It is important that the children wear appropriate footwear – black comfortable school shoes with Velcro fastenings help with developing independence.
- **Water Bottles:** Please can you send your child to Reception with a labelled water bottle, which will be made accessible to them throughout the day.
- **Book Bags:** These are an important part of school life as they help to bring home books, letters or art work that the children have made. Book bags need to be brought to school every day. Please make sure your child’s name is clearly labelled on their book bag. Books will be changed on a Friday.
- **Spare Clothes:** Each child needs to have a set of spare clothes in a **clearly labelled bag**, which will be kept on your child’s peg.
- **Snack Time:** Fruit and milk will be made available to the children every day. We will encourage children to try all of the fruits that are provided. If you haven’t yet told the school office about any medical or allergy information about your child, please do pass this on as soon as possible. We also try to encourage healthy eating during school hours, so please only provide your child with a piece of fruit or veg for snack time.
- **PE:** PE sessions will take place on **Wednesday and Friday**. On these days, the children should come to school wearing their PE kit - black shorts/jogging bottoms, T-shirt, trainers and the school jumper. PE will take place outside on Tuesdays and indoors on Thursdays. In the coming months you will need to consider the weather, as they might need to wear leggings or jogging bottoms as it gets colder.
- **Tapestry:** We use an online program called Tapestry to record your child’s learning journey through

Early Years. We value parents' contributions towards the children's learning journey. If you would like to share some great learning from home, you can also upload pictures and videos onto your child's Tapestry online journal. Some of these will be shared with the rest of the class.

- **Safety:** To ensure the safety of all pupils, the use of mobile phones and taking pictures of the children by parents is not permitted in our Early Years setting.
- **Medicines:** Only prescribed medicines in the prescription packaging may be administered at School and all the relevant paperwork must be completed by the parent/carer prior to any medication being administered. General medication (such as Calpol, cough medicine, eye drops) cannot be administered by any member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Dillon

Reception Class Teacher

Miss Creegan

Nursery Room Leader