



**We learn together, we play together, we pray together,
we grow together in the love of God**

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SPRING TERM 2024

Friday 12th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the spring term; I hope you all had a good Christmas Holiday and may 2024 be a positive year for us all.

Barnet have created an awareness leaflet for all parents (attached to the end of this newsletter) regarding the employment of workers/volunteers invited into your homes i.e. tutors, music teachers etc. The leaflet encourages you to ensure you have carried out your due diligence in ensuring these adults are safe.

Next week, all parents/carers will receive an email from the school regarding the upcoming Parent Consultation evenings (Thursday 1st February 4pm-6.30pm and Tuesday 6th February 4pm-6.30pm). You will also receive a link to the online booking system; if you are not able to access the online booking system, please contact the school office and we will make an appointment for you. Please note that the online booking system for the first consultation evening (Thursday 1st February) will close the day before on Wednesday evening (Wednesday 31st January) at 6pm. After this time, any further appointments for Thursday 1st February will need to be made via the school office. The online booking system for the second evening will remain open for a while longer. Parents/carers will be meeting and talking to their child's class teacher in the hall, but will also be able to look at their child's books in their child's classroom.

Have a lovely weekend

Barbara Costa

School Policies

If you are looking for any of the school policies, please visit the School Policy page of the school website. You can find it by following this link:

<https://www.st-theresas.barnet.sch.uk/school/policies/>

Applications for Reception

Applications are invited for the **Reception Class** for **September 2024** – this is for children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

The deadline to return this to the school office is 15th January 2024. The forms are available to download on the school website.

Please also be advised that you must also complete a CAF (Common Application Form) from Barnet – the on-line system is already open.

NEWS from the FRIENDS

We are delighted to have Mrs Maria Rosolowska continuing to help as the new Class Representative of Year 2.

We are currently seeking a new Secretary to join our team. If interested, please contact Ihiri Haswani on 07742755993.

New Girls Football Sessions taking place in Barnet

In partnership with Barnet Council and Middlesex FA, local football clubs across Barnet are delivering new football sessions for girls.

Weetabix Wildcats and Squad Girls sessions are a non-competitive environment, with sessions aimed at making friends, having fun and playing football.

Further information on the above programmes can be found via the links below –

<https://www.englandfootball.com/play/youth-football/weetabix-wildcats>

<https://www.englandfootball.com/play/youth-football/Squad-Girls-Football>

All clubs have FA Qualified and DBS checked coaches who have taken additional FA training to deliver these football programmes. Parents are asked to contact clubs directly to find out further information on sessions days and times.

The above sessions are part of a wider World Cup Legacy project that Middlesex FA are delivering to get more girls playing football. If you would like any further information please contact

Participation Development Officer, Andy Perren at andrew.perren@middlesexfa.com or call 02085151926.

St. Theresa's School on Instagram



You can follow St. Theresa's School on Instagram! Please search **st.theresas.n3** on the platform and you should find updates on the activities the school and our pupils have been involved in lately. Mr Troy adds content to our account regularly so please do have a look.

St. Theresa's pupil attendance target for 2023-2024 is 96%

Period	Whole school attendance
From 5/9/23 - now	95.9%

Class with highest attendance to date - Y6 is still in the lead with 96.7% attendance so far with Y4 now in second place!

At the end of the year, in July 2024, the class with the highest record of attendance will win a non-school uniform day!

The Wednesday Word

"After meeting Jesus, the two disciples immediately noticed something new in their hearts." *Pope Francis*

John's followers made a new start after discovering Jesus. This new year presents an opportunity for us to make a new start. Each of you say what is the best thing that you've ever started. What did you like about it? Ask your child if they have made any new starts in 2024. It may help your child if you mention any new starts or resolutions which you have made for 2024 and tell them how it's going for you. How does your new start help you or others?

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." *St Teresa of Calcutta*

As we begin this new year, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God? Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home before having to be asked; remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; be peacemakers and try to make friends with someone we've fallen out with. You may like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/new-start?pid=MTAI01634&cv=115.2>

Match Funding from your Employer

Match funding is a fantastic scheme whereby employers provide funding for organisations such as primary schools.

It is a very simple and easy means of extra funding. As an employee it doesn't cost you anything, except maybe a little help at an event but could mean *hundreds of pounds* of extra money for the Friends of St. Theresa's, which directly benefits the children. In many cases it is as simple as approaching your HR department and finding out about their scheme (the name of the scheme may differ depending on the company).

If you think you may be able to help us, then please do contact the school office and you will be put in touch with the Friends of St. Theresa's.



Reception	Hudson for working so hard on improving his handwriting. Kalindi for being so enthusiastic about her learning and her beautiful handwriting.
Year 1	Avicii for his wonderful attitude towards learning. Zema for preparing for our space topic by learning lots of facts about the solar system.
Year 2	Andreas for his effort in all his lessons and trying to work more independently. Well done Andreas. Daniel T for settling back into school life so brilliantly. Keep it up!
Year 3	Max for having wonderful manners and working hard to research facts about Ancient Greece. Leo for amazing persuasive writing planning for a job in a pet shop.
Year 4	Kimberly for using her learning muscles and producing a good character description about a gladiator. Kamo for being a Have a Go and trying so hard to join up his hand writing neatly and accurately.
Year 5	Anita for improving massively in Maths. Karo for working hard in all subjects and having a good attitude throughout.
Year 6	Arvin for a great first week back! I'm really impressed with how motivated you are. Erin for your wonderful written work this week. It was lovely.

The Golden Ticket Winners are:

Levi (Y2)

Maria (Y3)

ECP Education Child Protection

Online Safety

You don't need filters, likes or followers to be enough

You are enough, Just as you are

KIDSONLINEWORLD

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.45am - 8.30am in the school hall for £3.50.

Please let the school office know if you would like your child to attend.

Please ensure you pay for breakfast club charges in advance of your child attending, or on the morning.

Please ring the doorbell labelled "Breakfast Club" when you get to school in the morning, and a member of the breakfast club team will let your child in.

Dates for your diary

Wed 24 th Jan	Year 6 trip to RAF Museum
Wed 31 st Jan	Year 1 trip to Science Museum
Wed 31 st Jan	Year 2 trip to Tower of London
Thurs 1 st Feb	4pm-6.30pm Parent Consultations (face to face)
Tues 6 th Feb	Safer Internet day
Tues 6 th Feb	4pm-6.30pm Parent Consultations (face to face)
Mon 12 th -Fri 16 th Feb	Half Term
Thurs 22 nd Feb	3.45pm Online Safety Workshop for parents
Thurs 22 nd Feb	Y3 trip to British Museum
Wed 7 th March	World Book day
Fri 15 th March	Red Nose Day
Tues 19th March	Class Photos
Wed 27th March	6pm Y3/Y4 Easter Show
Thurs 28th March	Last day of term 1pm finish
*New dates in bold	



Thinking of employing a Private Tutor, Counsellor or sending your child to an Out of School Club?



Clubs, classes and tutorial sessions offer great ways for children and young people to develop their skills and confidence. But did you know that there is no regulation around certain types of activities with children? Even people who have committed criminal offences can legally continue to work in some roles, e.g. children's entertainer, private tutor.



So, how can you ensure that your children will be happy and protected?

This fact sheet will help you to consider: What to look out for; What to ask and What to do if you have any concerns.

How do I find a tutor or out of school club?

- Asking other parents if they can recommend anyone.
- Suggestions from your child's school.
- Adverts in the local press or internet.
- Contacting tutoring agencies who employ tutors and advertise in the local press and internet.

Whichever way you find a tutor or out of school club, you and your child should meet with the tutor or club teacher before the sessions begin. This means you can see how the tutor and your child seem to get on.

Don't simply assume that the provision will be safe. Make sure you ask these important safety questions....

- Can I read your policy on safeguarding children?
- Can I read your health and safety policy?
- Can I stay to observe the session?
- What emergency procedures do you have in place?
- Can I have a copy of your code of conduct for staff, volunteers and for children?
- Are all staff trained in safeguarding and first aid?
- Who do I speak to if I have any concerns?
- Do you have a child safeguarding page on your website, or a leaflet or information sheet that I can read?

High quality clubs and organisations will always welcome questions about their activities, the safety of their environment and care of your child.

How can I be sure that they are properly qualified and do not pose a risk to my child?

- Ask to see and check their professional references and qualifications certificates.
- Ask to see a copy of their Disclosure and Barring Certificate (Private Tutors are only entitled to a basic check). However, don't let a DBS give you a false sense of security.
- Make sure that you can monitor and take an interest in the activities undertaken.
- Talk to your child about their progress and what they have been doing.
- Do you know anyone who this person has previously worked with that you can contact?



Where should Private Tuition take place?

- Tuition is best to take place in the home, in a quiet place away from distractions.
- Bedrooms are not suitable for tuition.
- Be clear where the tutoring will take place and who will be present. You may wish either to be present in the same room, or to leave the door open and enter the room at random.
- Doors can be kept partly open to allow both an undisturbed learning environment and your supervision.
- Whether at home or a tutor's location it is important that you are able to go into the teaching area and can watch and listen if you wish. It is reassuring to children and tutors to know that parents or carers are near.
- If online, ensure sessions are arranged between yourself and the tutor directly and not your child. Sessions must not be recorded without your approval. Again, try and be present in the room for the whole session or popping in to check.

Any tutor who is aware and supportive of current professional standards in tutoring should have no objection to these arrangements and is likely to offer them without your suggestion.



Make sure your child knows:

- A tutor is a teacher not a friend – they should behave in a professional way like a teacher
- Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages or photos or videos
- They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform outside of the session.
- They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or, anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset.

Remember a DBS check and qualifications are not a substitute for parental vigilance, trust your instincts and don't be afraid to call off any lessons if you, or your child feels uncomfortable. If you have such a concern, report it, stop using the tutor and reassure your child.



Any adult who behaves in an inappropriate or abusive manner with a child should be reported to Barnet Children's Social Care Services on 0208 359 4066, or the Police on 101 or Barnet Council's Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) at LADO@barnet.gov.uk . The relevant authority will then make further enquiries and where necessary instigate a child protection investigation.