

William Barcroft Junior School



Parents' Information Book 2020-21

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for choosing William Barcroft Junior School. We have had another successful year and our team is going from strength to strength. This has been recognised in an incredibly positive Ofsted inspection during February, which confirmed that we continue to be a good school and recognised how *'Everyone works together to make this a great place to learn!'*

Our results are just one indicator of success; we were in the top 10% of schools nationally for progress in writing during 2019, and significantly above national average in maths too. The percentage of children reaching national standards in reading, writing and maths continues to be above the national average and is still improving year on year.

We are particularly proud of our curriculum which, with the help of the children and parents, is consistently evolving into an exciting, bespoke and highly motivational programme of study. Ofsted recognised how well we prepare our children for secondary school.

Our extended school offer is second to none with a wide range of clubs and activities being offered. Our programme of outdoor and adventurous pursuits builds up the children's team and independence skills culminating in a whole year group residential visit in Year 6. We ensure that all children experience trips, visits, interesting visitors, and have the opportunity to be involved in a performance.

This will be my eleventh year at William Barcroft and I could not be prouder to work in the community I myself was brought up in, with the most passionate team of educators.

We look forward to welcoming you into the school community.

Claire Constantopoulos

Headteacher

The Aims of William Barcroft Junior School

We continually strive to find the sparks, hooks and springboards that engage enthusiasm and imagination which leads to progress and fulfilment.

William Barcroft Junior School

A vision of an excellent place to learn

We aspire to be an extraordinary place to learn. A place that is built around our core values of mutual respect, trust, loyalty and cooperation. We understand that each learner is a unique individual with unlimited potential. We endeavour to create a school where everyone is valued and where we can embrace both diversity and those things that join us together. We aspire to be a place where everyone is able to achieve and enjoy learning and expect their success to be celebrated. We aim to work with children, parents and the broader community to enrich opportunity, make progress, maximise attainment, build positive and lasting relationships and engage in a powerful learning journey that has a lifelong legacy. We aim to create a school that enjoys the confidence of the community and one in which children expect to learn and smile.

The routes to this are:

- Provision of a rich, broad and relevant curriculum entitlement for each child
- Embedding innovation and creativity into learning
- Building a clear picture of the talents and passions of every learner
- Develop transferable learning skills that have enduring application
- Recognising and celebrating success and modelling key behaviours, traits and attitudes
- Living out our expectations of children as learners and young citizens every day

Our Team

Headteacher	Claire Constantopoulos	
Deputy Headteacher	Sarah Sargent	
Assistant Headteacher	Emma Emson	
Inclusion Leader	Rachael Cadey	
Class Teachers	Sarah Sargent Dan Ferrier Joe Bowden Ellie-Mae Beesley Martin Blake Nicola Shearer Gina Cutting Molly Stewart Nishi Keyworth	Emma Emson Rifka Burman Gemma Footitt Rachael Asher Rachael Cadey Jo Lister Holly Steane Ellie James
Teaching Assistants	Julie Duffett Sam Stark Angela Broughton Louise Wallis Joanne Otter Jayne Doo Victoria Hambling Louis Townell Harriet Cox	Dianne Moore Victoria Stokes Rebecca Redgriff Mark Myall Tarina Thompson Berwick Ellis Faten Salameh Hannah Riley Natalie Aird
Safeguarding Officer	Kate Wood	
Learning Mentors	Amanda Regan Gemma Baggott	Sally Culyer Donna Beeson
Administrative Staff	Angela Davis Maxine Mussell	Diane Dawson Fiona Scruton
Site Staff	Paul Dean Dianne Boulter	Julie Croft Janet Redgriff

Lunchtime Supervisor Ann Morgan

Governors

Shanie Brown

Donna Beeson

Jill Webster

Sue Baker

Donna Munson

Emma Emson

About Our School

School Times

Reading	8:40am
Morning Session	8:50am – 12:00 pm
Lunch	12:00pm – 1:00 pm
Afternoon Session	1:00pm – 3:05 pm

The classrooms are open for children from 8:40am – Children on the playground at this time must enter the school. If children are on the playground before 8:40am, they must be accompanied by an adult.

Please ensure that the children use the pedestrian gate when entering the site. Children are not permitted to cross the car park when entering the school premises as access is needed by staff at all times. Parents must not use the car park for dropping off and picking up children. For safety reasons your child should not arrive before 8:40am as we cannot provide supervision before this time.

Parents are welcome to come into school to speak to the Head with any queries they may have before school.

Monitoring of the people/cars who park on the zig-zags outside the school gates is carried out by our local PCSO.

Settling In

During July, before starting at William Barcroft new year 3 parents are invited to a welcome meeting. Here parents will have the opportunity to meet the head teacher, receive key information about the school routines and have any questions answered.

The children will be invited to join us for some sample lessons in order to make transition as smooth as possible. They will spend a session with their new class teachers. This has naturally been reduced from the transition package we normally deliver due to the Covid 19 pandemic, however we have worked hard to ensure that children still get the opportunity to enjoy settling activities in as safe a way as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns about your child's education.

Partnership with Parents

A close partnership with parents is central to the school ethos and we actively encourage all parents to become involved in all aspects of school life. We will keep you informed of school issues through whole school newsletters, texts and via the school's website. This also has a wealth of information about the school policies, work being covered and the children's own blog comments about their learning in school.

We will keep you informed each term about your child's progress through parents' evenings and through a full written report in summer term. You are welcome to discuss your child's progress at any time of the year by prior arrangement with the class teacher, the Head or Deputy Head.

There will be a number of days throughout the year when parents are invited in to work in class with the children. You are however most welcome to help with work in classrooms, e.g. with reading or art throughout the year, please arrange this with the class teacher.

Pastoral Care

A strong emphasis is placed on pastoral care in the school and our support has been described by Ofsted as '*second to none*'. The core of this is based on great communication both within school and between

school and parents and carers. Please do keep us informed about your circumstances, contact details and illnesses so that we can ensure your children are safe and cared for whilst in our care. If you have any concerns why not drop in for a chat with the class teacher, our learning mentors or the Head teacher.

Absences

We are working hard at William Barcroft to ensure that attendance is as high as possible and have a number of rewards in place for children who achieve full attendance.

If your child is ill, absences must be reported on the first day that your child is away, either by telephone or in person before 9am if possible. On return the child needs to bring with them a note. Any appointments should be made out of school hours and where this is not possible must be backed up with an appointment card.

Holidays in Term Time

Children taking holidays in term time has caused attendance levels at the school to be very low in previous years and of course this has a negative impact on progress. Governors at William Barcroft have adopted the government's policy of not allowing holidays to be taken in term time. Unless time out is due to medical or religious reasons they will not be authorised and fines will be issued.

Our much stricter stance on illness and not authorising holidays in term time has had a fantastic effect on the levels of absence in school and I am positive will have a brilliant effect on the attainment of children in school over the coming years.

Behaviour on site

Our prime concern is keeping our children safe and comfortable on site. If anyone is heard swearing, being abusive or threatening they will be barred from the school site. Scooters are no longer allowed on site as too many children were being injured.

Dogs are allowed on site if they are friendly, do not foul and are either on a lead or carried.

The Curriculum

Here at William Barcroft, we provide our pupils with a broad, rich and balanced curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, mental, cultural and physical development of pupils. It is planned to enable our pupils to gain a breadth of essential knowledge, understanding and social skills; thus enabling our pupils to be ready for the next stage of learning. SMSC and the teaching of British Values are woven and intertwined through the curriculum.

Our bespoke, creative curriculum is designed to develop children as independent learners, to ensure that they are engaged and have a love for learning and is underpinned by The National Curriculum 2014. Our curriculum has been designed to inspire our children to learn and is planned to be relevant to the children of William Barcroft Junior School. Cross-curricular links are exploited to show pupils how skills and knowledge can continuously be transferred from subject to subject. It is vital to extend our children's knowledge, understanding and improve their skills in a range of artistic, creative and sporting activities. Throughout the year trips, visitors and experiences further enhance the curriculum.

We teach through a topic-based approach. Each year group has three main topics to focus on throughout the year. All year groups have personalised topics with key focuses for each term. These topics are inspired by 'big' questions that spark enthusiasm and an enquiry approach to finding out the answers while

discovering and debating concepts along the way through a creative approach. All topics are planned to cover age related expectations for each year group, based on the 'new' National Curriculum. This curriculum is intended with challenge for all in mind. Our curriculum is not restricted to the classroom, we aim to use the whole school inside and out to enhance lessons and provide stimulating environments in which our children can learn. We celebrate children's successes across the curriculum and provide extra-curricular opportunities so children can continue their love of learning in clubs after the school day.

Coverage of age appropriate objectives and key assessment criteria are monitored closely by subject leaders and this helps to provide continuity, progress and personalised learning experiences for children as they move through the school. Teaching uses a variety of strategies including whole class, collaborative group work, pairs and individuals. We place a strong focus on developing children's basic skills and on the development of those skills.

We recognise that English, mathematics and science are fundamental to our pupils' education. Where possible these core subjects are linked to the creative curriculum themes. However essential discrete skills and knowledge, at times, will need to be taught and learnt. We understand the impact that maths and literacy skills can have across the curriculum and plan lessons to transfer these skills between subjects in order to hone these imperative skills.

Assessment draws on a range of evidence of what pupils know, understand and can do across the curriculum. This can be evidenced through work presented in topic books, photographs, tweets (including specific hashtags e.g.#wbjssmsc), displays in school and discussion with our pupils. We have developed assessment descriptors for all of our foundation subjects in order to track and record progress and attainment accurately. This is one means of analysing the impact of the curriculum. The goal is to meet the needs of the children within our school and give them every opportunity to succeed in every aspect of school life.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Here at William Barcroft we offer a wide range of clubs and activities. Children will receive details of current clubs that are running via assemblies and letters and need to return slips promptly in order to secure places. The following clubs have recently taken place in school: production (including choir/dance/drama), football, basketball, boxercise, badminton, table tennis, golf, dodgeball, Zumba, handball, science, craft, art, ICT, maths and gardening. We also run some clubs during school holidays when possible, such as craft clubs and sports clubs.

In addition, we have a breakfast club running from 8am each morning which is open to children in all year groups.

A new programme of out of school activities has also been implemented to supplement the curriculum, designed to build children's skills and confidence so that they can practise life skills independently. Here children will build up from basic camping skills in year three to participating in a full residential trip in years 5 and 6.

School Uniform

At William Barcroft we have a compulsory dress code. This consists of a red polo shirt, navy sweatshirt with the school logo on and either a grey or black plain skirt/ trousers. Shoes should be sensible *i.e. not heels or sling backs* in black or grey. Please ensure that your child does not wear brightly coloured socks or tights. P E kit consists of plain black/blue shorts and plain t-shirt. Warm clothing and trainers are essential for outdoor games.

Children may wear their own clothes on their birthday.

School uniform can be viewed and bought from the school office.

We continually invest in providing the best possible equipment for your child in school to provide for a positive transition between school and home. A book bag will be provided free of charge to your child so that homework, letters and books are kept safe during their journeys from school and home. This will be given when we receive a signed copy of the home school policy. If this book bag is not taken care of to an acceptable standard or is lost, then a replacement book bag will cost £5.

Jewellery

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery other than studs and watches. Studs need to be removed for P.E. Watches need to be a sensible size and should not distract the pupil or any other pupil. Please ensure that if you are having your child's ears pierced this happens at the beginning of the school holidays.

Hair & Nails

For reasons of safety and personal hygiene, long hair should be tied back with simple hair accessories this applies to girls and boys. 'Extreme' haircuts and nail polish are not permitted as these may cause a distraction or lead to unpleasantness from others. Nail polish is only permitted if pale and perfect! Chipped or bright nail polish will be removed in school.

Lunches

School meals are cooked on the premises and provide a well-balanced meal for £11 per week. Dinner money should be brought on a Monday in a clearly named envelope. Alternatively, children may bring a packed lunch – school provides a drink of water.

As food is ordered in advance, we ask that written notice is provided to change from dinners to packed lunch, giving at least one week's notice. Children who have paid for a school lunch will receive a wristband in school each day to identify their meal choice and/or any allergies to the lunch staff.

Three times a week we provide a healthy tuck shop where children can buy healthy snacks and fruit juice.

Medical Conditions

Wherever possible we ask that parents come in to school to administer any medication that a child may need during the day. This is with the exception of ongoing medication *e.g. Ritalin*.

Should this not be possible the medication must be brought to the office in a clearly labelled container together with a completed consent form outlining the time and dosage required. Please note that any creams or lotions must be applied by the child themselves, under the supervision of a first aider.

Please ensure that if your child is asthmatic they have an in date inhaler in school at all times.

Communication

We believe communication is the key to understanding. Our key communication channels are:

Face to face: Learning mentors are on the playground before and after school. The Headteacher is outside in the mornings whenever possible.

Text messages: Brief messages are sent via text.

Twitter: The school and each year group have active twitter accounts that we encourage you to follow

Website: Our website is updated regularly by our Media team and shows our live twitter feed.

Newsletters: Every week you will receive a Maths and general newsletter via email.

It is important that we hold a valid email address for you so we can send the newsletter to you.

Open door policy: If you have a query or a question pop in to see the teacher, learning mentor or a member of SLT.

Please view the Privacy Notice on our website for more information on data that we collect and process.