



## **EYFS at Barnes Infant Academy**

### **Impact of COVID-19 and how practice has adapted to support this:**

#### **Barriers to learning:**

- Lack of independent skills
- Poor social skills due to missed opportunities and prolonged period of time where children were unable to socialise with others
- Communication skills
- Development of fine and gross motor skills
- Missed opportunities to develop specific skills and knowledge due to closure of nurseries

#### **What we are doing to address this?**

##### **Nursery:**

- Focus on language development – early stages of communication
- Training for staff and support to further support and develop CAL
- Adapt induction – doorstep home visits, smaller groups for induction, booklets for children with photographs of areas of provision and staff
- Increased focus on modelling areas of provision and resources
- Increased support when interacting and encouraging children to work cooperatively
- Adapted practice to meet the needs of the children – organisation of sessions
- Increased opportunities for mindfulness, yoga
- Increased opportunities to develop children's gross motor skills – use of outdoors, resources to promote this, physical activities and mark making on a large scale

##### **Reception:**

- Increased focus on PSED – developing children's independence and confidence
- Promoting relationships and friendships
- Increased focus on mindfulness sessions
- Focus on Phase 1 during Autumn 1 to ensure skills children had missed out on were firmly embedded to ensure progression through letters and sounds phases.
- Introduction of weekly dance sessions to further promote well-being.

Staff are fully aware of the differences in the cohort and the demands we are faced with this year. Children's well-being is our priority; we want our children to be happy,

confident, risk taking individuals who can thrive in their learning environment. We are determined to do our very best to ensure that the children are given the best possible opportunities so that we can accelerate progress and give them the very best start to their school life.