

St Bartholomew's Primary School Newsletter



St. Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School
Ann Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 4GP

Telephone: 01273 692463 Fax: 01273 645239
Email: admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk
Website: www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms K Blood
Deputy Headteacher: Miss F Keeling



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Date: Friday 13th October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Harvest Festival

Thank you SO much for all your amazing contributions for the Harvest Festival. We loaded over 10 large bags into Father Martin's car – we are so grateful to everyone who was able to donate to such a very good cause. I know St Ann's Day Centre will be thrilled with the contribution. It was also lovely to see so many parents there and well done for joining in the singing!



I had a chat with some children in Year 1 about the Harvest Festival:

"I liked it when we gave the toiletries – there were so many!" Asia

"I enjoyed the singing. I liked Harvest Rock 'n' Roll!" Lilly-Rose

"I liked it because it was a little bit quiet." Preston

"I liked how we donated things to the homeless." Edie

"The part I liked was the Harvest Rock 'n' Roll and all the pretty things people had made." Coco

"I liked singing the songs because I like to sing" Codie

"It was really good." Kriztian

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Attendance

After half term, we will announce the winning class for our attendance competition. The winning class will go to Al Campo for a snack and a drink! Well done to all children who have made an effort to achieve 100% attendance. Year3 are in the lead so far!

As you know, absences from school for holidays are unlikely to be authorised and Fixed Penalty Notices (Fines) will be sent. One of the main reasons given for parents booking holidays in term time was cost – therefore the Local Authority implemented a 2 week half term in October to enable parents to book cheaper holidays when other schools are not on holiday. The dates for this have been available for some time. If you want to book ahead, the dates for the next academic year are available online at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/school-term-and-holiday-dates> - perhaps you could add them to your calendar on your smartphone now.

Fixed Penalty Notices can also be issued for persistent absence and other unauthorised absences, for example if parents don't inform the school of the reason of absence on the day or if parents are dishonest about the reason for absence.

If you would like support to improve your child's attendance, please book a meeting with myself so we can put steps in place to help. It is important the children come to school every day.

School Mass

As a church school, we hold tremendous value in our school mass. It is an opportunity to be part of a community, think spiritually and grow a sense of self. As a learning experience, it supports pupils to develop empathy, self-confidence and the ability to care for others. Of course there are other opportunities in the school curriculum for this but those children who come to Mass have more opportunities to develop this side of their character. Although the mass itself is traditionally Christian, the talk given by Father Martin usually focusses on how special the children are and how loved they are. I am always amazed by the sense of warmth and love that is felt during the Mass – it is clear that the children and staff that attend feel like they belong - even those who may not believe.

It is important to us that all children attend school mass but if your child cannot attend mass for religious reasons, it is important that a letter is sent to the Chair of Governors through the School Office. It will be discussed at the next meeting after which a reply will be sent. If there are other reasons why your child cannot attend mass, please make an appointment to discuss this with myself before a letter is sent to the Governors – we might be able to find a solution. Parents are welcome to attend School Mass with us – we love having you along.

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Staff Absence

We are very pleased to inform parents/carers that Mrs Tolliday is making a good recovery following her operation and will be returning to work after half term.

Mrs Allaway will be absent from school due to a very serious family illness. At the moment, we do not know how long she will be absent for and wish her family lots of love. I also offer my apologies to the parents of children in year 1 for not communicating this to you sooner – due to the personal nature of this situation I was unable to do so. Miss Foster has been doing a brilliant job in teaching the year 1 and offering them continuity and consistency in Mrs Allaway's absence. For the time being, she will continue in this role but we will inform you if there are any further changes.

After half term, we are pleased that Mrs Sargent will be returning to school as a teaching assistant, after her maternity leave. It is likely that she will work across the school in a range of roles.

School Entrances

Thank you to all of those parents who have understood the importance of the new system of entry to the club when picking up children. We were aware that the large green gates were being left open so anyone could access the school and this wasn't safe. On a Tuesday, this has been difficult because of dance but a solution has now been reached, thanks to the understanding of the Elite Dance staff. From after half term, the large green gates will not be opened after school on ANY evening.

At the beginning and the end of the day please use the pedestrian entrance (the big gate on Ann Street) and not the main entrance for dropping off and collecting children – thank you.

Toys

Please ensure that your child does not bring in any toys or electronic equipment to school as we are not insured for the loss or damage of these items, this includes bringing items to play with at Starfish Club. It is really distressing for children if these get lost or broken, even accidentally.

Save Our Schools

At St Bartholomew's we still do not have a Save Our Schools Parent Coordinator and so we are unable to participate in many of the activities that promote awareness of the funding crisis. If you feel that you can take on this vital role, do please get in touch. For more information about the Save Our Schools campaign see the facebook page @saveourschoolsuk. I know a couple of parents mentioned that they would be interested in this role, so please do contact us.

Data Collection Sheets

If you have not yet returned your data collection sheet, please do so as soon as possible. If your child is unwell, it is **essential** that we are able to contact you.

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Flu Vaccinations

The flu consent forms will be collected on Tuesday 31st October. If you have not yet handed your form in to the office, please ensure you hand it in by this date. If you have lost your form, please collect another copy from the school office.

Have a fabulous half term and we will see the children back in school on Monday 30th October.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood.

Katie Blood
Headteacher

Calendar Dates

13 – 27th October

Half Term

Tuesday 7th November, 9.15-10.15am

Open Morning for prospective parents

Thursday 30th November, 9.15-10.15am

Open Morning for prospective parents

Friday 12th January 2018, 9.15-10.15am

Open Morning for prospective parents