

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: 28/09/18

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED

We are a GOOD school! The report is back and is on the school website. We are so proud of everyone for making this happen and we are committed to maintaining this judgment and aiming for outstanding!

The only two areas for improvement are phonics teaching and attendance. We have a quarter (25%) of our pupils who are persistent absentees – this is attendance (both authorised and unauthorised) UNDER 90%. The national average for the amount of persistent absentees in one school is just 8%. We really do need your support to help attendance improve.

Year 4 and Year 6 Fire Safety Workshop

Last week, both Year 4 and Year 6 were able to take part in an exciting workshop, provided by the Fire Service. They provided practical advice on fire, road and water safety, amongst other things. These were presented in an exciting and engaging way and the children really enjoyed the sessions.

"I really enjoyed it." Leon, Year 4

"We learnt how to cross the road safely and how to save someone who is drowning. We had a ball and threw it in the 'water' and gave them instructions about how to stay afloat." Archie, Year 4

"When there is a fire on you, you either roll on the floor or someone can smother it with their jumper." Bardia, Year 4

"Now I know how to be safe when there is a fire around." Chloe, year 6

"What I liked was that there were activities, like you had to go through cones and pretend it was a dark corridor. We were pretending to rescue a baby." Chesera, Year 4

"Do not keep phones, tablets and laptops charging overnight as they can overheat and cause a fire." Alex, Year 4

"The fire safety was really fun. If you don't have a smoke alarm, you can die from suffocation." Aimee-Leigh, Year 4

"Now I know how to be safe when there is a fire around." Chloe, Year 6

"It was a fun workshop to teach us how to be safe around fires." Daisy, Year 6

"I now know more stuff about fire safety." Daisy, Year 6

"Now I know what to do if my family are in danger." Ruby, Year 6

"When there is a fire I can put it out and help people around me!" Alisha, Year 6



Learning for Life within Christian Values

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Prayer Trail

Last week, we were lucky enough to be invited to the prayer trail at St Martin's. The children accessed different activities in groups which gave them time to think about others and ask questions. They really enjoyed it and were well behaved. We would like to say a big thank you to the Headteacher from the school, Mr Wingham, who was with our pupils all morning. Also thank you to parents who volunteered – with your help, we can run more trips out.

"It was amazing." Keira, Year 5

"We did 8 activities. The church seemed wider than our church but shorter than ours. The seats were different and they had a smaller bell." Vasilios, Year 5

"It had loads of things to do and you could never get bored of doing them."

Charlie, Year 5

"I found it really fun, even though there were some tough things to do!" Harry, Year 5

"We had to do our fingerprints to show we were unique." L, Year 5

"There was a doctor one where we listened to our own heartbeats." Isabella, Year 5

"We had to write someone's name on a plaster and stick it on a broken heart so it would be mended." Filippa, Year 5

Reflective Storytelling

On Monday, Pauline Lovelock came to school to do some reflective story telling with each class, about the story of Samuel. She was super impressed with the behaviour of our pupils and thought the questions asked and the thoughts shared from all children were amazing. She is coming back to do a Harvest event with us very soon!

"It was fun and made sense. She told it calmly and we could understand because she used figures. The promised land was in the story." Markos, Year 6

"It was fun. She told us that there was a temple in the Promised Land with God's word in it." Laszlo, Year 6

"Pauline was very imaginative and creative." Ben, Year 5

"I liked it when the boy thought the person in the temple was calling him and it was actually God." Tali, Year 5

"I liked the bit with the valley. Two people went to the temple and they told a clever man they wanted a baby. They promised to bring the baby back to the temple." Ulla, Year 5

Coffee Morning

We are holding a special coffee morning for parents of children who speak English as an additional language. This is NEXT Wednesday 3rd October at 9.15am. Please come to the front office and we will take you through. A representative from Family Learning will be here to see what help and support they can offer to families.

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Building Project

As you can see, the building project is beginning to move at a faster pace and you should be able to get an idea of the shape of things to come! As you can see from the picture below, we will have a grand, more attractive entrance and visitors won't have to access the school through the car park. Hopefully, it will also be more obvious that there is a school here – we still have visitors who have walked past many times and didn't realise it was a school!

As a Church of England School, we are very fortunate that 90% of the build cost is funded by the Diocesan Board of Education which means we only have to fund 10% of it. As you can imagine though, 10% of the total is still quite a lot of money so we will continue to look at ways to raise money through grants and donations – please let us know if you have any ideas or if you would like to donate in anyway.



PTFA

The PTFA are the Parents, teachers and Friends Association who work hard to raise extra money for the school. At the moment, most of the money raised is going towards the building project. We will have our first meeting of the year on Wednesday 10th October at 2.30pm where we will discuss upcoming fundraising events, including the possibility of a Grand Christmas Raffle! Currently, we just have a few members of the PTFA and we really would like more – it would be super to have a representative for each class, who could feedback information to other parents. Please come along on the 10th at 2.30pm, to find out what it is all about! At the end of the meeting, we would like to gather some parents, children and staff in the playground to take a picture that celebrates our OFSTED success – we do hope you can join us!

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Harvest

We are having TWO special harvest events at the end of this half term. Firstly, on Tuesday 16th October we are having a Harvest trail in the church. We will need parents to help us during the day – please talk to your child's class teacher if you can help. They will be asking you themselves soon – if we do not have enough volunteers, we may not be able to participate, which would be shame. All parents are invited back to join the celebration at the church for a 2.30pm start. Children will sit with their classes but parents are warmly invited to join us.

We will also be having a Harvest Mass on Thursday 18th October. Parents are invited to attend every mass we have but we extend a special invite for this one. Mass begins at around 9am and is usually finished by 10am. We request that children bring toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, soap etc. for Harvest donations and like last year, these will be donated through a charity, to the homeless. They were very well received last year so please give as generously as you can.

Toddler Group

Our school toddler group takes place on a Wednesday morning from 9am in the community room. All parents with pre-school age children are welcome to come to join in the fun! Just turn up or see Helen Barnett for more information.

Walk to School Week

Monday 8th October – Friday 12th October is 'Walk to School Week' where pupils across Brighton and Hove are encouraged to come to school in an 'active way'.

Despite the name of the week, pupils are not restricted to just walking to school. If pupils prefer, and have permission from home, they can also scoot, skate or cycle to school (as long as they wear a helmet). The aim of the week is simply to encourage pupils to be even more active and make even healthier lifestyle choices, on their journey to school.

For those pupils who, because of the distance they live from school, cannot walk from home, they can still participate by getting the bus and walking from their stop. Those who are really keen might even get off a stop earlier, so they walk that little bit further, if parents and carers have allowed this. Those who travel by car can take part by getting dropped off a little further from school and walking the rest of the way.

All pupils who come to school in an active way for **all 5 of the days** will be entered into a **special draw**. Each class will receive a 'goody bag' and a scooter helmet. Names of all active participants will be picked from a hat, by the class teacher.

We hope that your child will be able to participate in this event and we wish them the best of luck in the prize draw!

Family Learning

Family learning are running two events that may be of interest to you.

Brighton and Hove Family Learning Festival – Sunday 14th October, 11.30am – 2pm at Children's Library, Jubilee Library.
Come along and try some fun, free Family Learning activities with a **snail** theme, including story-telling sessions, crafting and games.

First Aid for Babies and Children – Saturday 10th November, 10am – 1pm at Friends Centre, Ivory Place, BN2 9QE.

Come along and learn what to do in an emergency situation, including if a baby or child becomes unconscious or stops breathing, gets burned, is choking, bleeding heavily, has an asthma attack, suffers an anaphylactic shock, has signs of meningitis, fits with febrile convulsion or goes in to shock. Free to those on a low income or £15/20. Call 01273 810213 or 01273 810210 or visit Friends Centre reception for more information or to enrol.

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Fortnite

We know a lot of children in our school are playing Fortnite, despite them all being too young to play it. You will have seen in the media, some concerns about the game and the negative effect that it may be having on children, especially their anger. Please see the advice below from the NSPCC.

Fortnite – All you need to know.

The multiplayer action survival game, *Fortnite: Battle Royale*, has received a lot of media coverage recently due to growing popularity amongst children – and also emerging safety concerns. We've pulled together some information about the game and how to keep your children safe while playing it.

Players can currently play *Fortnite: Battle Royale* on a PC, Mac, Xbox, and PlayStation or download it from the App Store. Use of the game has grown rapidly amongst children and young people since the launch of the mobile game in March 2018. The game involves 100 players fighting each other in real time to be the final survivor.

What features and risks are there on Fortnite?

Fortnite: Battle Royale has several features that can be fun, but there are also risks. These include:

- Players can add friends in the mobile game if they have an account with Epic, the game's developer. Friends can be added by username in the game's main menu.
- There is a chat feature in the game that allows users to contact each other using voice or text. You can disable voice chat in the game by selecting the 3 lines in the top right of the screen, select the settings icon, choose the 'Audio' tab at the top of the screen and go to the 'Voice Chat' option, where you can select 'Off'.
- There is cartoon violence in the game. You can use a variety of weapons to kill other players, such as guns and axes.
- There are in-app purchases, which can become expensive.
- Players can be reported to the Player Support team if you are concerned about activity or behaviour.

Age ratings

Here are the recommended age ratings for the game:

- Epic Games: *Fortnite Battle Royale* says it does not direct the game to children under the age of 13 in the UK.
- The PEGI rating for this game is 12 years old. However, PEGI does not take chat features into consideration when rating games. You can find out more about age ratings here.
- The App Store says that users must be 12+ to play.

Follow our TEAM tips to help keep your child safe online when playing online games:

- **Talk** to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen. You can use our conversation starters to support you when starting these conversations.
- **Explore** your child's online activities with your child. Understand why they like using them and make sure they know what they can do to keep themselves safe.
- **Agree** your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games. You can use our Family Agreement template to help you get started.
- **Manage** your technology and use the settings available to keep your child safe.

If you'd like advice and support about keeping your children safe online, call our free 02 NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002.

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Elite Dance

Elite Dance Brighton are experienced in holding fun and professional dance lessons in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz and Street Dance for all ages. They provide our pupils with opportunities to express themselves creatively whilst nurturing dancers of all abilities.

Lessons are just £5.50 per lesson with a **10% discount on fees for all St. Bartholomew's school pupils**. There is also a free taster lesson for everyone!

They specialise in baby dance and provide exciting ballet and tap classes (from 3 years of age). Their highly experienced teaching staff have worked in the dance industry for many years and are ready to share their knowledge with our pupils in a fun learning environment.

Clubs outside of School

We are hoping that we will set up more clubs after school. Unfortunately, some of the clubs we have had have not been able to continue, due to lack of interest or participation. Whilst we work on this, we thought we would remind you of other local clubs you can join, which are not too expensive. These are possibly more fun than playing Fortnite!

There are some great clubs in the local area for primary age children that your child might be interested in

- For girls age 5+ - Rainbows, Brownies and Guides - <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> or speak to Ms Blood or Mrs Pacey
- For girls age 4+ - Girls' Brigade <http://www.girlsb.org.uk/be-part-of-it-32/> or see Mrs Barnett
- For boys age 6+ - Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts - <http://scouts.org.uk/home/>
- For boys and girls age 10+ - Sea Cadets - <https://www.sea-cadets.org/join-us>
- For boys age 5+ - Boys' Brigade <https://boys-brigade.org.uk/>
- For everyone, birth to adult – Woodcraft Folk - <https://woodcraft.org.uk/>

Kind Regards

Katie Blood

Katie Blood
Headteacher

October Calendar Dates

Wednesday 3rd October at 9.15am – EAL coffee morning

Monday 8th October – Friday 12th October – Walk to School Week

Wednesday 10th October at 2.30pm – PTFA meeting

Tuesday 16th October at 2.30pm – Harvest trail in church

Wednesday 17th at 9.15am – Open morning for prospective Reception parents

Thursday 18th October at 9am – Harvest mass at church

Friday 19th October – last day of term

Monday 5th November – pupils return to school