

16/06/20

Dear Parents,

### **Black Lives Matter**

It's very important to us that we address the issue of racism and move forward together to make the world a better place. We have already sent you some links to resources and books that might help you to discuss this with your children.

Please continue to send in your Black Lives Matter photos so we can make a video to show our support – remember, the whole family can get involved. We have some wonderful photos so far. Make sure they are sent to the school office by the end of this week.

Ms Soar is also looking at our PSHE curriculum to ensure that the topic is covered well but all staff are thinking about how they can address this issue through the curriculum, every day.

### **Current Arrangements in School**

This week, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are returning to school for just a few hours a week. Parents do not have to choose to send their children to school and parents will not be fined for non-attendance. However, if you are a parent of a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, that was unsure and you would now like your child to attend, please contact the school office so that we can make appropriate arrangements. We are looking at how we will extend this provision over the next few weeks.

### **Emergency Provision**

We also still have our childcare provision for the children of keyworkers or for vulnerable children (usually those with a social worker, but not always). This provision is becoming busier but we still have some spaces. If you are a keyworker returning to work and need to use the provision, please complete the questionnaire on the website and return it to the school office. We would hope to be able to offer you a place.

If you think your child is vulnerable or at risk, please call either Ms Blood or Mrs Christie-Davies to discuss this. We may be able to offer your child a part time place in our emergency provision or offer alternative support for you.

### **Risk Assessment and “Bubbles”**

The Risk Assessment is available on the school website if you would like to have a look at it. We have followed the national guidance as much as is possible. It is acknowledged that all schools are different and will therefore face different challenges. Each group of children are organised into an exclusive “bubble” and these bubbles cannot mix – this is why pupils (at the moment) cannot access emergency provision and year group provision. As we have a relatively small staff team, we have not been able to keep one member of staff to one “bubble” so some staff are teaching 2/3 bubbles but currently just within their year group.

*‘Let Your Light Shine’ (Matthew 5:16)*



Courageous



Disciplined

Aspirational



Honest



Positive

Compassionate

## Home Schooling

Home schooling will continue to be provided online but you will notice some small changes. Firstly, each class teacher is now responsible for the Home Learning of their current class. The work will still be on the website but if you would like a printed copy posted/delivered to you, please do email Miss Banks, who is leading on Home Learning – [helenbanks@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:helenbanks@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk) – and she will add you to the list. The Home Learning is available on the “CLASSES” section of our website – you do not have to log in to access it.

For many reasons, we are not offering live learning but staff are hoping to use more videos, like the White Rose Maths ones, to support home learning.

Remember that any learning the children do at home will be useful but keeping up with the basics such as reading, number bonds and times tables. If you feel you want additional work for your children, you could order age appropriate books from <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/primary-books> which are good value and cover key skills in English and Maths.

## Financial Support and Free School Meals

We have a growing foodbank here in school which is now being accessed by some families. There is plenty of food and some toiletries available. Thanks to the generous donations of some parents and staff, we are able to add to the foodbank too. PLEASE do call us if you need a bag of food and we can prepare one for you to collect. We MAY be able to arrange deliveries for anyone who really needs it.

If you think that due to a change in circumstances, your child might now be entitled to Free School Meals, PLEASE call Miss Charlton in the school office and she can check for you. The easiest way would be to email the office ([admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk)) with YOUR date of birth and national insurance number and we can do the rest. If you are entitled to Free School Meals, this means that you would be entitled to shopping vouchers at the moment and the school would receive extra funding to support your child. It's important you do this even if your child is in the Infants and entitled to Universal Free School Meals, so that the school can receive the additional funding and so that you can receive the vouchers.

Also, if you are struggling financially please do get in touch with Mrs Foster, our School Business Manager and she may be able to offer support. Her email is [sarahfoster@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:sarahfoster@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk) or you can contact her through the school office.

## Year 5 PGL

The Year 5 PGL trip is currently still postponed until the Autumn this year. PGL have been particularly bad at offering refunds – you may have seen this in the news. As our trip is being organised by the City Centre Partnership, we don't have direct control over the organisation of this. However, I am hoping to have further confirmation about this before the end of term so I can give you more information.

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## **New Priest**

Some of you may have seen in the news that St. Bartholomew's Church has a new priest – Father Ben Eadon. He has sent a great introduction video which I will upload to the YouTube channel this week. Father Martin will still be involved with the school as he is a Governor and because he has become a very important member of our school community. We will also make sure, when we are allowed, that we give him a big THANK YOU for everything he has done for our school. We have been very lucky to have him with us for the last few years.

## **Future Plans**

Like you, we do not know what is going to happen with Lockdown over the next few weeks and months. We are hoping that, for many reasons, school is back to "normal" in September. As soon as we know what the Government are suggesting and have made a workable plan, we will let you know. However, what we can tell you now, is the teacher for each class next year:

Bumblebees	Ms Hier
Puffins	Miss Rhodes
Koalas	Mrs Allaway and Miss Beavis
Red Pandas	Miss Banks
Penguins	Mr Beggs
Pangolins	Mr Mills
Jaguars	Ms Soar and Miss Keeling

We have also decided, due to the disruption this school closure has caused, that up until Christmas at least, we will not split our Year 1 into different groups for the afternoon. We feel that to have at least a term of consistency would be the right thing to do in this highly difficult situation.

Mrs Paton will continue to cover most classes during the week. We don't yet know, however, which classes our Teaching Assistants will be based in or which children they will be working with. Again, we will let you know when we know.

We do miss all our families so much and we know this has been a tough time for so many people. We cannot wait to see you all again.

Best Wishes

*Katie Blood.*

Katie Blood  
Headteacher

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