

St Bartholomew's Primary School Newsletter



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

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Website: www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms K Blood
Deputy Headteacher: Miss F Keeling



Date: 20/12/19

Dear Parents and Carers,

School News

MADE Fair and Raffle

Thank you so much to everyone who bought and sold raffle tickets. The response was magnificent! Apologies that the draw was delayed until Wednesday – due to staff sickness, it was impossible to do the raffle on Tuesday. If you won a prize, we have contacted you using the details on the ticket.

With the Made Fair Café and the raffle, we raised just over **£1300!** Thank you very much – we appreciate all of your support.

Infant Nativity

Last week, the children in Bumblebees, Puffins and Koalas treated us to a WONDERFUL performance, telling us about Christmas all over the world. They told us about different traditions from all over the world and sang us some lovely songs. Well done to all the children and adults who worked hard to create something wonderful for us all to watch.

Christmas Disco

We give a HUGE THANK YOU to all of the parents who worked tirelessly to create a memorable Christmas Disco for the children last week. The children had a wonderful time and enjoyed their goody bags, all put together by our volunteers.

Thank you also to all of the staff that stayed and helped and the Reception families who encouraged some great dancing!

After expenses, we raised around **£250** – thank you once again for your support!

There were a couple of people that were concerned about the price of the disco, especially so close to Christmas – it is important that you feel you can come to talk to us, so thank you for that.

However, please can I remind you, firstly, that the parents running our events are volunteers and any concerns should be brought to a **member of school staff**, not the volunteer parents. Secondly, we have a fund (very generously donated by some parents), that means we can now allow some children to attend these events for a reduced price/free. If your child ever wants to come to a PTFA event but money makes it difficult, please see either Miss Keeling or myself.



Christmas Dinner and Crackers

We had wonderful School Christmas Dinner this week, cooked by the amazing Ann-Marie and her team. It was delicious and a celebration of this festive season.

We usually have Christmas Crackers with our school Christmas Dinner but after a School Council meeting last week where the topic of Christmas crackers came up, the children decided they wanted to do something that was a bit better for the environment. They discussed the important things like having jokes to read at Christmas lunch

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and initially were going to make a festive box of jokes for each table.

The following day, Ilona came into school with her homemade prototype cracker, using recycled paper, a cardboard tube a sweet and a joke. She had already organised friends and family to start collecting 160 plus tubes! She also sourced the cardboard bangers which she insisted was a very important part of her crackers! Working relentlessly at home with her Mum and during breaktimes at school with her friends, Ilona created the perfect eco-friendly Christmas lunch for the children and adults of the school to enjoy. We are very proud of her achievements.



The team made and gave out, over 150 crackers! We are so proud of Ilona and her team and know our planet is in safer hands.

Watch this space for our new ECO AWARD, inspired by Ilona, who will be the first recipient!



Christmas Carol Service

Yesterday, we held our annual Carol Service at St Bartholomew's Church, led by Jaguar Class and what a magical occasion it was! The class did brilliantly, reading clearly and loudly; the costumes were great and the acting was wonderful. We say a big thank you to all the staff, children and parents who made this possible.

We were also thrilled to have Father Martin join us in the celebration – he is such a proud supporter of our school and your children. We are so lucky to have him as a part of our school community.

Our thanks is also extended to Simon Brading who accompanied our carols with his wonderful piano playing, with only a week's notice! We are very grateful to him and felt this certainly added to the occasion. We hope you will see him again at another performance at some point in the future!

It was such a lovely community event and I was so delighted to see so many families join us, as well as some of our friends from the church. Thank you all for your support.

Music Ensemble

This morning, our Music Ensemble Club performed for us led by Mrs Paton. This club has been meeting every week after school and shared some of the pieces they have been learning. We were all really impressed with what they have learnt and we can see we have some real musical talent in our school! Thanks Mrs Paton for all of your hard work.

Staffing

Mr Mills was able to return to work this week – I know the children are delighted to have him back! We thank Mrs Christie-Davies for all of her hard work with Pangolins and look forward to her starting as our Assistant Head after Christmas.

Reminders and Notices

Clubs

You will have received information regarding Spring Term Clubs this week. This is also available on our school website. Just a reminder that clubs must be booked and paid for through ParentPay and will be made available **from Friday 3rd January**. Payment has to be made in full at the time of booking and cannot be made through the school office – ParentPay only please.

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ParentPay

Please can we remind you to make sure that you pay **in advance** for any school dinners. School dinners must be paid for via ParentPay. If you will not be able to make a payment for ANY reason, please telephone the school office and we can set up a payment plan. Please remember that the school has to cover any debts, meaning that we have less money to spend on your child's education. The amount of admin time it takes to chase debts also costs the school and means that we have to spend a significant amount of time in the office contacting parents to ask them to pay dinner money, Breakfast Club fees and for school trips. Please help us by paying for things in advance and on time.

Spring Term Calendar Dates

January

- 6th – Pupils return
- 10th – Open session for prospective parents (9 – 10am)
- 16th – Open session for prospective parents (1.45 – 2.45pm)
- 21st – PTFA Meeting (2.30pm)
- 28th – Parent Forum (2.30pm)
- 31st – Year 5 Class Assembly (9.15 – 10am)

February

- 7th – PTFA Film Night (TBC)
- 7th – Non-Uniform Day
- 14th – Year 4 Class Assembly (9.15 – 10am)
- 14th – Last day of half term
- 24th – INSET Day
- 25th – Pupils return

March

- 3rd – Parent Consultations (3.30 – 5.30pm)
- 5th – Parent Consultations (3.30 – 7pm)
- W/B 9th – Let's Dance! (TBC)
- 10th – PTFA Meeting (2.30pm)
- 17th – Parent Forum (2.30pm)
- 20th – Year 2 Class Assembly (9.15 – 10am)
- 24th – Year 5 Parents Meeting – PGL (2.30pm)
- 27th – PTFA Film Night (TBC)
- 27th – Non-Uniform Day

April

- 2nd – Easter Parade and Mass (AM)
- 3rd – Last Day of Term
- 20th – Pupils return
- 20th, 21st and 22nd – Year 5 Residential to PGL

Kind Regards

Katie Blood

Katie Blood
Headteacher

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