

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



Date: 04/03/22

Dear Parents and Carers,

School News

Communication

I wanted to apologise for the lack of newsletters last term. We were (and still are) experiencing an increased level of staff absence due to Covid and other health-related absences. This means that essential jobs such as keeping your children safe and educated were a priority for those staff remaining in school. The high staff absence rates across the city means that it is often impossible to get supply or cover staff and, when we do, what they can do is limited and the cost is very high. Therefore, we often have to arrange cover from within the school – some of you will have noticed members of the leadership team taking classes over the last half term. There were times that we came close to having to close a class for the day as we didn't have enough staff to open safely. With the current Covid situation being the same, this may well happen this term so please make sure you have plans in place to deal with this eventuality.

If you have any concerns, you still must get in touch. In the first instance, please contact your child's class teacher. Hopefully they will be able to resolve any problems but if not, they will be able to direct you to the best person to talk to.

Please also do make sure to regularly check your SchoolPing account. Currently, only 55% of messages sent on SchoolPing are being read. As this is how we communicate with parents/carers, it is really important that you try to keep up to date with your SchoolPing messages.

Attendance Awards

We are extremely grateful to Dobbies Garden Centre, Alcampo Lounge and the King and Queen who have all donated attendance prizes for us to reward good attendance. Well done to all of the children who managed to achieve 100% attendance for at least one of the 3 half terms we have already had. There are still 3 more chances to earn a prize this year!



"They gave us pink lemonade which was sour and really good!" **Sahara, Red Panda Class**
"I really like the pain au chocolat!" **Angela, Red Panda Class**
"We had a BIG cup of raspberry lemonade." **Liara, Red Panda Class**



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We give out attendance awards to any child who gets 100% attendance for the previous half term. It is made clear that not EVERYBODY will get it EVERY time – there are 6 chances in a year and we would hope that all children get 100% attendance at least 3 times in a year. We do reward good attendance but we do not punish poor attendance. Our attendance across the school is considered well below average and is a target for improvement. If attendance across the school was above average, we could use the rewards kindly donated for other purposes.

Good attendance is 95% or above. Anything below 90% is considered persistent absence and the Attendance Officer will be notified. Families can then be fined for poor attendance. 90% attendance is the same as having a day off every 2 weeks. If children have Covid, they are recorded as absent with illness. However, if they have been isolating and awaiting a test result, this does not affect their attendance.



Yoga Sessions

All children had the opportunity to participate in 2 yoga sessions last week with Dominique from Well Balanced Kids. This was paid for from our Sports Funding. Well Balanced Kids currently run our Tuesday yoga club for our Key Stage 2 children.



Thank you to Mr Mills for organising this opportunity. There was lots of positive feedback from pupils.

"I loved it because I knew most of the poses and it calmed me down." **Miya-Mae, Red Panda Class**

"It was really relaxing and there was Harry Potter yoga!" **Willow, Red Panda Class**

"It was really calm. My favourite part was when we had to lie down." **Sahara, Red Panda Class**

"It was very peaceful as it was like you were sleeping on the clouds. I liked the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory yoga and the Harry Potter yoga as I am reading the book." **Angela, Red Panda Class**

"I enjoyed it – I go on Tuesdays after school too." **Rola, Red Panda Class**

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Into University



Just before half term, Jaguar Class participated in the IntoUniversity programme. This is an excellent programme, introducing all children to what is on offer at university but also what other choices there are when they leave school. It encourages all pupils to be aspirational about their future.



They were also able to participate in 2 school trips as part of this – one to Newhaven Fort and one to Sussex University. The work was based around the topic of World War 2.

"I loved learning about WW2 and making my own mask." **Chris**

"I really enjoyed making the gas mask and making the shelter. It was an amazing experience." **Ronni**

"We got to do a lot of fun activities and go on a lot of trips. We also got to create our own leaf about what we wanted to do when we were older." **Saba**

"We learnt about the people our groups were named after." **Olivia P**

Miss Thomas



Miss Thomas gave birth to a beautiful baby girl just before half term! She is called Erin and they are all doing well. We can't wait for her to come into school!

Miss Banks and Miss Carey dropped some gifts round from the school and had some lovely baby cuddles.

We wish her and her new family lots of love as I am sure you do too!

World Book Week



This week we have been celebrating World Book Week. We have been doing a wide range of activities around books including assemblies. I had great fun with some Red Panda and Pangolin pupils with an Escape from the Library challenge! Our school cooks did an amazing job of making carrot sculpture book characters for the children to enjoy!



"We made little books" **Violet, Red Pandas**

"I made a story about Miss Banks," **Liara, Red Pandas**

"We watched someone on CBBC Live. We made little books and we are doing a prize quiz!" **Zoe, Red Pandas**

"We have been looking in books to look for connections between them," **Shearer, Jaguars**



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City Mission

We have been lucky enough to have our friends from City Mission in twice this term. Last Friday they delivered their "Bible in a Flash" workshop to all pupils which was very entertaining!

Today, they shared an assembly about being honest, one of our school values.

Thanks so much to City Mission for being a really valuable community partner!

Church School

News

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Thursday in Lent up until Holy Week at 11.30am. This important devotion offers us the opportunity to meditate on Christ's Passion.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

This is an important and beautiful way in which we receive the grace of forgiveness having acknowledged our sins. Confessions can be heard:

Wednesdays at 6.30pm

Thursdays at 12.30pm

If you haven't made your confession before then don't hesitate to speak with Father Ben about what it involves or how to prepare for it. We also have some resources at the back of church which you can pick up.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Sunday 10 April
10.30am Solemn Mass

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week
6pm Low Mass

Maundy Thursday: Thursday 14 April
7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by the Watch

Good Friday: Friday 15 April
3pm The Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday: Saturday 16 April
8.30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17 April
10.30am Solemn High Mass

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Reminders and Notices

Uniform

Please can I remind everyone that we are a school with a uniform code and children should be wearing their uniform every day. On PE days, they can come to school in their PE kit but this must be the correct colours please. See https://www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk/web/school_uniform/275630 for more information.

Birthdays

Parents are often very kind around their children's birthdays and supply treats for the rest of the class. Whilst this is a lovely gesture, we ask that parents don't do this as it can be tricky with allergies, dietary requirements and parental preferences. Instead, we wanted to remind parents that children are allowed to wear non uniform on their birthdays!

Collection at the end of the day

Occasionally, parents may be late for pick up. If you know you are going to be more than 5 minutes late, please call the school office to let them know. We don't expect children to be picked up late regularly though. Please remember that the Infants finish at 3pm and the Juniors and 3.10pm.

Parent Forum

Due to staff absence, we have had to cancel the planned Forum for 24th January. We do hope to restart these once all restrictions have been completely lifted.

Clubs and Opportunities Outside of School

There are some great clubs in the local area for primary age children that your child might be interested in. These tend to be more affordable and offer a variety of activities. Most of these clubs are now up and running as normal!

- 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 and girls 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/>

If you know of any similar clubs that would welcome children, please let us know.

Dance Club

All pupils, next week, will receive 2 Dance sessions during the school day. We hope your child will find them enjoyable! The timetable is below. Please send your child to school in their PE clothes on these days.

Time slot	Monday 07.03.22	Tuesday 08.03.22	Wednesday 09.03.22
9.15-10.00	Reception	Year 1	Year 1
11.05-11.50	Year 3/4	Year 2	Reception
1.40-2.20	Year 4/5	Year 4/5	Year 3/4
2.20-3.00	Year 6	Year 6	Year 2

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Fun and Friends Group

Our Fun and Friends group runs every Wednesday morning for preschool children and their parents. It's an opportunity for the children and the adults to make friends and have fun! This is run by Mrs Barnett and they meet in the community room. Please enter through the front office from 8.45am.

Covid Guidance

You will be aware that there have been changes to the Government's COVID-19 guidance. You are now not legally required to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19. If you do test positive, you are, however, advised stay at home if you can and avoid contact with other people. It is good public health practice to stay at home if you are unwell with COVID-19 or any other respiratory illness. You no longer need to take daily LFD tests or isolate after being in contact with someone with COVID-19.

What does the change in guidance mean for us at St. Bartholomew's?

Preventative and Supportive Measures

- We will still be encouraging using sanitiser and handwashing at school.
- We are still planning activities and events with COVID-19 in mind.
- We will still be encouraging any children or staff displaying symptoms to not be in school and to seek a test.

What we won't be doing.

- We will no longer be asking staff or families to take LFD tests twice a week.

What happens if my child is unwell (with the recognised symptoms) or gets COVID-19?

- Take a test - either LFD or PCR.
- Inform the school.

What happens if my child has COVID-19 - how long will they have to be off?

There is no legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive however, at St. Bartholomew's, we are following the guidance from the Government and Local Authority. Therefore, if your child tests positive for COVID-19, you must:

- Contact the school and inform us that your child has COVID-19 and how you know this (LFD or PCR).
- Make sure they isolate for 5 days.

When can my child return to school?

- After 5 days if they are feeling well enough.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood

Katie Blood
Headteacher

'Let Your Light Shine' (Matthew 5:16)