

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: Friday 27th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

School News

Class Assemblies

We are delighted that we have been able to go ahead with our Class Assemblies again this year. So far, both Pangolins and Penguins have delighted us with their Space Themed presentations – we have seen some brilliant writing about planets, some super spaceship models and heard some wonderful singing! Thank you to all of the children for being wonderful participants and for all the adults who had a hand in making it happen. We are also really grateful to you for attending – we understand that it is not always possible but appreciate it when you can.

Easter Parade

We had a wonderful Easter parade before the last break; it was so lovely to be able to do this again. Pangolin Class did us proud with their brilliant drumming and all of the children were in fine, celebratory voice as they walked down to the church! Thank you to the parents who joined us in the Parade and then in Church.

Attendance Awards

At the beginning of the month, we had our 4th set of attendance awards this year – well done to all of the children who managed 100% attendance in the period from February half term up until the Easter break. Our children went to either The King and Queen or Alcampo Lounge for refreshments. As usual, these were provided by these 2 generous businesses and we are so grateful to them.

Of course, we know the real reward is that good attendance means a good education and more options when the children are older.

We actually have 11 children who are still on target to get 100% attendance for the whole year – let's see if they manage to keep going for the final 7 weeks!



Staffing

We have had 4 new members of staff joining our support staff team who will be with us until the end of the summer term – Ms Wadsworth, Ms Chantler, Ms Papcunova and Ms Washer. This has enabled us to extend our Nurture provision into Year 1 and Year 2.

We also have Miss Fatima and Miss Batterham here on their final student placement this term.

As you will know from a previous letter, Miss Keeling has secured a headship at another school and Ms Soar is off to teach at another school. We are so pleased for them but we will really miss them.

We have started recruitment and when this is complete, we will inform you about new staff.

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Church School

News

If you scroll down to the bottom of this page - <https://www.stbartholomewsbrighton.org.uk/> - you can take a virtual tour of the church and find out more about the building.

Reminders and Notices

School Communication

We have now changed the app we use to communicate with parents and carers and no longer use SchoolPing. Instead, we are using **ScholarPack Parents app**. We are making this change because the ScholarPack Parents app links in with the information management system we use in school and so it will give you up-to-date information about your child's attendance, dietary information, permissions and your contact details, as well as sending you messages.

As with SchoolPing, you will need to download an app to your mobile phone. Search 'ScholarPack Parents' in the Google Play Store or Apple App Store to download the app. Once downloaded, you will need a linkup code to set up the app – individual linkup codes will be sent via email to the email addresses we have for all parents/carers with parental responsibility on our school records. You will also need to enter your mobile number when setting up the app – this will need to match the number we have on our school records.

One difference with the ScholarPack Parents app is that we currently cannot attach documents to messages. We can only attach documents to emails. Therefore, the app will email letters, newsletters etc. to the email address we have on our records for you.

It is important that we have a working email address for you on our school records. If we do not have one for you, you will be Pinged separately asking you to contact the school office with your email address.

There is a video [here](#) to help you with the setting up process and a more extensive guide to the ScholarPack Parents app [here](#).

It is really important that you download the app and regularly check it in order to keep up-to-date with information from the school.

Holidays During Term Time

Please can we remind parents that you are not permitted to take your child out of school for a holiday during term time and so it is very unlikely that any holidays will be authorised.

However, if you arrange a meeting with me **BEFORE** you make any bookings, there may be exceptional circumstances in which it can be authorised. Absolutely no holidays can be authorised after the event, and it is **very likely** that you will be referred for a Fixed Penalty Notice.

More information on when children can and can't miss school can be found here: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/absent-school/when-children-can-and-cant-miss-school>

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Working Together

It is really important that if your child is unhappy or worried about something at school that you encourage them to talk to a member of staff about it, or you make an appointment to see your child's class teacher. In the unlikely event that you are not satisfied with the response, you can then make an appointment with either myself or Miss Keeling to discuss the matter further. Please remember that we can only discuss your child with you and we cannot discuss how we are supporting other children or what their needs are.

Whilst we appreciate there may be concerns about some children in school (like any school), please remember that they are still children (until they are 18) and are still someone else's child. If you have concerns that **your child** is upset or worried by **ANY** other child in school and it cannot be resolved by you talking your child through the situation, please do come in to see us. It is definitely **NOT** appropriate for parents to approach (either directly or through social media or messaging) and threaten children or their families. **Sadly, we have had instances of this happening recently.**

Thank you to those parents who have spoken to us and have been reassured about how we can support their child. We care about **ALL** of your children and we want them all to be happy and thrive at our school. Thank you to those of you who demonstrate empathy every day to each other.

Below is an extract from a blog which sums up how it might feel to be the parents of "that child." There are also 2 links to other websites with some other thoughts on the matter, including a teacher's point of view – if you can spare the time, they are certainly worth a read. They are thought-provoking and may bring a tear to your eye, as they did mine.

Dear mamas in the schoolyard,

I want to write you this letter in the hope that it may help you to understand. I am writing it on behalf of the mother of the child who has a behaviour issue. The one who's child may be in your child's classroom. The one who's child may at times be disruptive and need lots of attention from the teacher. The one that no doubt, the whole class will already know about!

Did you know that this mother has probably cried an ocean of tears for her child? She has probably been through more than you or I could ever imagine. Maybe her child has a formal diagnosis like Autism or ADHD, but that really shouldn't matter anyway. Maybe she is still grieving for the fact that her child may face so many more challenges in their life than yours.

She is still a mother, like you and I, who just always wants the very best for her child. Did you know that she hears your whispers and feels your disapproving looks? She knows all too well that you do not want your child to interact with hers in any way because of their behaviour.

Did you know that she holds her child tightly as they sob because they have yet again not been invited to a party? Later that night when they are fast asleep, she also cries with sadness for her child and a pain in her heart that she cannot make go away.

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Did you know that most days she holds her phone close and is filled with anxiety as she expects the school to call and say that there has been yet another incident at school with her child. She can't relax and enjoy the time to herself. You probably couldn't know that by now she has very few friends in her life anymore. Having a child with such high needs has meant many appointments, social skills groups and therapies. It has also meant she is left exhausted and wiped out each and every day, and barely has enough energy for her family, let alone even attempting to reach out to one of her few friends left who understand.

And if you took the time to actually get to know her she might share with you that even members of her own family make her feel like it is her fault. That she is a bad parent and responsible for her child's behaviour. Most events or outings that she attempts often end in disaster. People have stopped inviting them now. It will probably break your heart to hear that she has had to seek therapy and medication to cope with the stresses of her daily life.

I want to also let you know that your child cannot catch a behaviour issue from being associated with this family. They do not have a contagious disease. What you and your child can learn by being friends with them is a very valuable lesson in life. You can teach your child how to have empathy and compassion for other individuals who have challenges. You can teach your child to lead the way in showing kindness and acceptance to the children who need it most. You can do this by leading by example.

That lovely mother needs more than anyone else in your life – a friend. Someone to listen to her and show support, without judgement. Even just a simple smile or hello could lift her spirits immensely. We teach our students that 'excluding' is a form of bullying, yet other parents seem to do this to each other all of the time.

Yes, there may be times when you are together that issues may arise, but you can handle that. You are after all, a mother - and together women are a force to be reckoned with!

Love Chrissie. Xx

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dear-parent-about-that-kid_b_6154898

<https://lemonlimeadventures.com/what-you-dont-know-about-that-kid/>

Conflict Away From School

We are aware that this is the time of year that children and families like to spend some time in the park after school. Please could you remind your children that they are representing our school when they are in the park and we really should be giving the best impression to others. Whilst we cannot necessarily control or sanction behaviours at the park, we will talk to children at school if they are not representing our school well.

If you witness any anti-social behaviour you can report this to the Community Safety team - please phone 01273 292735 or e-mail communitysafety.casework@brighton-hove.gov.uk. To report online please visit <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-anti-social-behaviour-or-hate-incident-your-neighbourhood> - it's important that you do report incidents otherwise it will be assumed all behaviour is respectful and positive.

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However, you should also contact the police if you feel that anything is immediately unsafe or dangerous. We have had some worrying reports of parents verbally or physically assaulting some of our pupils both in the park and outside school. **Rest assured, we have advised the parents of these children to report these incidents to the police as this is NOT acceptable – these are children.** If they continue, we will be reporting them to the police to investigate.

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 (or near) their birthdays!

We have put this in the newsletter before but parents are still sending in treats – please do not send them in on birthdays.

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.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood

Katie Blood
Headteacher

Calendar Dates

Please note that these dates are subject to change

May	June
27 th Last day of half term	6 th INSET Day 7 th – Pupils return 17 th Koala Class Assembly 24 th Red Panda Class Assembly 28 th Sports Day 29 th New Reception Children Visit with Parents 30 th Reserve Sports Day (1.00pm)
July	September 2022
1 st Bumble Bee Class Assembly 6 th New Reception Children Visit and parents meeting 7 th Reports out 13 th New Reception Children visit 19 th Non Uniform Day 20 th Jaguar Class Leaver's Assembly (2.00pm) 21 st Last day of term	1 st – INSET Day 2 nd – INSET Day 5 th – First day of term