

# 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](mailto:admin@st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk](http://www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Ms K Blood

Assistant Headteachers: Miss H Banks & Mrs R Christie-Davies



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Date: 27/01/23

Dear Parents and Carers,

### School News

#### Chinese New Year



I had a wonderful surprise yesterday whilst working in my office – I could hear the sound of music travelling along the corridor and when I had a look, there was a magnificent lion dancing down the corridor! This wonderful sight was provided by the children in Bumblebee Class and their teachers and was part of their learning about Chinese New Year.



#### School Mass

We had our first School Mass of the term last week. It was great to have the children in church again and lovely to see so many parents again. Please do come along if you can. We have 3 more before Easter and the dates are as follows:

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Our Easter Parade**

Children in Koala, Red Panda, Pangolin and Jaguar class all attend church. If you do want to join us, wait outside the school office after drop off and you can walk down with your child's class. If you can walk them up again afterwards, we really appreciate it.

### Church School

#### Our New School Prayer

With the help of children and staff, Father Thomas has written our new school prayer. We have begun to use it in school but will be looking at it closely in Worship next week.

*Heavenly Father,*

*We pray for our school and for all those who study and work here.*

*Inspired by St Bartholomew and supported by his prayers, we pray that we may grow in **courage** and **compassion** and live with **discipline** and **honesty**.*

*We pray that we may be **positive** in our learning and **aspirational** for our futures; in Jesus' name, we pray.*

*Amen.*

Miss Charlton has done some more amazing artwork to go with it which I will be sharing with the children next week. You may also notice that the prayer features all of our Christian Values.

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

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## Reminders and Notices

### Attendance

We continue to work hard with families to improve attendance and a huge thank you to those who are really making an effort. Attendance percentages can often sound high when really they are a concern. The information below explains that a little more.

Attendance for the year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is this number of weeks	Which means this amount of lessons
95%	10 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	20 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	30 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

As you can see, although 90% sounds like a good percentage, this is 20 days off school in a school year which is too many.

### NEU Strike Action

As you will have seen reported in the news, we have received notification from the National Education Union (NEU) of a proposed series of industrial action. The days of action are planned for: 1st February, 2nd March, 15th March and 16th March. This action relates to the continuing dispute with the Secretary of State for Education regarding changes to Teachers' Pay & Conditions.

The arrangements for next Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February are as follows:

- School will be OPEN for Jaguar Class and Penguin Class.
- **School will be closed for all other classes.**
- Breakfast Club will be open for children in Jaguar Class and Penguin Class.
- No Fun and Friends with Mrs Barnett.
- After School Dance club – we will confirm the arrangements for this ASAP.
- School Meals – if you requested a free school meals packed lunch, you can collect this from the school office at 12.15pm. The food for this has been ordered and so it is now too late to order one.

We do understand that, by closing the school, we will create difficulties for many families who may have to make alternative provisions for the care of their children. We appreciate that this could result in having to take time off work or rely on the kindness and help of family and friends.

If staff are in school, this doesn't mean that they do not agree with the strike but may not be in the Union that voted to strike. As a school leader, particularly after the last few years, I want to do everything I can to keep the school open. However, I fully support any action from my staff as the funding situation in schools is now at the lowest levels I have ever seen in 25 years of working in schools – I honestly don't know how much longer we can continue in this way. These strikes are about teachers' pay but also the conditions they are expected to work in and the conditions your children are expected to learn in. This is no longer acceptable and we need to act now for the sake of everyone in the school community, especially your children.

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### Film Night

Our next Film Night will be held on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** from **3.00pm – 5.00pm** for children in **Year R - 6**. Children in Reception **MUST** be accompanied by a parent but otherwise this is a children-only event. Parents can collect from the Breakfast Club entrance (green door opposite Sainsbury's) at **5.00pm**.

The film the children will be watching is **Luca** which is rated **U**. By buying a ticket, you agree to your child watching this U film.

This event will cost **£5** to be paid via ParentPay. This will include food and drink – please indicate on ParentPay which sandwich and drink your child would like. The deadline for signing your child up to Film Night is **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. If you do not sign up on ParentPay before this deadline, your child will not be able to attend Film Night.

This is fundraising event. However, if your child would like to come but cost is a problem, please do speak to myself, Miss Banks or Mrs Christie-Davies.

If you are able to help with this event, please let the school office know and they will put you in touch with a member of the PTFA.

### Lunchboxes and Snacks

Children will be keeping their lunch on the lunchbox trolleys and their snack in their classroom, rather than in the cloakroom. This was what we always did before the pandemic but it is one of the things that changed for a while. However, having less things in the cloakroom works much better during the school day so we will be changing back to our original system. Therefore, it is **REALLY** important that your child's lunchbox, water bottle, tubs etc are clearly named.

**Please do not send glass bottles into school – we had one last week and it got accidentally broken in the hall, which could have been dangerous for the next class doing PE.** Luckily it was cleaned well, teachers were warned and everyone remained safe.

### Hobgoblin Theatre Payment

Thank you to those parents who have either paid since the last reminder or explained they will not be able to pay at the moment. Unfortunately, we are still missing quite a lot of parental contributions for this event which the school will have to pay from the budget. Of course, this means that money won't be available for other resources or opportunities for your children.

ParentPay is still open to pay for this and will remain so until the end of January. We do recognise that paying for things at this time can be very difficult but we do want to provide fun and exciting opportunities for the children. If you think you will struggle to pay the full amount by the end of January, please talk to Mrs Foster or myself, who can make arrangements to support you with this.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood  
Headteacher

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## Calendar Dates

*Please note that these dates are subject to change*

February	March
1 <sup>st</sup> – NEU strike – school only open for Year 1 & Year 6 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Film Night 10 <sup>th</sup> – Non-Uniform Day – School Fund 10 <sup>th</sup> – Last day of half term 20 <sup>th</sup> – Pupils return 27 <sup>th</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Book Week	6 <sup>th</sup> – Parent Forum (2.00) 7 <sup>th</sup> – Year 5 Parents Meeting PGL (2.15) 17 <sup>th</sup> – Comic Relief 17 <sup>th</sup> – Film Night (TBC) 21 <sup>st</sup> – Parents' Evening (3.30 – 5.30) 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Parents' Evening (3.30 – 7.00) 27/28/29 <sup>th</sup> – Year 5/6 Residential 29 <sup>th</sup> – Non Uniform Day – Connor Saunders Foundation 30 <sup>th</sup> – Easter Parade 30 <sup>th</sup> – Last day of Term for pupils 31 <sup>st</sup> – INSET Day
April	May
17 <sup>th</sup> – Pupils return	8 <sup>th</sup> – Year 4/5 Parents meeting for Y5 Residential (2.30) W/B 8 <sup>th</sup> – Year 6 tests 19 <sup>th</sup> – Pangolin Class Assembly 19 <sup>th</sup> – Film Night 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Parent Forum (2.00) 26 <sup>th</sup> – Penguin Class Assembly 26 <sup>th</sup> – Non School Uniform – School Fund 26 <sup>th</sup> – Last day of half term
June	July
5 <sup>th</sup> – INSET Day 6 <sup>th</sup> – Pupils return 16 <sup>th</sup> – Koala Class Assembly 21 <sup>st</sup> – New Reception Children visit with Parents (9.15 – 10.15) 27 <sup>th</sup> – Sports Day 28 <sup>th</sup> – New Reception Children Visit & Parents Meeting (9.15 – 10.15) 30 <sup>th</sup> – Red Panda Class Assembly 30 <sup>th</sup> – Summer Party (2.30 – 4.30)	5 <sup>th</sup> – New Reception Children Visit & Parents Meeting (9.15 – 10.15) 6 <sup>th</sup> – Reports out 7 <sup>th</sup> – Year 6 transition day 13 <sup>th</sup> – Report drop-in 14 <sup>th</sup> – Bumblebee Class Assembly (2pm) 14 <sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Leaver's Disco (2.30 – 4.00) 17 <sup>th</sup> – St Bart's Got Talent (2.00 – 2.45) 19 <sup>th</sup> – Non Uniform Day - Food Bank 20 <sup>th</sup> – Jaguar Class Leaver's Assembly (2.00pm) 21 <sup>st</sup> – Last day of term