

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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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: 20/09/19

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

We really hope that all of you had a good summer and were able to get some time to rest and relax. It's so lovely to see all of the children back at school and eager to learn. The start of term can sometimes be a bit difficult for children so please don't hesitate to contact the class teacher if you have any concerns. There is usually a member of the Senior Leadership Team outside on duty in the morning if you have any questions or worries.

School Vision

Over the summer, we worked hard on finalising a new school Vision. We have begun to launch it with the children and you will gradually see it appearing around school. On Wednesday 2nd October, parents and carers are invited to a short meeting to tell you more about the Vision. The meeting will be at 6pm and will last about 30 minutes.

As part of the Vision we have 6 Christian Values and this term we are focussing on being **Aspirational**, both academically and as a person too. What kind of person do we want to be? Who are good role models for us to aspire to be like? What do I need to do to achieve my aspirations? We will talk about these questions at school but perhaps you and your children could chat about these at home too.

Class Names

Our Classes are now named after animals from across 7 continents. We have:

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

We hope that the children will learn more about the animals and the continents and perhaps raise awareness of the plight of all of these endangered animals. We are thrilled about how well the children have taken on this idea and are very good at correcting us if we get it wrong!

If you go to http://www.st-bartholomews.brighton-hove.sch.uk/web/classes__1 you will find a picture of each animal. If you click on the picture, it will take you to the WWF page for that animal, where you can find out more!



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Staffing Update

Mr Mills has had recent surgery and was hoping to return to work in a couple of weeks; however it is now likely that he will not be back before half term. Currently we have Ms Wickham teaching in year 5. She may continue in Mr Mills' absence but if not, we will do our best to ensure there is a consistent supply teacher in the class. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Miss Foster is not yet well enough to return to teach in Puffins but we were lucky that Miss Rhodes was still available and is having the class with Miss Evans.

However, over the summer holidays, Miss Evans was successful at securing a new post at the Local Authority – we are very pleased and excited for her and wish her all the very best of luck with the new role. Luckily, we still have her at school until Christmas so there will be plenty of time for a smooth handover.

We have already started the process of finding someone to take on the role of SENCO – the advert will be out soon and we hope to have appointed someone by half term, so they are available to start in January 2020.

In terms of Miss Evans' teaching role in Puffins, I have been in discussion with our Chair of Governors and we have plans to ensure consistency depending on when Miss Foster is able to return. We can outline these to parents at the meeting with parents from Puffin Class that will take place on Monday at 2.30pm. You will have already had a letter/message about this.

After School Clubs

Thank you to all of those parents who have signed up through ParentPay for clubs. We have taken on board any feedback you have given and we'll make some changes where needed but on the whole, the process was very successful.

The children told us in assembly today what they have already enjoyed about their clubs this week! They are very excited about them. There are still spaces in some clubs and it's not too late to join! Please sign up through Parentpay – if it doesn't let you sign up, it means there are no places left at that club.

You MUST have a ParentPay login for clubs. Please see Mrs Foster or Miss Charlton if you need help with this.



Uniform

We have PLENTY of second hand uniform available in the school office so please do come to have a look at it. We will spend some time organising it a little better soon! We also still have many PE t-shirts if you would like to buy them from the school office.

SchoolPing and Paper Letters

Most school communication now happens via SchoolPing which is our messaging app. You may have noticed that you have been getting messages via SchoolPing about how well your child or the class are doing – there is no alternative way of sending these if you don't have SchoolPing. We also try not to give out paper copies of any letters – we will send a letter out soon so you can request paper copies if you need them though.

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Parents of Bumblebees do not currently have access to SchoolPing as there has been a problem uploading the details to it. ICT services and SchoolPing are rectifying this and we hope to have you up and running soon!

Parent Forum

We are introducing a Parent Forum each half term. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss specific areas of school improvement, makes suggestions and work with staff to find solutions. This Tuesday, 24th September, at 2.30pm we will hold our first Forum about the topic of Communication. We can't wait to see as many of you as possible, at the school office, ready for a 2.30pm start. If you cannot attend but have some ideas, please email the school office by 3pm explaining your view.

PTFA Meeting + PTFA Film Night

Like most schools, we have a Parent, Teacher and Friend Association that supports the school to provide additional fun for children and to raise money for the school. At the moment, funds are going towards paying our 10% of the new entrance we had built. However, funds have also been spent on new playground equipment, special resources, subsidising trips and Golden Time equipment to name just some.

We have our first meeting of this year on Tuesday 1st October at 2.20pm. All are welcome! Please come to the school office at that time.

We are hoping to have our first Film Night of the year on Friday 18th October – we will send out further details at the beginning of October.

Brighton Food Bank

The Brighton City Mission Foodbank collected all of the items that were contributed to our collection point in the school office last term – it weighed in at 26.3kg in total! Mike at the Foodbank has written to us to thank all of the children, family and staff who gave so generously and to reiterate that your kindness has made a big difference. We will continue to use our collection point in the school office so that we can support the Foodbank's work to help families in the city who are hungry. Please continue to donate in-date items when you can.

We can also refer families to the foodbank and so if you find yourself in need, please see Ms Blood, Mrs Evans or Miss Keeling who will be able to support your referral.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood
Headteacher