

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: 07/05/21

Dear Parents and Carers,

School News

Music Video

Just before the Easter Break, I caught Penguin Class achieving a music making session and even joined in a bit! This was only a practise session but it was so lovely, I asked Ms Paton to record it. She did and we have uploaded it to the YouTube channel for you all to view.

Go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWFsgMGWYx_Vz30wvcl0u0Q or just search for St Bartholomew's CE Primary School to find us! If you subscribe, you will be notified when we upload any new videos.



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

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News and events from St Bartholomew's CE Primary School, Brighton.

Thank You

We are so grateful to Ms Powell for getting her family involved in making these beautiful sand trays for Bumblebee Class. Billy, who used to come to St Bartholomew's and is now 18, made these amazing wooden structures, with just a bit of help from his Dad. Thanks Billy, you are a STAR!



Return to School

It has been such a lovely return to school and the children have adapted back to being at school in a remarkable way! I have been able to pop into each class over the last 3 weeks and have seen some wonderful learning happening. Children and staff are enthusiastic to be back and there is such a positive atmosphere around the school. The fleeces have come in really handy too as it has been bright sunshine but SO cold! I don't think anyone has told the weather that it is now May!

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

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However, we know the return to school has been overwhelming for some children, some parents/carers, some families and perhaps even some staff. Some children may be more anxious about school now whereas others might be thrilled to be back. Some may have flourished during lockdown, others may have had a very difficult time and are still processing that. Perhaps some of you as parents are missing the time you have spent with them and are feeling more anxious about their health and welfare now they have returned to school. Perhaps others of you are pleased to be back in some kind of routine and you are enjoying a small amount of time to yourself. This past year has been difficult for all of us and has had an effect on all of our mental health, however big or small, negative or positive.

At school we are dealing with an increased level of need across the classes. For some families, this may be needing foodbank support, for others, it might be emotional support. For some its support with parenting in this new phase and for some, it's facilitating support from other agencies that can help.

All of our children have missed at least two thirds of school time since March 2020. They haven't only missed out on academic learning but also on the social learning that we do as school – developing and managing friendships, working together, dealing with conflict, managing worries and concerns and many other things that are covered in our PSHE lessons but also in the day to day being at school.

We know that some children may find it difficult to adapt back to being at school and to keeping the Golden Rules. Where this is the case, we will work with them to identify the triggers for this behaviour and to support them to improve their behaviour. No child gets up in the morning and decides they are going to exhibit naughty behaviour. In fact, most children who find things difficult are trying their hardest to do their best but something can trigger them and they can't yet find a way to manage this within the Golden Rules.

We will continue to work within our behaviour system, rewarding good behaviour and sanctioning poor behaviour. For some children we may also implement individual reward and sanction programmes. Sanctions are wide ranging but these range from missing Golden Time or playtime to fixed term exclusions. Other adults and children may not always know what the sanction was but please rest assured, an appropriate sanction will be used and we usually ensure there is some sort of apology or recompense.

We try to remember that all of our pupils are still children (not even teenagers!) and not so long ago, they were all tiny babies. We also know that all of our children are AMAZING, even those that find things challenging. We are a school that is inclusive and we pride ourselves on that but we also recognise that this sometimes presents challenges for us all.

If you do ever have any concerns about your child in school, please firstly talk to the class teacher. If the problem still isn't resolved, please talk to a member of SLT – Ms Blood, Miss Keeling, Mrs Christie-Davies and Miss Banks. One of us is usually on the playground in the morning!

We are also aware that during the last year, communication between school and parents has been limited, due to the guidance for managing school during the pandemic. It's been much harder for parents and staff to have informal conversations about small concerns at the end of the school day. Although we are still led by the guidance, we can still meet with parents and make contact via phone/email so PLEASE do get in touch if you have any concerns.

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Church School

St Bartholomew's Church

Friday Mass Resumes

The 12 noon Friday Mass will resume on **7 May 2021** and will be offered by Fr John Twisleton or Fr David Ingledew.

Bible Verse

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5: 43-44

Reminders and Notices

Top Playground

We are thrilled that the funding is being provided by the Local Authority to resurface the top playground. It currently has quite a few cracks in, doesn't drain well in the rain and there are bits breaking off!

The work starts next week (10th May) and is expected to finish in October. One of the reasons it will take so long is the limited access that they will have to the playground. They are accessing the space from the road by the multi-storey car park and opposite the Sainsbury's car park entrance.

We are lucky that we have plenty of space on the lower playground, however, we are finalising plans to make some adjustments to lunchtime so that there is a little more space to play.

Parents Evening

All parents have been Pinged information about Parents Evening – please ensure you sign up for an appointment via SchoolPing.

We were hoping that, by now, we could have had face to face meetings but unfortunately the guidance still doesn't allow it. Therefore, we will hold our meetings over the telephone for all classes – we would much rather be meeting you in person but we do need to focus on keeping everyone safe still. The meetings will take place as follows:

Date	Time	Class	Teacher
17/05/21	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Bumblebees	Ms Hier
		Koalas	Mrs Allaway
		Red Pandas	Miss Banks
18/05/21	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Penguins	Mr Beggs
		Pangolins	Mr Mills
		Jaguars	Ms Soar
19/05/21	3.30pm – 7.00pm	Penguins	Mr Beggs
		Pangolins	Mr Mills
		Jaguars	Miss Keeling
20/05/21	3.30pm – 7.00pm	Bumblebees	Ms Hier
		Koalas	Miss Beavis
		Red Pandas	Miss Banks

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It's really important that you make an appointment so we can keep you updated about your child's progress and ways you can support them at home.

This will be the final Parents Evening before you receive your child's Annual Report on 7th July.

Coronavirus

Please remember that ALL families with school age children can access free coronavirus home tests to use regularly to check for the virus. Please go to <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing> to find out how to access them in Brighton and Hove – they are available from test centres and some pharmacies.

We ask that as many families as possible participate in this so that we can keep each other safe. All positive results should be reported to the school.

Attendance and Reporting Absences

Please can we remind all parents and carers that if your child is going to be absent from school, you must call the school office on the morning of the absence. Please don't tell your child's class teacher as they will be busy in the morning and the message may not be passed on to the office in time!

If you do not contact us and we are unable to contact you, your child's absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If your child has 3 days of unauthorised absence in any six-week period, you will be referred to the Local Authority for a Fixed Penalty Notice of £60 per parent per child.

Please also remember that your child's school attendance is extremely important. Children have missed so much school over the past two years that any time in school is even more valuable than ever – both for learning and for socialising. If your child's attendance is a concern, you will be contacted by myself and may be referred to our Independent Attendance Advisor.

If you are having issues bringing your child to school, please speak to me. We can find a way to help.

Kind Regards

Katie Blood

Katie Blood
Headteacher

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Calendar Dates

Please note that these dates are subject to change dependent on coronavirus guidance

May

W/B 17th – Parents Evening (telephone appointments)
28th – Non Uniform Day – School Fund
28th – Last day of half term

June

7th – INSET Day
8th – Pupils return
29th – Sports Day (TBC)
30th – Reserve Sports Day (TBC)

July

6th – New Reception children visit with parents
7th – Reports out
13th – New Reception children visit and parents meeting
13th – Shuffle through session
16th – Shuffle through session
19th – Non Uniform Day – Food Bank
14th – Report drop-in
20th – New Reception children visit
22nd – Leavers' Assembly
23rd – Last day of term