



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

News in school – Tuesday 5th January 2016

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends and the children enjoyed a well-deserved break after all of their very hard work over the last term. It seems that the standard of dramatic and musical performance achieved by the children improves year on year, so once again every class managed to impress us with their Christmas productions. Thank you to parents and carers who helped to prepare the children for their performances and for the provision of wonderful costumes too.

Thank you also for the very kind Christmas wishes and gifts received into school. Your appreciation and kindness is very humbling. We very much look forward to working in partnership with parents and carers in 2016, to ensure that every child achieves their best, providing encouragement to engage in learning, and the resilience to ensure that they don't give up when learning gets tough. Joining us in this quest is Mrs Edwards, a very warm welcome to her. I know that she is very excited about joining us as the permanent teacher in Palm Class.

A Learning Partnership

Many skills taught in school do need to be practised at home in order that children are enabled to make the best possible progress. Please ensure that you listen to your child read regularly and discuss the book with them too, in order to further develop comprehension and language skills.

The focus of this terms 'Key Instant Recall Facts' are the times tables and related division facts. As you will know from recent media reports in the news, Nicky Clark the Education Secretary is determined to ensure that every child leaving primary school knows their times tables up to x12 before they leave year 6 and she will be introducing a test to assess achievement of this national goal. In school we have always aspired to this target, so I must again request that every parent/carer assists their child at home to secure instant recall of these most important mathematical facts. Most parents will know that chanting the times tables regularly does work (as it has done for many generations) but in this modern age of technology there are now a range of multisensory approaches available from song CD's to tablet based games to engage children in this learning. Pupil assessment data indicates that children who have secure and instant recall of the times tables and related division facts do make faster progress and higher attainment.

Start of the Term

The term kicked off today with and ECO topic day, which enabled the children to learn about a range of topic related to the planet and how to look after it. Workshops included learning about recycling and reusing, Energy consumption and reduction, Water consumption and reduction and a visit from Zoolab allowed access to some the animals we share our planet with. A wonderful day of team learning which will help us to work together to look after the world we are fortunate to share.

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Uniform

I am very pleased every day to witness the children wearing their uniform with pride; it is a visible enactment of the high standards everyone has. To ensure that this continues I would like to remind you of a couple of uniform requirements. PE kit should consist of black shorts and a plain white round neck t-shirt and a tracksuit (preferably black or black bottoms with a school fleece top). Trainers can be worn during playtimes (to avoid school shoes being spoilt during the playing of football) and wellingtons are a good idea when it is very wet, but please remember that black school shoes are a requirement of the schools published uniform and these should be worn in school. Please ensure that nail varnish and/or make up is removed before school and earrings should be small stud type earrings or small sleepers which can be removed for PE lessons.

Also as the start of a new term often prompts the purchase of new uniform, can I please remind you to label all your child's belongings, so that misplaced items can be correctly returned to their owner.

Attendance

'Gerald' would seem to be a super incentive for high attendance. Competition between classes to have Gerald's company each week is high, and whole school attendance has seen a significant improvement on levels seen last year. Whole school attendance for terms 1 and 2 is 98.21% compared with only 96.16% for the same period last year.

We do know that the children were affected by extraordinarily high levels of illness last year and I am pleased that we are not experiencing similar issues this year; I hope the children continue to remain well so they enjoy coming into school.

A big thank you to all parents/carers for avoiding in term absences and appointments.

Term 3 Clubs

With the exception of Taekwondo club (which starts this Friday), all clubs will commence WC Monday 11th January. Collection time will be 4.15pm.

Breakfast Week – WC25th January

The PTFA have kindly agreed to support National Breakfast Week, so during week commencing 26th January children will be invited to come to school early to enjoy breakfast at school with their friends. Please look out for further information about this great event.

PTFA AGM – Wednesday 13th January

The PTFA will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 13th January at 6.00pm at school. All parents are invited to take part in supporting the PTFA in their relentless work to provide exciting fundraising events throughout the school year. Please come along to the meeting if you want to know more about how you can get involved. Refreshments will be available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of staff if there is anything we can assist you with.

Mrs M Parker
Head Teacher

ROUTINES

As we start the new year is always useful to remind ourselves of the routines in place which aim to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the school.

Correspondence

We strive to ensure that you are kept up to date with news and events in school and communicate with you in a number of ways. In line with the school's ECO values we have a significant percentage of parents/carers who now receive school letters by email – cutting down the amount of paper and printing required. This method also ensures that letters arrive home too, avoiding misplacement or loss of hard copy letters. In addition to sending out email and hard copy letters, we also upload school correspondence to the school's website. (www.stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk). Please note that hard copy letters are always sent to all families (in addition to the email) where a reply slip is attached for completion and return to school.

At the end of last term a small number of parents had indicated they were unaware of some events and notices issued, requiring us to chase up parents. As you can see from above we do everything we think we can to keep parents up to date, so we kindly request that parents remember to open and read the emails they receive. Please also check your child's book bag daily for any additional notes or correspondence. Whilst we believe that we are doing all that we can to keep parents up to date if you have any suggestions for how we could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of this system we would be delighted to hear from you.

Reply Slips and money

Please ensure that reply/permission slips and any money sent into school is sent inside your child's named plastic zip wallet (supplied in September). The system in school requires your child to pass the wallet (and its contents) to their class teacher at registration. The wallets are then returned to the office with the class register. The office process the contents, insert any receipts or related correspondence, and return the wallet to the class teacher. The wallet is then passed back to the child to be placed in their book bag so it returns home.

Please can you ensure that you comply with this system as it ensures that correspondence and money is controlled; it is identified to the child, it cannot be lost or mis-placed.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Parents of children in Apple and Palm class must order universal free school meals directly with our lunch provider, The Farm Kitchen (via their online ordering system), if they wish their child to receive their entitlement to free school meal provision. All lunch orders (for all pupils) must be placed on or before midnight of the Tuesday of the week before supply. A number of children are arriving in school with no packed lunch and no ordered hot lunch. In the event that school is required to provide a lunch for a child who has arrived without any, a charge will be made.

School Field

Can I kindly request that children and parents entering the school grounds from the play park entrance use the tarmac path to approach the school. The field is not only very wet and muddy, which leads to dirty shoes (and then dirty carpets), but it is also very slippery too.

Parking

For the safety of pupils arriving and leaving school, please do not stop on the yellow lines or the school entrance when dropping children off. Please reverse in to the parking slots adjacent to the school boundaries.