



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



News in school 15.12.23

Good afternoon,

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pinecones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent. The third candle, which is pink and symbolizes joy, will be lit. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy.

Whatever you are doing this Sunday, we hope that it is filled with joy, love and the hope of a wonderful Christmas to come.

Class Parties

Each class will have a party on the last day of term (Wednesday 20th December). The children are invited to bring a named plate of food to eat at lunch time. There will be no food provided by Willoughby Foods Ltd on this day. Willoughby Foods packed lunches will be available for those children entitled to free school meals that have completed the form or contacted the office.

Reverse Advent Calendar

We are collecting for Agape Food Bank again this year. If you feel able to donate, a cardboard box will be available every day in December (until Tuesday 19th December) in each classroom for your child to add one item during that time. These items will be donated to Agape Food Bank. Donation suggestions: Christmas-specific non-perishable food items, Christmas crackers, colouring books, stationery, tinned fruit or veg, potatoes, pasta, rice, soup, rice pudding, custard, sponge puddings, toiletries. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Malicious Communications

Over the last few years there has been an ongoing problem in Lincolnshire with malicious communications. It is one of the top 5 crimes in which 14-16 year olds have received a criminal conviction for. Online behaviour is something we talk regularly to children and young people about within our online safety sessions and we want to also make

sure parents are aware of these laws and the potential consequences our online behaviour can have in the real world, for our children's futures. We have attached, at the bottom of this newsletter, a document which outlines the different laws regarding online behaviour, this is to accompany our video aimed at parents [Stay Safe Talks - Malicious Communications \(youtube.com\)/ \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkI9CgpP9t8We\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkI9CgpP9t8We). We highly recommend taking a look.

Take care
Miss Ingle



School worship

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

Amen

Bible verse of the week

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3

Attendance winner of the week

Oak Class are the attendance winners of the week.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
19 th December	2.15pm	Christingle & Carols by Candlelight at the Church
20 th December		Class Parties (children to bring a plate of food)
20 th December		End of Term 2
3 rd January 2024		Beginning of Term 3
7 th February 2024		Class Photos
26 th April 2024		Year 1 – Learn2Ride course
15 & 16 th May 2024		Year 5 – L1 & 2 Bikeability
26-28 th June 2024		Year 6 Residential

Please be aware that Lincolnshire County Council have amended the term dates for 2024-25. Tuesday 22nd April 2025 is now an Inset Day and Monday 2nd June 2025 is now a normal school day. Please see our school website for all term dates.

All calendar dates/events can be found on our school website by clicking on the 'calendar' tab. If you wish to add an event to your own calendar, you can do so by clicking on the link and pressing the 'add to calendar' button.

Any Other Information/Reminders

PE Timetable Term 3:

	Outdoor PE	Indoor PE
Apple	Monday	Wednesday
Palm	Tuesday	Thursday
Oak	Thursday	Monday
Willow	Friday	Tuesday

Home School Agreement

If you haven't done so already, please complete the Home School Agreement 2023-24 form that can be found on ParentMail.

Christingle & Carols by Candlelight at the Church

Every year we support The Children's Society by making Christingles and collecting spare change in collection boxes. The Children's Society supports disadvantaged children by providing face-to-face help, as well as lobbying parliament to change laws to benefit all children. Please help support The Children's Society this year by making the box your child (1 per family) will be bringing home, filling it with loose change and returning it to school on, or before, 19th December. Alternatively, if you send some change with your child, they can drop it into our collection box in that we have in the office. Thank you.

Our service this year will start at 2:15pm in the church. At the end, we will walk children to the village hall and release them from there – we will not bring them back into church. Apple and Palm will be released from the double blue doors and Oak and Willow will be released from the single brown door. Please take care as the car park will be busy and cars will be moving. Thank you.

Christmas Gifts of Thanks

We are aware of the heightened financial pressures that many of you are facing at the moment and as a staff, we wish to emphasise that we do not expect 'thank you' gifts from children/parents. Should you wish to say 'thank you', we always appreciate homemade cards, letters and gifts (items of food must be clearly labelled for allergens and wrapped securely) or a spoken word of 'thank you' (kind words mean a lot!). If you wish to give any cards/gifts, these can be dropped off at the school office, clearly labelled with staff and child's name, rather than handing them out to class staff to avoid those families who can't afford gifts from feeling uncomfortable. Thank you.

School Mobile Phone

We now have a school mobile for afterschool care. The number is: 07396725986 It will be turned off during the school day. It will only be available for parents who have children attending afterschool care during afterschool care hours. **PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE FIRST IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

After School Kids Club

Please be aware that if parents/carers/guardians are more than 10 minutes late collecting from after school clubs at 4pm there will be a charge of a full hour, per child, childcare cost.

Pencil Cases

Please remember to ask your child regularly if they require anything replenishing.

Severe Weather/Snow Closure

In the event of severe weather, we will always strive to ensure that the school remains open, but in the event that extreme weather conditions necessitate the closure of the school we will advise you of this in a number of ways. We will notify parents via email via Parentmail, update the school website and advise Lincs FM and BBC Lincolnshire radio stations so listen out to their broadcasts or log onto their websites. We will also post a message on the school's Facebook and 'X' pages.

School Opening

Our school office is open from 8.30am to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday. If you wish to contact the school out of these hours, please call 01775 640357 and leave a message on our answerphone or alternatively email enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk.

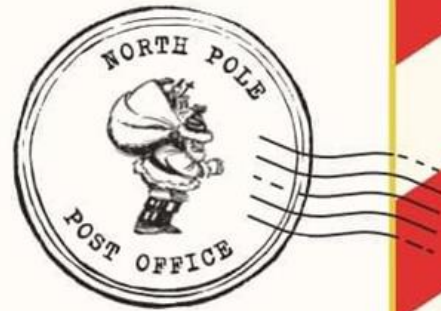
PTFA Easy Fundraising is a great source of funds for the school which could raise £££s for the PTFA. A range of retailers, holiday companies, Ebay, Tesco and many more donate a percentage of money spent when parents / carers / guardians spend money. It costs the consumer absolutely nothing at all. Parents/carers/guardians need to click on the easy fundraising link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

- Register an email and password
- Nominate your cause
- Download a reminder tool to browser so when purchases are made through a partner a reminder is sent.

Make the purchase and a percentage goes to St Barts!

**TO SANTAS
OFFICE**



Dear Santa

We have tried all year to be really good :-)

What we would love for Christmas is for no one to need us....

We appreciate that's a difficult ask in the current times. To make it easier we would really appreciate, some lovely family biscuits, special treats pickles, tinned meat and fruit, to put in our Christmas hampers for those in need this Christmas.

Help us make Christmas extra special for
people In Spalding.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas xx

*Agapecare
foodbank*



Laws about online behaviour

There are a number of laws that apply to behaviour online.

? Is cyberbullying or trolling against the law?

Although bullying, cyberbullying or trolling are not specific criminal offences in UK law, there are criminal laws that can apply in terms of harassment or threatening behaviour. For example should you receive threatening, obscene or repeated messages and fear for your safety, this is against the law and you should contact the police. Context is taken into consideration and the police will determine the response on a case by case basis.

Some of the laws below are relevant:

Communications Act 2003: This Act covers all forms and types of public communication. With regards to comments online, it covers the sending of grossly offensive, obscene, menacing or indecent communications and any communication that causes needless anxiety or contains false accusation.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997: This Act covers any form of harassment that has occurred 'repeatedly'; in this instance, 'repeatedly' means on one or more occasions.

The Malicious Communications Act 1988: This Act covers the sending of grossly offensive or threatening letters, electronic communications or any other form of message with the intention of causing harm, distress or anxiety.

Equality Act 2010: This Act states that it is against the law to discriminate against anyone on the ground of protected characteristics. These include disability, gender reassignment (when a person undergoes a process, or part of a process – social or medical – for the purpose of reassigning their sex), race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Hate crimes and hate speech If you commit a crime against someone because of their religion, race, sexual orientation or disability, this is classified as a hate crime. Hate speech is defined as expressions of hatred and threats directed at a person or a group of people on account of that person's colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or sexual orientation. Hate crimes should be reported to **True Vision** – www.report-it.org.uk

? What other laws affect the online space?

The Computer Misuse Act 1990 says you can't impersonate or steal someone else's identity online. This means that writing a status on social media pretending to be your friend is technically against the law.

The Protection of Children Act 1978 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988 says that indecent images (naked pictures) of children under the age of 18 are illegal.

Section 33 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 refers to the new offence dealing with Revenge Pornography. This is a law relating to images of adults (ie over 18s), making it illegal to share or make public sexually explicit images of someone else, without their consent, with the intent to cause distress.