



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



News in school 8.12.23

Good afternoon,

Sunday was the first Sunday of the Advent season.

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of countdown, waiting for something important to happen. Waiting is not always easy, whether it's for our online shopping to be delivered, or for the next career opportunity to present itself, or for the Christmas holidays to begin; it's easy to be impatient. Advent calendars show us how long it is going to be until that all-important 25th December – the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Before the birth of Jesus, the people of Israel did not have the benefit of an advent calendar. They were waiting many, many years, not knowing when their promised Messiah would arrive, what he would be like, nor how he would arrive.

Sometimes waiting seems impossible, but when we look at it more closely, we can see positives to it. Waiting does not need to be passive; we can actively wait. Rather than seeing Advent as a season of waiting, let us see the season as a time for preparation – a time for preparing for the coming of the Messiah and the celebration of Christmas with the birth of Jesus Christ. In the lead up to Christmas celebrations, you will no doubt have lots to prepare, such as family gatherings, carol services and buying gifts for loved ones.

It is the same throughout the school year: we often actively wait and prepare for things. For example, teachers prepare to deliver inspiring opportunities for pupils to learn as they plan their lessons and gather their resources. Leaders and governors prepare for future developments of the school as they evaluate their monitoring activities. I don't know of a single school leader who just sits around in school and waits passively for something to happen. However, active waiting does not mean that you always have to be busy running around doing something. We can actively use our time to reflect on what we are waiting for. We must use some time to think!

Advent gives us an opportunity, yes to prepare for the season, but also to reflect on what we are building up to - the birth of Jesus and all that means for mankind: the arrival of light into the world after people have been 'walking in darkness'. Whatever we are waiting for at the moment, it is good to know we are not alone. We do not need to wait any longer for Jesus to be revealed. God is with us at all times.

I hope your weekends are full of light, anticipation and preparation with time to think too!

Take care
Miss Ingle



Arrangements for Collection for PTFA Christmas Fayre

The Christmas fayre starts at 2:30pm. All the children will be released to the playground at 2:30pm and parents can go into the hall for the fayre. Any children not being collected at 2:30pm will remain in classrooms with teachers. The children have been making gifts which will be sold from classrooms at £2 each. Please bring cash to the fayre as we do not have any facilities to take card payments. There will also be food stalls, Christmas gifts, a tombola and photo booth. Please see attached flyer.

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.

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. If your child is entitled to free school meals and wish for them to be provided with a packed lunch, then please fill out the form on ParentMail by Monday 11th December.

Driving to and from School

As the weather worsens and we get rain, slush and snow, please take care when coming around corners to reduce skidding and spraying pedestrians with mud and water, in particular Six House Bank is a narrow road with a narrow pavement. Thank you.

Dangerous Parking

It has come to our attention that some parents, when dropping off in the mornings, are not choosing appropriate places to park. Some parents have been seen pulling up on the yellow zigzags outside of the gate and allowing their children to cross the busy road unsupervised. As a school, we work hard to keep our children safe and dangerous parking is a concerning issue that poses a serious risk to the safety of our children and other pedestrians. May we remind you that parking dangerously can lead to accidents and potential harm. Inconsiderate parking practices such as parking in designated no-parking zones, can obstruct visibility and create congestion, making it difficult for our children to cross the road safely. It is essential that parents prioritise the safety of our school community by adhering to parking regulations, using designated parking areas and being mindful of the potential dangers your parking choices may pose. Thank you for your understanding.

Thinking of buying an e-scooter?

Lincolnshire Police is reminding parents/carers/guardians that e-scooters are not legal to use on public pavements or roads. Inspector Jason Baxter said, "Our approach to this will be to engage and educate. When that fails, we will enforce. We know that e-scooters are probably on Christmas lists this year, and may be tempting in the January sales, we just want people to think twice before buying a product that's so limited in where you can legally use it. Whilst our aim is to engage and educate, penalties for using an e-scooter illegally can include seizure of the e-scooter."

- In Lincolnshire, the only place you can legally use an e-scooter is on private land, with the permission of the land owner. [Read more about our advice on using e-scooters.](#)
- If you are considering buying an e-scooter, please also read this [advice from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue after safety concerns over e-scooters](#) regarding charging and battery storage.

- As part of a trial, rental e-scooters are allowed on public roads and cycle lanes in approved areas in some cities (not currently Lincoln) provided you have the correct licence and follow road traffic regulations. [Find out more about e-scooter trials.](#)

School worship

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Amen

Bible verse of the week

Acts 20:35

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Attendance winner of the week

Palm Class are the attendance winners of the week.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
11 th December	6pm	Apple & Palm Class Christmas Performance
12 th December	2.30pm	Apple & Palm Class Christmas Performance
13 th December		Christmas Jumper Day
13 th December		Christmas Lunch (order via Willoughby Foods website)
13 th December	3.15 - 4.30pm	PTFA Christmas Disco
14 th December	2.30-5pm	PTFA Christmas Fayre
15 th December		Whole school trip to Panto (South Holland Centre)
19 th December	2.15pm	Christingle & Carols by Candlelight at the Church
20 th December		End of Term 2
3 rd January 2024		Beginning of Term 3
26 th April 2024		Year 1 – Learn2Ride course
15 & 16 May 2024		Year 5 – L1 & 2 Bikeability

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/Swimming Timetable Term 2:

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

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!

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.

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.

Reverse Advent Calendar

We will be running a reverse advent calendar 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.

Apple & Palm Class Christmas Performance

Apple and Palm Class will be presenting their Christmas Performance, Baarmy Bethlehem, on Monday 11th at 6pm and Tuesday 12th December at 2.30pm. **We ask that the children return to school for the evening performance, in full uniform at 5.30pm ready for a 6pm start. For those parents not attending the evening performance, please collect your child at 6.30pm.** Due to health and safety precautions, we are only able to offer four attendees per family. Please complete the ticket form and send monies to the office as this is a very popular event and therefore entry will not be possible without tickets.

On Friday 8th December, it will be the dress rehearsal and we have a photographer coming to take pictures of the children in their costumes. These will then be available to purchase on the night at £5 each or 3 for £10.

Christmas Jumper Day

The children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper on Wednesday 13th December for a donation of £1 towards South Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Service (SoLDAS [Boston Women's Aid]). Christmas jumpers can be shop bought or home decorated. If anyone would like to donate any Christmas jumpers that their children have grown out of, we would be happy to receive them in school.

PTFA Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Thursday 14th December at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Those children who travel home by taxi and attend Afterschool Kids Club will be able to attend with a nominated member of staff from 2.30pm until 3.15pm.

Panto Trip

The whole school will be attending the panto at the South Holland Centre on Friday 15th December. If you haven't done so already, please complete the permission form and make payment via ParentMail.

Christingle and Carols by Candlelight Service

Our Christingle and Carols by Candlelight service will take place at 2.15pm on Tuesday 19th December. Everyone is welcome to attend. Children are to be collected at 3.15pm from the Village Hall.

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.

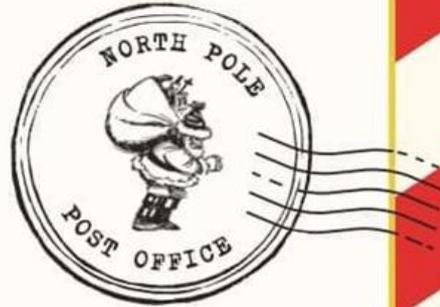
Severe Weather/Snow Closure

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.

**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*

