



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



"Let your light shine"

News in school

13.12.24

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

A focus on joy during Advent allows Christians to reflect on the joy that Jesus' salvation brings. The hope for our lives and the future of our world.

We can also think about how we can bring joy to others in this advent period. The joy of Christ is not just something to be felt; it is something to be shared. Often, we look for grand gestures to make a difference, but the true beauty of joy lies in the small, everyday actions that brighten the lives of others. A kind word, a helping hand, a listening ear – these simple acts can bring light into the darkness of someone's day. Some people also reach out to others, especially at this time of year, perhaps by offering to help someone with limited mobility with their Christmas decorations or, inviting someone who lives alone to Christmas dinner.

No matter how you seek to bring joy to others or what brings you joy, enjoy taking time this week to notice the moments of joy in our school, our homes and our communities.

Early Years Oral Health Newsletter

Please click this link [Early Years Christmas Newsletter](#) for the Oral Health Early Years Newsletter.

Assessment (Quiz) Week

This week has been assessment week. If you haven't done so already, please make sure that you have booked in to parents evening via Parentmail, as we will be discussing achievements, next steps and things you could do to support at home, during these meetings. Parent evenings take place on Monday 16th December (3.30-6.30pm) and Tuesday 17th December (3.30pm-6pm). Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding your appointment. Your child's books will be available, in the school hall, for you to peruse before or after your appointment.

Panto Trip

The whole school will be attending the panto at the South Holland Centre on Wednesday 18th December. If you haven't done so already, please complete the permission form and make payment via ParentMail.

Christingle Carol Service

Our Christingle Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 2.15pm. Children are to be collected at 3.15pm from the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Whole School Party

On Thursday 19th December children are required to bring a 'party food' lunch to enjoy in the school hall with staff. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) please complete the form on ParentMail indicating if you would like a 'party' lunch provided.

After School Clubs

Clubs for term 3 are now live and therefore you are able to book places.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Our reverse advent calendar is coming to a close. Please send any donations to the school office as our donations will be collected on Monday 16th December and taken 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, baby items.

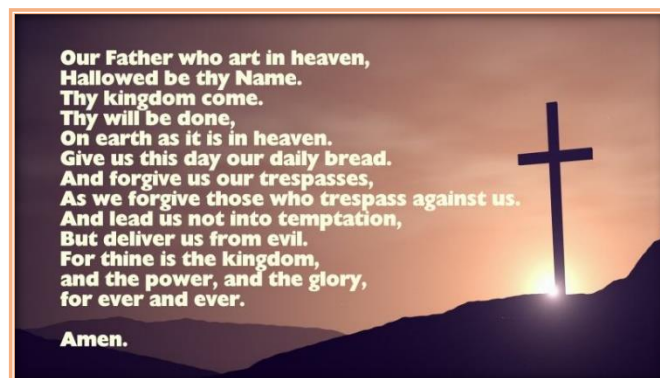
Take care
Miss Ingle

Bible verse of the week

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

School worship



Church News

St Bartholomew's Church, West Pinchbeck will be holding their carol service on Sunday 15th December at 2pm. All Welcome. Refreshments include Mulled wine and Mince pies.

Thirsty on a Thursday: The Church is open every Thursday between 9.30—11am for you to drop in any time for tea/coffee and a chat.

Attendance winner of the week

Franklin Class are the attendance winners of the week and have won a trip to the park with Gerald during playtime one day next week.

Celebrated this week in Collective Worship

Any Other Information/Reminders

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 page.

Book Wish List

We are constantly trying to update our school Library so the child have the opportunity to read new and exciting books. With this in mind, Mrs Szydłowski has sourced a 'Book Wish List'. It has been created by our local book shop 'Bookmark' in Spalding. They have been extremely kind and made an area on their website where you can click on a book and purchase it online and have also offered us a discount. We felt it was not only important to purchase new books for our children but also support a local small business. When a few books have been purchased they will then contact Mrs Szydłowski to go and collect them. If you feel you would like to purchase a book for our Library, or know someone that would like to, then please follow this link:

<https://uk.bookshop.org/lists/st-bartholomew-s-ce-primary-school-wishlist?>



Bookmark have informed us that if you select a book from our list on their website and buy via the website then a delivery cost will be added. If you see a book you would like to purchase please email them directly or call the shop. They will then have the books delivered to the shop for free and it will be collected from them.

Health Care Plans

In order that we can provide the necessary care required to those children who have on-going health care needs, we require parents to complete a 'Health Care Plan' form via ParentMail. This document is used to detail the on-going health issues and, if applicable, the medication that each child requires. If you haven't done so already and your child has health care needs, please complete the form via ParentMail. Thank you to those parents who have already completed their child's Health Care Plan.

PE/Swimming Timetable Term 2:

	PE	Outdoor PE
Nightingale	Monday	Wednesday
Darwin	Thursday	Tuesday
Franklin	Friday	Thursday

Attendance

All schools are expected to keep their attendance over 96%. At the end of our first week, our Year to Date attendance sits at 96.44%. If you need any help with attendance, please come and speak to us as we will help in any way that we can. Dr Chris Whitty released this statement via the DfE: *"It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above."*

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.
#AttendanceCounts"

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.

Pencil Cases

Please remember to ask your child regularly if they require anything replenishing, especially glue sticks, which are frequently used items.

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.

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.

Attendance

Supporting you to understand the new rules

A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absences, including unauthorised leave of absences in Term Time, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new government regulations will come into effect from **19th August 2024**.

What are these changes?

If a pupil has **10 unauthorised sessions**, which is equal to **5 school days**, within a **10 week period**, a penalty notice may be issued. This will come under 3 categories: First, Second, and Third offence.

First Offence
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child if paid within **28 days**, reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21 days**.

Second Offence
The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child to be paid within **28 days**. No reduced rate will be offered.

Third offence and any further offences (within 3 years)
The third time an offence is committed for Term Time leave or unauthorised absences a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

For any further inquiries about school attendance please visit:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

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!

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
16 th & 17 th December	3.30-6.30/6pm	Parents Evenings
16 th & 17 th December	3.30-6.30/6pm	Scholastic Book Fair
18 th December		Whole School Trip – Pantomime South Holland Centre
18 th December	2.15-3.15pm	Christingle Carol Service at St Bartholomew's Church
18 th December		Whole School Christmas Party
19 th December		Term 2 Ends
6 th January 2025		Term 3 Begins
15 th January		Reception 2025 application process closes
29 th & 30 th January		Reception: Bikeability Balance Training (date change)
3 rd & 4 th February		Year 5: Level 2 Bikeability Training
12 th February	Time tbc	Young Chef Valentine's Meal
14 th February		Term 3 Ends
24 th February		Term 4 Begins
6 th March		World Book Day
16 th March	10 – 12 noon	PTFA Car Boot Sale
21 st March		Red Nose Day
2 nd April	3.15-4.15pm	PTFA Easter Disco
4 th April		Term 4 Ends
23 rd April		Term 5 Begins
23 rd & 24 th April	Time tbc	Parents Evenings
w/c 12 th May		KS2 SATs
17 th May	6-8pm	PTFA Family meal and quiz night
23 rd May		Term 5 Ends
2 nd June		Term 6 Begins
17 th June	Time tbc	Sports Day
27 th June	Time tbc	PTFA Summer Fayre
8 th & 9 th July	6-7pm	Year 5/6 Summer Production
13 th July	Time tbc	Sports Day
17 th July		Whole School Trip to Lincoln Castle
21 st July	Time tbc	PTFA Year 6 Leavers BBQ & whole school disco
22 nd July	9.15am	Leavers' Service
22 nd July		Term 6 Ends

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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CHRISTMAS SPORTS CAMP



ELITE
SPORT
ACADEMY LIMITED



CHILDREN WILL NEED:

- PACKED LUNCH
- A DRINK



£20
PER DAY

ADD
£4.50
(3 - 4PM)

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