



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



“Let your light shine”

News in school

7.3.25

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

What an incredible week! We started with a West End inspired dance workshop, On Tuesday Ks1 took part in a potato growing workshop, Wednesday saw the finale of our Young Chef Award and then yesterday we donned our snugly clothes and had a wonderful day celebrating World Book Day! The children have been amazing and lots of fun has been had and memories made.

Dance Workshop – Monday 3rd March

On Monday the children were given the opportunity to bring their learning to life with the magic of professional theatre. The dance and drama workshop that each class received were a great way to help our children look at our chosen topic 'Alice in Wonderland' from a new perspective. The culmination of the day was the whole school joining together to perform an exciting and vibrant version of 'Alice in Wonderland using music, dance, text and drama. What a fantastic day!



Grow Your Own Potatoes – Tuesday 4th March 2025

Dahl and Nightingale Class took part in session 1 of their grow your own potatoes workshop this week. The children learnt about the history of potatoes, how many different varieties there are, soil, healthy foods, parts of a plant, food from around the world and then planted their own potatoes. Each child now has their own to look after at school. We cannot wait to watch them grow. Thank you to all the workshop leaders who ran the sessions



Pancakes in the Church Hall – Tuesday 4th March 2025

The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Village Hall to eat some tasty pancakes. A huge thank you to the Village Hall Committee for their hard work in making this a fantastic experience for our children.

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March 2025

Congratulations to our World Book Day golden ticket winners.



Thank you to everyone that sent in a book. This was a huge success with the children and lovely to see them so excited about getting a new book.

Class Photos

If you wish to order your class photo, the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Tuesday 11th March 2025**. Orders can be placed through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. If you need any assistance in ordering your photo, please contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3). Alternatively, please send your order form to the school office by **Tuesday 11th March 2025**.



Parents Evening

Parents Evening appointments are available to book via ParentMail for Wednesday 23rd April 3.30-6pm and Thursday 24th April 3.30-6.30pm. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Peripatetic Piano Lessons

Sarah has been running guitar lessons at the school since October and is now in a position to offer an introductory 10 week course on the piano. The course will start after the Easter holiday and each lesson will be 25 minutes in length. The piano is an excellent starter instrument but also a fantastic base for learning other instruments in the future. Ideally your child will have access to a traditional or electric piano for some practice between the lessons. The cost for the 10 week course is one payment of £120 in advance, or payable in three instalments of £40. If you need any more information, please email Sarah on sjingle1608@gmail.com. There are also a few spaces still available for beginner guitar lessons.

Annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The Early Years and Childcare support team have launched their annual parental survey. This is part of their annual sufficiency reporting duty where we gather the views of parents on childcare across the county. Please click the link <https://www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/childcaresurvey2025> to complete the survey.

Childcare Survey

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Calling all parents and carers in Lincolnshire... we want to hear from you about your childcare requirements. Please help us to make sure you have the right childcare in your area!

CHILD CARE

The survey will be open between
17th February and 18th March 2025

To access the survey please use the QR code or online at
www.letstalklincolnshire.gov.uk/childcaresurvey2025

LPCF 'State of SEND' Survey

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum 'State of SEND' surveys are currently live, this enables LPCF to provide the Local area with independent findings.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 21st March 2025 we will be holding a **Non-Uniform Day** to support Red Nose Day. The children and staff are invited to come to school wearing something red and it can be as simple or as crazy as you wish! This is in exchange for a donation of £1 for charity.

Month of the Military Child (April)

On Friday 25th April 2025 we will be holding a **Non-Uniform Day** to support 'Purple Up Day'. The children and staff are invited to wear purple to celebrate children from Armed Forces families. Purple has been chosen as it combines the various colours associated with different branches of the military.

Take care
Miss Ingle

Bible verse of the week



School worship

Lord Jesus, Thank you for my friends, and for the games and fun that we share. Please help me to be a good friend to them.
Amen.

Church News

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.

Flower Festival: St Bartholomew's Church will be open on Wednesday 30th until Monday 5th May from 10am – 4.30pm to view the lovely flower displays.

Attendance winner of the week

Darwin are the attendance winners for w/c 24.2.25 and have won a trip to the park with Gerald during playtime one day next week (w/c 10.3.25).

Celebrated this week in Collective Worship

| W/E 7.3.25 | Fantastic Award | Excellence Award |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Dahl | Rupert | Sebastian |
| Nightingale | Elliott I | Tyga-Lilly |
| Darwin | Elliott C | Thomas Sc |
| Franklin | Leah | Tilly |

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 Szydowski 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 Szydowski 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 Timetable Term 4:

| | Indoor PE | Outdoor PE |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Dahl | Wednesday | Monday |
| Nightingale | Monday | Wednesday |
| Darwin | Wednesday | Tuesday |
| Franklin | Friday | Thursday |

Attendance

All schools are expected to keep their attendance over 96%, and our Year to Date attendance sits at 95.88%. 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."*



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

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



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.

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!



YOUR SCHOOL'S PTFA NEEDS YOU!

WHY JOIN ST BART'S PTFA?

- **Make a Difference:** Your efforts can help improve the school environment and resources.
- **Meet New People:** It's a great way to meet other parents and build lasting friendships.
- **Stay Informed:** You'll be in the loop about what's happening at the school and have a say in important decisions.
- **Stronger Community Ties:** Social events and activities help build a supportive and engaged school community. You will have the opportunity to connect with other parents and teachers to make a positive impact on our school.



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT @PTFA - ST BART'S, WEST PINCHBECK

YOUR SUPPORT CAN BE ANYTHING, DEPENDING ON YOUR COMMITMENTS

CONTACT US BY EMAILING THE SCHOOL OFFICE:

 enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk

Dates for Your Diary

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

[Events from March 4 – May 12 – St Bartholomew's](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

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