



## St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



**"Let your light shine"**

***News in school***

***28.3.25***

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

### **Wellbeing for School Parents**

Inourplace is an online learning environment developed by psychologists and health practitioners providing accessible learning about emotional health and wellbeing, proven to positively impact mental health, behaviour and relationships. Please click here [PDF January parent wellbeing newsletter](#) to access the January 2025 newsletter.

### **Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)**



## ***Bible verse of the week***

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight"  
(Proverbs 3:5-6).

## ***School worship***

Dear God, in times of uncertainty and hardship, we seek your strength and resilience. Grant us the ability to not only endure, but to grow and learn from the trials we face. Help us to remain steadfast in our faith, even when things seem impossible. May we find the courage to face challenges with grace and determination, and the wisdom to overcome obstacles with your guidance. In your name, we pray for resilience, strength, and peace.

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 30<sup>th</sup> until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 10am – 4.30pm to view the lovely flower displays.

## ***Attendance winner of the week***

Darwin are the attendance winners for w/c 17.3.25 and have won a trip to the park with Gerald during playtime one day next week (w/c 31.3.25).

## ***Celebrated this week in Collective Worship***

W/E 28.3.25	Fantastic Award	Excellence Award
Dahl	Elijah	Zak
Nightingale	Taku	Bobby
Darwin	Allie	Tommy
Franklin	Charlie M	Tilly

## ***Any Other Information/Reminders***

### **Easter Service**

The Easter Service will take place at St Bartholomew's Church on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 2.15pm. Children are to be collected from the Village Hall. All welcome.

### **SEND Questionnaire**

A questionnaire has been sent to parents of children on the SEND register. It would be appreciated if this could be completed before Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

### **Parents Evening**

Due to the staffing changes announced this week the Parent Evening event on ParentMail has been cancelled and two new Parent Evening events have been created. Franklin Parent Evenings will take place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 3.30-6.30pm and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 3.30-5.30pm with Miss Cox. Darwin, Nightingale and Dahl's Parent Evenings will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 3.30-6.30pm and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April from 3.30-5.30pm. Huge apologies to those parents who have already made appointments but please make a new appointment on the event created this week.

### **Swimming – Term 5**

Please be aware that all children will be swimming next term in one of their class PE lessons. The children require a swimming costume (tight fitting trunks or over the knee shorts for boys/one piece costume for girls), a towel and a

swimming hat. Swimming hats can be purchased for £1.75 via ParentMail, payments, shop. Please look out for the PE/swimming timetable for term 5 which will be advertised in the End of Term 4 Newsletter.

### **Month of the Military Child (April)**

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 95.97%. 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"

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## 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](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-attendance)

**Lincolnshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
*Working for a better future*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 'add calendar' button.

[Events from March 21 – May 12 – St Bartholomew's](#)



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

## NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

## INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

## TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

## DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

## ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

## RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>



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