

St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

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Dear Parents/carers,

Teachers' Strike

Currently, St Bart's will not be affected by the teachers' strike on Wednesday 1st February and all children should come to school as normal. Teachers have the right to change their mind at any point regarding their decision and I will endeavour to inform you as soon as possible should the circumstances change.

School news

Our pupil leadership groups are working hard to plan and implement the ideas that they have gathered from their peers. Sports crew are working hard to organise a sports week, school council and worship council have some exciting ideas to help improve school and eco-council have a long-list of green initiatives they are hoping to advocate for. They will be writing to you soon with some of these ideas and to gain your opinions in the near future. I know that they would love your support and ideas. Our reading ambassadors are doing a wonderful job in hearing our younger children read and reading to them. This is all helping our pupils to foster a lifelong love of reading. Play leaders are using their key character skills of team work, leadership and staying positive to organise games, activities and help make sure our children in Reception and KS1 have positive lunch time experiences. We are incredibly proud of the wonderful work they are carrying out.

We are extremely excited to announce that we are having a new school library fitted at the beginning of March. This will be in the classroom that was previously 1 Holly. The design is wonderful and will incorporate reading /seating areas and a small stage for children to take part in story telling and performance poetry. We will also be stocking it with a wide range of new books. We'd love it if you could ask your children about the kind of books they would like us to purchase and their favourite authors so that we can make this a wonderful place for children to share, borrow and read a wide range of books. We would also like to thank the PFA who have made an extremely generous donation to this project.

We are very proud of 6 of our year 3 and 4 pupils who took part in a Spelling Bee at Oak Meadow Primary School on Tuesday this week. They achieved the silver medal position! At the end of the competition, they were in joint top place and were only pipped at the post in a nail biting tie-break! They did exceptionally well!

School events

On Friday 10th February all children from EYFS to Year 6 will be taking part in a Democracy Challenge Day as part of our character education at St Bart's. More information will be sent via Dojo nearer to the time.



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On Thursday 16th March, we will be holding a language and culture day in school, focussing on our core target language French. More details will be sent nearer the time but this will be a fun, interactive and informative day. If any parents/carers are French speaking, we would love it if you could help out on this day!

Parents' evenings

Spring Term parents/carers meetings will take place on Tuesday 7th March and Wednesday 15th March. Times will be sent to parents before the half term break. If you are unable to attend at the time given, please call the school to contact your child's class teacher who will try to find an alternative time.

Safeguarding and child protection

All staff at St Bart's are committed the safeguarding of the young people in our care. We undertake regular training to learn about how to best respond to the needs of our pupils. This term, staff development is focussing on the impact of domestic abuse on children and families and how to protect children from the impact of gangs and criminal exploitation, both now and in the future through age-appropriate education. If you ever have a concern about the safety or well-being of any young person at our school, please do not hesitate to contact us. I am the Designated Safeguard Lead and Mrs Banks is the Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead. We are trained to deal sensitively and appropriately with any concerns that are brought to our attention.

Polite reminders

May I politely remind parents and carers that Class Dojo should not be used to raise complaints and concerns. Please always speak directly to a member of staff or ring the school office who will put you in contact with the right member of staff to deal with any concern you may have. This will help to ensure that is dealt with in a timely and appropriate way.

I would also like to remind all visitors to our school that mobile telephones must not be used at any time whilst on the school site (unless taking photos for your own use and in an agreed way during celebration worship or class led worships). Please do not be offended if we ask you to put mobile phones away whilst in school.

We have had a lovely start to the spring term and look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Kilmister Headteacher