

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S NEWS

6th January 2023

Happy New Year to you and your families. It is lovely to see the children back at school and we hope this year is a happy and successful one for everyone.

“Excellent attendance is vital for children to flourish and achieve”

Attendance and Punctuality

All children must come to school every day unless too unwell to attend. If your child is absent, it is vital that you inform school. Attendance at school is not only a legal requirement but is essential if children are going to reach their full potential.

Punctuality: Children need to be here on time as every time they are late they miss the start of the day, this can include reading, morning activities and the start of lessons. It can be very upsetting for children to have to walk into a classroom where the lesson has started.

Nursery: We expect children to attend all their sessions. As with the rest of the school, we expect children to be here every day. As we become full, we may have to review your child's place if they are not attending regularly.

Holidays: You are not legally allowed to take your children on holiday in term time. Absence from school may be authorised if there are exceptional circumstances but these need to be discussed in advance and agreed. There are very few circumstances that school can authorise. If you do take your child out of school for a holiday or visit abroad we will ask for documentation, including proof of when the visit was booked and the tickets. This is something schools are expected to do and is a safeguarding requirement.

You will shortly receive your child's attendance certificate for last term. We appreciate that there was a high level of illness before Christmas and this resulted in higher levels of absence but we do hope to return to our great attendance of the first half term in September. We will be inviting some parents in to school for a meeting where we will discuss any issues affecting your child's attendance and ways that school can offer support to ensure your children are in school receiving their full education.

We appreciate your support around attendance. We want to work together to ensure that all our children attend school, enjoy their time here and reach their full potential before moving on to the next stage of their education. If you have any questions or if we can help please ask.

Worship – Our new theme is **Courage** for this half term.

PE T-Shirts – We have a supply of PE T-shirts with the old logo on. These are £1 and can be purchased from the office. We expect all children to wear PE kit on the day they have lessons. This includes a T-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts and trainers; appropriate footwear if essential.

Baby Clothes – The school has been donated a selection of good quality second hand baby clothes. On Friday 13th January from 8.30am to 9am these will be available free of charge. If you would like to look at what is available please come to the main entrance.