

St Bertelne's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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St Bert's News

Website www.stbertelines.org.uk

20th March 2017

Family Assembly



This week's Family Assembly will focus on Mothering Sunday and

will be led by Rev. Stephen Torr alongside our Year 2 children.

Following on from our Family Assembly, we will be holding our mums morning, where mums can join us for worship and then go to their child's classroom to join in with some of the literacy activities taking place.

Slow Down for Bobby!

Jude Lennon from the Bobby Colleran Trust based in West Derby, Liverpool came to talk to the children today about road safety. Please open up a conversation with your child so they can explain all about 'Super Bob'. For more information have a look at www.thebobbycollerantrust.org.uk. Jude will be returning later on next term when she will introduce her second book based on this topic.

Menai Meeting

There will be a parents meeting for all parents of Year 5 children in the school hall on Tuesday 18th April 2017 at 3.15pm.

Year 6 London Visit

Can we please ask all Year 6 parents for final payments/balances for the Year 6 London Visit to be paid by 18th April 2017.

Building Work

During the Easter holiday, the contractors will be starting the replacement of the new roof for the school courtyard. We anticipate that this building work will go on for approximately two months and following the holiday we anticipate some disruption as far as entering and exiting the school is concerned.



We do not know exactly how this will impact upon us until the work begins. We will keep you posted as the project develops.

Impact of budgetary cuts

Many of you will now be aware of the current economic climate in relation to school funding. As a school, we have for a number of years managed to balance our budget annually allowing sufficient resources to maintain 11 teaching groups. As we move forward, it is becoming increasingly difficult to balance the books, increases in gas, electric as well as national insurance contributions and pension contributions have begun to impact significantly on our budget. In addition Enhanced Funding for children with special needs is diminishing. We anticipate that this situation will not improve in the coming years, although we await the outcome of the final decision regarding the National Funding Formula which will become effective in 2020.

In light of this reduction in financial resources, we have had to make some difficult decisions as a school. As from September, we are intending reducing back to 10 teaching groups. We are also in the process of restructuring our PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time for our teachers. As well as this, we no longer have a contingency in place to support residentials, trips, visitors, and workshops etc which rely heavily upon voluntary contributions from yourselves.

We hope that there will be minimal impact on the quality of teaching and learning which takes place at St Bert's and that as a result of our measures, we will be able to sustain all that we value as a school. We know that in the past you have supported us in our fundraising efforts and that this will continue in the future. Thank you for your support.

After School Clubs

As we approach spring time and the clocks change we will be reinstating some of our regularly after school clubs. More details following the Easter break.

Spring Concert

Tickets for the Spring Concert have been given out today to the children/parents concerned in a brown envelope. Any queries please speak directly to Mrs O'Neil. There are no spare tickets available



so please do not turn up on the night hoping for a seat. Thank you so much for your support for this fundraiser - it's sure to be an amazing evening.

The children will need to wear their school uniform on this occasion and doors will open at 6.45pm. For anyone collecting their child who hasn't been in the audience, we are aiming for an 8.45 - 9pm finish. Children should be collected from the school hall.

Can the violin replay group **PLEASE** make sure that their instrument is in school as they need to be tuned in preparation for the evening. These children need to arrive at **6.30pm** for a quick rehearsal in the upstairs classroom.

Many thanks.

The door is always open!

Our school's success is very much dependent upon teachers and children working together for the benefit of the child.

When parents first visit the school with a view to applying for a place, it is explained to them how important it is to share any worries or concerns as they arise. The mileage in sharing school related issues with other parents on the playground is often fruitless. In reality, if you have a school issue then usually only the school can sort it out.

As a school, we try to employ teachers who are both sympathetic, empathetic and approachable. By doing this, we feel parents will be more willing to share their concerns and worries. We know that many of you during your time as part of the St Bert's family

have shared your opinions, views, feelings and worries with us. Often we have been able to resolve things together. We hope that you have always found us to be good listeners and even if at times we may not have been in agreement, we have been willing to listen and justify our actions.

As you know, we repeatedly encourage the children to be aware of anything they put on-line; explaining that once posted it cannot be totally removed or undone. (An expert can find anything recorded electronically.) We would advise parents to be similarly careful when they access social media. The teachers at St.Bert's are committed to providing the very best for your children and go out of their way to be positive and supportive in every way they can. The door is always open - please come and talk to us as your first port of call.

At the end of the day it is only by us being aware of any issues or bones of contention which parents may have that we can attempt to address them.

Chicks Galore!



Today we have had a special delivery of half a dozen eggs. I am sure there will be great excitement when the children witness the eggs hatching over the coming days - hopefully we may have some fluffy chicks. Very soon the children will have an opportunity to watch and handle the chicks - look out for pictures on the web.

Grand Easter Raffle

Raffle tickets for our grand



Easter raffle have been given out. If anybody requires more, then please see Gill in the office. There are over 50 eggs waiting to be won. You have to be in it to win it! The draw will take place on Thursday 30th March 2017.

Red Nose Day

This Friday is Comic Relief. As always we are planning on supporting this charity in true St Bert's style. On Friday the children will be allowed to come to school in jeans and t/shirts as well as red noses in exchange for £1. We hope you will support this worthy cause.

Parents Evening

Later on this week you will receive a parents evening request form. Parents evening will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday 28th & 29th March. Please return your slips asap. Thank you.

Easter Holidays

Just a reminder that we will be finishing school on Friday 31st March 2017. We will be attending church in the morning and school will close at 12.00 noon.

Quote of the Week

'Remember, yesterday is gone and tomorrow is unborn; all you have is today. Live one peaceful day at a time!

Prayers

Our prayers and thoughts this week are for the Wilcox family whose daughter had her operation last week and is progressing well, as well as for the parents and family of our beloved Jack.