

## Message from the Head Teacher

We are now at the end of Term 1 which, although a long term, has gone so quickly!

I must say a big thank you, on behalf of Hive Hope, for the very generous donations to our Harvest Festival celebrations at the beginning of this month. The display of food at the Church was amazing and will make a huge difference to families in need in the local area.

Another thank you goes to our fantastic Friends of St Botolph's (FOSB) team. Once again, they worked really hard to organise two discos last week, which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was lovely to see the children dancing and having fun once more.

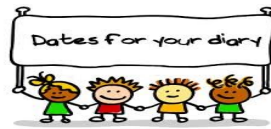
You may have heard that, due to a flood caused by the bad weather earlier this term, sadly our hall floor has been damaged beyond repair. I am happy to tell you that we will be having a new floor laid during the half term break and we look forward to seeing our new look hall on our return.

I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to Miss Filkins, who will be commencing her maternity leave today. We wish her and her partner lots of luck and happiness with their new baby, which is due in November. I am also delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Uraih, who will be replacing Miss Filkins while she is away.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing Half Term break and look forward to seeing everyone back on 3rd November.

Kind regards

Mrs Amy Chitty  
Head Teacher



### TERM 1

#### October

Thur 21 Wear Red Day  
End of Term 1

#### November

Tue 2 **Staff Development Day**  
Wed 3 **Start of Term 2**  
Thur 4 Divali/Diwali/Deepavali  
Fri 5 9.00 Eucharist—Y6W  
Mon 8 School Photographs  
Tue 9 Open Morning for Sept 22  
Thur 11 Remembrance Day  
Fri 12 9.00 Eucharist—Y1C  
Mon 15 Inter-Faith Week  
Thur 18 Y3/5 Cookery Workshops  
Fri 19 9.00 Eucharist—Y5S  
Mon 22 Flu Immunisations  
(all year groups)  
Thur 25 1.30 Tree Dressing Assembly  
(school only)  
Fri 26 9.00—Eucharist—Y4O  
**December**  
Fri 3 10.00 Christingle Service  
(school only)  
3.05 Christmas Fayre  
Sat 4 FOSB Breakfast with Santa  
Mon 6 10.00 Y2 Dress Rehearsal  
(school only)  
Tue 7 2.00 Y2 Performance  
Wed 8 Pantomime (whole school)  
Thur 9 10.00 Y1 Dress Rehearsal  
(school only)  
Fri 10 9.00 Eucharist—Y6Y  
2.00 Y1 Christmas Production  
Mon 13 EYFS Dress Rehearsal  
(school only)  
Tue 14 2.00 EYFS Christmas  
Production  
Wed 15 Wear Something Christmassy  
Day  
Christmas Lunch  
Thur 16 Big Maths Beat That (am)  
St Botolph's Got Talent (pm)  
Christmas Parties  
Fri 17 9.30 Carol Service at Church  
1.30 End of Term 2

### Termly Attendance

We continually monitor attendance and punctuality and pupils with persistent lateness and unauthorised absence will be referred to the Education Welfare Service.

**Well done to Year 6 Willow Class, who have had the best attendance this term at 98.7%!**

### TERM DATES 2021—2022

#### TERM 1

2nd September—21st October 2021

#### TERM 2

3rd November—17th December 2021

#### TERM 3

5th January —10th February 2022

#### TERM 4

22nd February —1st April 2022

#### TERM 5

19th April —**26th** May 2022

#### TERM 6

7th June —22nd July 2022

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2022  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (Trust Day)  
6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Additional Bank Holiday May 2022

In honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year, there will be an additional Bank Holiday on **Friday 3rd June**. The May Day Bank Holiday – usually held on the first Monday in May – will be moved to Thursday 2nd June 2022, creating a four-day weekend for the occasion.

As this additional Bank Holiday falls during the Half Term break, schools are able to dedicate an alternative day for this celebration. We have, therefore, added an extra day to our holiday, and children will now break up on Thursday 26th May.



## SQUID GAME

You may already be aware of the popular Netflix series, Squid Game, which follows a group of adults who compete in innocent-looking playground games but contains scenes of brutal, gory violence. We are concerned that a number of our pupils are talking about the programme and replicating some of the games featured in the series.

Although the series is rated 15 and should not be watched by primary school children, clips are easily accessible via social media sites such as TikTok. We ask that parents carefully monitor the content that their children are viewing and ensure that parental controls are activated on their devices.

More information for parents can be found at [Squid Game: What Parents Need to Know](#)

## Diwali 2021

This year, we will be recognising and understanding the celebration of Diwali, also known as the festival of lights. On Thursday 4th November 2021, your child may come into school wearing celebration clothing, if they have it. Otherwise, children are encouraged to wear brightly coloured or sparkly clothing. We are looking forward to a day involving Diwali dancing, sweet treats and Rangoli patterns.



## BOOK AMNESTY!

Could you please have a look around your homes to see if you have any hidden school reading books? If so, we would be grateful if these could be returned as soon as possible. Thank you!



## A few polite reminders ...

- We have an increasing amount of children who are arriving to school late. Please remember that all children should be in class by 8.45am.
- If your child is ill, please remember to call the School Office, or leave a message on the answerphone, **on the first day of absence**. If your child is absent for more than two days, please call the school again with an update on Day 3.



## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Van Cols Photographers will be visiting us on Monday 8th November to take individual portraits of children, as well as photographs with siblings who attend St Botolph's. Children will stand to have their photographs taken, with the photographers behind screens, and will scan their own barcodes to minimise contact.



Children will come home with a proof of their photograph on the day and orders will need to be made online.

Please remember to send your child(ren) to school in full school uniform, with a brush/comb.

## OPEN EVENTS

**Do you have a child who is due to start primary school in September 2022?**

If so, please join us at our Open Afternoon, which will be held on Tuesday 9th November 2021 From 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions/ advice, there will be a limited number of tickets available for these events.

TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE VIA THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../st-botolphs-c-of-e...>

There will be an informative talk in the school hall on each day and parents/carers will be offered a limited tour of our Early Years areas.

## Well done!

A huge congratulations to our Netball Team, who took part in a tournament last week against other schools in our Trust. They played brilliantly and managed to win four games and drew one, to finish as the top scoring school in the Trust!



## TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The closing date for secondary school applications is

**Monday 1st November 2021.**

Applications should be made online at:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-2>



## MATHS WORKSHOPS

Thank you to those parents who attended our recent Maths Calculation Workshops. A similar workshop for parents of children in Years 5 and 6 will be held on Friday 5th November from 1.30pm to 3.00pm

The PowerPoints used in the workshops are available in the downloads section of the Maths page on our School website—  
<https://www.st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/mathematics>

Don't forget to look out for future workshops, including fractions, decimals and percentages!



Thank you to everyone who purchased Blaze merchandise recently and helped us to raise a fantastic £612.50 for 'Abbie's Army', the charity funding research into a cure for childhood cancer. This is an amazing amount of money, which will make a huge difference to the charity.

If you would still like to make a purchase, you can find the complete range of merchandise on the Blaze website:  
<https://blaze-dipg.square.site>  
or on Instagram:  
<https://www.instagram.com/blaze.dipg/>



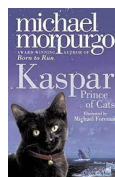
Thank you to everyone who supported Year 2's Wear Something Orange Day on Monday 11th October.

We raised an amazing £356.78 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, whose volunteer crews provide a 24-hour rescue service in the UK and Ireland, while their seasonal lifeguards look after people on our busy beaches.

## Author appreciation

Our Reader Leaders team have chosen Michael Morpurgo as their first author to promote reading for pleasure. Their recommendations are:

- [Kaspar: Prince of Cats](#)
- [Alone on a Wide Wide Sea](#)
- [I Believe in Unicorns](#)
- [The Butterfly Lion](#)
- [Kensuke's Kingdom](#)



## Thought for October ...

*'The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing that you will make one.'*

Elbert Hubbard 1856-1915



Today, our children have proudly pledged to 'Show Racism the Red Card' by wearing something red to school. It has been a fun but thoughtful day, with lots of activities and opportunities to learn about racism and what to do if we see or experience it.

