

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers

We have now completed our first term back at school and are getting used to the new way of doing things. I would like to thank you all for helping us to maintain the Government guidelines and for bearing with us throughout the changes we have had to make. The children's resilience has been amazing; I am so proud of how they have responded to our new school life as they have continued on their learning journey.

Our Christmas preparations have now begun; we will be doing many of our normal traditions but this year with a twist! More information will follow in November.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the St Botolph's staff who have worked tirelessly throughout these difficult times. We were all unsure what Term 1 would bring but, with our true school spirit, life has resumed with content, hard-working children and dedicated staff doing their best for every child in their class. We are truly fortunate to have such talented, hard-working staff.

Enjoy the half term break with your family, and remember Hands, Face, Space. Stay safe!



Kind regards,

Amy Chitty
Head Teacher

TERM DATES 2020—2021

TERM 1

1 SEPTEMBER —22 OCTOBER 2020

TERM 2

4 NOVEMBER —18 DECEMBER 2020

TERM 3

4 JANUARY—11 FEBRUARY 2021

TERM 4

23 FEBRUARY—1 APRIL 2021

TERM 5

19 APRIL—28 MAY 2021

TERM 6

8 JUNE—16 JULY 2021

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

3 NOVEMBER 2020

12 FEBRUARY 2021

22 FEBRUARY 2021 (TRUST DAY)

7 JUNE 2021

POLLING DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)

THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021

Christmas Dinner 9th December 2020



If you would like your child to have the Christmas Dinner, please order (and pay if necessary) via Parent Pay.

For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - Please select the "Christmas Dinner - KS1 - 2020"- no payment is necessary.

For children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 - Please select the "Christmas Dinner - KS2 - 2020" - payment will be £2.30 per dinner.

If your child is eligible for free school meals please order via the KS1 option.

The deadline for orders and payment is **Friday 13th November 2020**.

Please note: This is a separate booking to normal School Meals. If you have any problems, please email

admin@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk



The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community.

They are the country's largest Armed Forces charity, with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a network of partners and charities; helping us give support wherever and whenever it's needed.

After half term, we shall be selling a variety of merchandise within the children's classes (please see photograph below). Please help us to support The Royal British Legion.



School Portrait Photographs

School portrait photographs will be taken on Monday 9th November. Please ensure all pupils wear full school uniform; **red cardigan/jumper, white shirt/polo shirt and grey skirt/trousers.**



TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The closing date for secondary school applications is

Monday 2nd November 2020

Applications can be made online:

<https://kent.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

If you cannot apply online, please email

kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Information and Reminders

- * Our new website will hopefully go live at the end of November; a holding page will be available in the meantime.
- * Breakfast Club and St Bots Club - bookings will close 12 noon on a Friday for the following week, to allow for planning of staff and resources. For all bookings, please email admin@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk.
- * Please be aware that the office staff may not be able to respond to emails sent after 4.30pm or at weekends. Emails will be answered as soon as possible the following school morning.
- * Bikes/scooters should not be ridden, at any time, on the school site. This is for the safety of all of the children.
- * Please ensure that you leave the school premises as quickly as possible once you have collected your children. This will help us to follow Government guidelines and prevent the mixing of year group bubbles.
- * Can we please ask parents/carers to exit the school via the Dover Road side entrance in the mornings. The top gate is only open for children, entering the school site.
- * Children have come home with a Google Classroom login. Please keep this safe in case it is needed in the event of a future lockdown situation.



We are pleased to announce that The Dog Mentor programme will soon be commencing work in our school with a small number of children. This programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond, by providing children with positive experiences with dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially.

Dog Mentors will be bringing their trained dogs into school for two hours on Wednesday afternoons, from 11th November 2020. Parents of children who will be working with the dogs will be contacted separately, although all children may come into contact with the dogs at times. Please email the School Office, as soon as possible, if you DO NOT wish your child to have any contact at all with the dogs.

*Nala and
Sully*



Starting Primary School

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017? Applications open online from 5th November 2020. You will need to apply for their place at primary school via: Kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

If you require a paper application form or information booklet call 03000 41 21 21.

You must submit one application per child before 15th January 2021

Friday Eucharist

We are enjoying our virtual Eucharist Service every Friday via Teams. The service is still being led by Father Cyril, with one class providing the offertory each week, celebrating their work. The children have learnt how to sign "Peace be with You", to enable them to continue to share the peace. Mrs Riches plays the piano and the children join in with the responses.

Parent Consultations

Due to the current situation, we have decided that, instead of Parent Consultations this term, we will be sending home a short, written report with every child on Friday 6th November. Details of how to discuss any concerns you may have will be included with the report.



Quote for October

Be present
Let the day flow with grace.
Expect joy. Be positive
Serve with compassion.
Speak only kindness.
Impart only love.
Never forget you're not alone.
Give thanks for everything.
See goodness in others.

Mary Davis