

Message from the Head Teacher

Following our Tree Dressing Assembly yesterday, our school is beginning to feel lovely and festive. It was wonderful to be able to hold this event as a whole school again and to hear the children singing together. The first candle of Advent will be lit today and our Christingle Service will be held next Friday (school only).

Although we only have three weeks left of this term, they are going to be busy ones! Christmas productions are already being practised and we are looking forward to welcoming parents in to watch these in person, rather than via YouTube videos!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new members of staff to St Botolph's — Mrs McGill is joint Class Teacher for Hazel Class for the remainder of the year and Mrs Akinyose is covering teaching duties in a number of classes until Christmas. We will also be welcoming Mrs Bratch as a Teaching Assistant at the beginning of December.

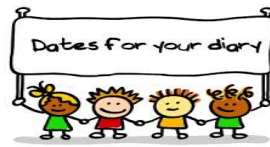
I look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Fayre on 3rd December and would, once again, like to thank our brilliant FOSB Team for all of the hard work that goes into organising and running events like this.

Kind regards
Mrs Amy Chitty
Head Teacher

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 Juniper and Willow classes, who have had the best attendance this term at 98%.



TERM 1

November

Fri 26 9.00 Eucharist—Y40
Sun 28 Mayor's Christmas Concert (Choir)
Mon 29 Year 5 Charity Event

December

Wed 1 Open Afternoon for Sept 22
Fri 3 Own Clothes Day
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 Christmas Production
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 10.00 EYFS Dress Rehearsal (school only)
Tue 14 2.00 EYFS Christmas Production
Wed 15 Wear Something Christmassy
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

January

Wed 5 Start of Term 3

Christmas Lunch and Wear Something Christmassy Day Wednesday 15th December



Roast Turkey, Chipolatas and Gravy or Cheesy Cracker

Crispy Roast Potatoes
Glazed Carrot Roundels and Peas

Chocolate Gateau,
Jelly and Cream or Satsuma

Don't forget to book via ParentPay, even if your child is entitled to a free lunch!

TERM DATES 2021—2022

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

4th January 2022
11th February 2022
21st February 2022
11th March 2022 (Trust Day)
6th June 2022

Festival of Christmas Lights

Last Friday, Children in Year 4 attended the Festival of Christmas Lights in Gravesend. Same Sky Arts had helped them to make Christmas lanterns around the themes of local heroes, friendship and community.

Many children from local schools took part in the parade, led by The Mayor of Gravesham, which started at the Community square and went through the town, with the Christmas lights being switched on as we passed by. The finale was the switching on of the Christmas tree lights back at the Community Square.



PUPIL CONDUCT

We were very disappointed to receive an email from a local resident recently, who reported that children from our school were regularly throwing litter and urinating into her garden.

Can we please remind you that, whilst wearing the St Botolph's uniform, children represent our school and such behaviour can be very damaging to our school reputation and does not reflect our school value of 'Respect'.

Congratulations!

We are delighted to announce that Miss Filkins and her partner are now the proud parents of a healthy baby girl, born on 12th November.

We wish them every happiness.

Useful Websites

OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses, so that surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away.

<https://olioex.com/about/>

'Free stuff Gravesend and Northfleet' is a Facebook page for local people to request or donate items or services for free.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/281722261891637/>

DON'T FORGET

After school clubs will finish on Thursday 2nd December. An email with details of clubs for next term will be sent out shortly.

The St Bots Club will continue until the end of term but will finish at 3.00pm on Friday 17th December.

Thank you!



If you have any unwanted board games, we would be very grateful for them for our lunchtime activity room.

A few polite reminders

- Our Eucharist services in school start at 9.00am. Can we please ask that parents attending their child's Eucharist arrive before the service starts and enter via the School office.
- In order to reduce the amount of telephone calls taken by our School Office, please don't forget that the majority of emails/letters sent to parents can be found on our school website: <https://www.st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk/school-news/letters-home>



Home-Start is a national charity that helps families who may be finding it difficult to cope for any kind of reason, such as poor health, bereavement etc.

For more information on the services the charity can provide, or if you are interested in volunteering, please telephone 01322 225100, email office@homestartnwkent.org.uk or visit the Home-Start website at www.homestartnwkent.org.uk

Thought for November ...

'Take a moment to breathe and be grateful. Breathe and be blessed for all that you have in this moment.'

OPEN EVENTS

Do you have a child who is due to start primary school in September 2022, or know someone who has?

Our next Open Afternoon will be held on Wednesday 1st December from 1.30pm to 2.30pm

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

TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE VIA THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/211806969347>

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

Roots to Food Cookery Workshop

Last week, children in Years 3 and 5 took part in a Roots to Food cookery workshop. They enjoyed learning how to peel, chop, slice and grate, whilst making a tasty chicken or Quorn stir fry dish. The school smelt wonderful!

"We learnt to peel and chop carrots with a knife. We also had to cut up the spring onions and the peppers." - Year 3

"Dan gave our group 10/10 for our cooking, he was really impressed!" - Year 3

"It tasted so good, I can't believe we made it all ourselves!" - Year 5

The recipe can be found on our school website: <https://www.st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/Teriyaki-Chicken-Recipe.pdf>

