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Headteacher: Mr C Beckerson BA(QTS) Hons

Friday 6th October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Its been another busy and productive couple of weeks since I last wrote to you, with many great events such as; Year 6 visiting PGL in France for a week, Years 3 & 4 visiting Butser Ancient Farm and our girls and boys football teams coming third and second respectively in yesterday's tournament at Tillingbourne.

I would like to strongly remind you that our school office is a very busy working environment. The office team pride themselves on their good customer service, but we have noticed an increase in the volume of parents and carers coming in to see them at the beginning and end of the school day. Please consider using alternative methods to support your children and relay important messages other than coming into the school office for face to face conversations. Please see our school's communications policy on our website (documents – policies) as a reminder of who to speak to about any concerns you wish to bring to our attention. It is also not possible to see your child's teacher without pre-arranging a meeting. This can be done by calling to make an appointment or writing to us in your child's reading record book, or by emailing [info@stbartholomews.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@stbartholomews.surrey.sch.uk) Please do support us by following our communications policy so that we can work as efficiently and effectively as possible, maintaining a happy and safe school environment at all times. Finally, please ensure that your children are with you at all times during pick up and drop off to keep them safe and deter them from damaging school property.

## EYFS

The children have had a busy week learning all about the story of the Little Red Hen. This has helped them to retell a story using the 'Talk for Writing' approach that we use at St Bart's. Their phonics knowledge is progressing well as they are learning a new sound most days and we are beginning to see them put this into practise as they spot letters in the environment. When you read with your child, encourage them to find and tell you sounds that they have learnt in the class. They will be able to pronounce them correctly. Through the topic they have also been learning all about farms, making bread and making artwork about hens, and Arthur brought his own hen in to show us all! Next week's topic will be 'Percy the Park Keeper'. If you happen to go on a walk we would appreciate any conkers, acorns, pinecones, leaves etc to help with our learning. The children have homework in their bookbags (writing their names cursively). This needs to come back into school on Wednesday.



## KS1

The children in Year 1 have been poets this week - writing their own poems all about large zoo animals as well as animals they see around and about. They are getting to grips with number bonds for 10 ( $6 + 4 = 10$ ,  $10 - 7 = 3$  etc) so that they can apply this knowledge to solving problems. In phonics they have been learning all about split digraphs (they should be able to explain to you that it is two vowels that make one sound split with a consonant, eg the ae sound in cake). Next week the focus will be on fairy tales, and the homework will help support their learning with this. Year 2 pupils have been practising their recount writing by reporting on a serious incident at the Sports Centre involving giraffes! We have developed this week's new maths topic on addition and subtraction by using the 'part part whole' method, which your child should be able to explain to you. In RE we have been discussing the 10 Commandments. Next week's focus will be animal facts and in English we will be learning to independently organise them on a page.

## LKS2

LKS2 had a fabulous day at Butser Ancient Farm last week. The weather was kind and thankfully the wellie boots were not needed. After a talk about life in ancient Britain, given inside a replica Iron Age house with a real fire, the children took part in a range of hands on activities. They twisted wire into rings and were amazed how, by making simple spiral shapes, they could produce beautiful pieces of jewellery. They had a go at spinning wool and discovered just how difficult it is and also how labour intensive it is – woven cloth was a precious commodity for our ancient ancestors. They used hazel branches to weave a wattle fence and tested its strength by standing on it. Finally, they got their hands very dirty making pinch pots out of clay. The visit really helped them to understand what life in prehistoric times was like. If you are in year 4, Flat Stanley will have started his adventures with you and we look forward to seeing or reading about what he got up to with you next week. If you are in year 3, Flat Stanley will be starting his adventures with you from Friday.



## UKS2

Year 6 had a "*magnifique*" time at PGL in France. There was never a dull moment with the children being engaged in a range of activities such as zip-wiring, climbing, canoeing, going on a sensory trail, team building exercises and robot wars! When not doing that we went on an excursion to a local town called Fleurs, where there was a traditional French market which provided the children with an opportunity to practise their French. We also visited the famous Mont Saint Michel where the children toured the island and again got to use their French in a real-life context. We also had a poignant visit to Omaha beach (a D-Day landing beach) and the Colleville-Sur-Mer War Memorial, as well as a German war memorial in the Normandy area. Since returning, the children have written some fantastic persuasive leaflets for PGL. In Y5 the children have begun to study in more detail *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Linked to the unit they have done some descriptive writing and have listened to and sung WWII songs – such as Vera Lynn's famous *We'll Meet Again*.



### **COOKERY AT ST BART'S**

Year 6 Cookery Club celebrated apples this week with apple tarts, apple puffs and apple filo parcels to use seasonal fruit.



### **EARLY BIRD YOGA**

We are pleased to announce that Early Bird Yoga will be starting after Half Term. The Club is available to Years 1-6, Wednesday mornings 8:00-8:45am and will be run by Mrs Rix. The fees for the club will be £9.00 and will run for 6 weeks. If you would like your child to attend, please complete a club application form and return to the school office with payment in an envelope. This club is always popular so places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Thank you.

### **DIARRHOEA AND VOMITTING**

Just a gentle reminder that children who have suffered an episode/episodes of diarrhoea and/or vomiting should not return to school for 48 hours after their final bout of illness.

## **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

**School lunches now cost £2.25 per day, or £11.25 per week.** If you require a lunch for your child, please advise the school office by 9.30am on the day. School lunches should be paid for using the online system, or by cheque (payable to Surrey County Council) or cash. **Please ensure payment is made as soon as possible.** (Pupils in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 qualify for a universal free school meal and therefore payment is not required).

**First half term - £ 74.25**

**Second half term - £ 87.75**

**Total for Autumn term - £162.00**

The menus for the next two weeks are attached for you to look at with your child. If you wish to order a vegetarian meal or take the option of a jacket potato, please log into your SCOpay account and make your choice. **Please note jacket potatoes are not available on Wednesdays.** If you have not chosen one of the options, your child will receive the main option meal. Should you require a reminder of your SCOpay login, please contact the office.

**For parents of children in Early Years, once all the children are in and added to our system, details will be sent to you regarding our online system for trips, lunches and parents evenings.**

Yours faithfully,

*C. D. Beckerson*

Charles Beckerson  
HEADTEACHER