



# Belgrave St. Bartholomew's Academy

## December 2020 Newsletter

### Thank You!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for the support over this term. It has been challenging at times due to Covid, however, we have celebrated many successes in school and feel proud of the dedication and hard work shown by everyone. Your children have been absolutely fantastic have shown incredible resilience under very challenging circumstances. We are so proud of them and the way they have conducted themselves – well done everyone!

We would like to thank you for your support with Children in Need. From all of the incredibly generous donations from parents and staff, together we raised an amazing £519!

We also received a special thank you letter from the foodbank thanking us for our amazing donation of 616.7kg of Harvest food to help feed the people who are hungry in Stoke on Trent.

### Attendance

There have been an increasing number children arriving late for school. In the new year, we hope to see all children in school on time, ready to start their day of learning. Please do all you can to arrive at school in good time so that your child can come into school with their friends.

It is vitally important that parents/carers keep us informed if their child or children are unwell or are unable to attend school. **Please call the school office 01782 486341 by 8.45am to report a child's absence with the reason why.** This will ensure that the right code is used for your child/children on the register, with absences either being authorised or unauthorised.

We continue to follow government and public health guidance with regards to any Covid related absences. We thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions regarding attendance please contact Mrs Martin or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

### Covid

If your child tests positive after we close for Christmas, please email the school on [covidpositive@belgrave.stoke.sch.uk](mailto:covidpositive@belgrave.stoke.sch.uk). By doing this you will help us to identify close contacts and inform any families who may be affected.

Please be reminded that if anyone in your household displays any symptoms of Covid-19, the whole household needs to isolate until a test result is received. If the result is positive, everyone in the household **MUST** stay at home. The person with the positive case must isolate for 10 days and due to recent changes in advice, everyone else now needs to isolate for 10 days, not 14 days. If within this time anyone develops symptoms, then they should also be tested.

Please be aware that staff will not be checking or responding to any messages on ClassDojo over the Christmas holidays. They have worked incredibly hard over the autumn term and have been told to make sure they take a much needed and well deserved break with their families.

### Governors

I would like to welcome our new parent governor, Matthew Cliffe, onto the Local Governing Committee. Matthew is the parent of a child in our Reception class and he joined the committee this term. We very much look forward to working with him. Our thanks go to Nazmin Mohal who was a parent governor for the last 2 years and provided support and challenge to the school. Full details of our school governors can be found on the Belgrave Academy website.

### Worship

Reverend Angela has continued with virtual weekly worship sessions which we all look forward to. Some of our pupils have been involved in filming the nativity for Blurton & Dresden Parish, which will premiere on Christmas Eve on Youtube at 3:15pm. Tune in to catch their songs!

### Calendar changes

Please note the change to our school calendar. The children will now break up for Christmas on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** as Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December will now be an INSET day. This will replace the INSET day in February so children will be in school on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**.

### Christmas

The children have enjoyed lots of festive activities in the build up to Christmas. We were very lucky to have a visit from two reindeer which was greatly enjoyed by all! We've also enjoyed Christmas jumper day and a delicious Christmas dinner. We've enjoyed watching Year 2's Zoom nativity and can't wait for the final episode! If you've not seen it yet, there are links on our Dojo pages, Facebook and Twitter pages. Mr Jones has also produced an amazing Christmas video, thanking key workers for their dedication during the pandemic. If you've not seen it yet, get your tissues ready! Please share with family and friends.

Class parties will take place on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. Children can come to school wearing their party clothes. They may bring a small pack of party food to eat. Due to Covid and health and safety restrictions, children will not be sharing their food this time and will only eat food that they have brought in from home.



### New Building

We're sure you've noticed the changes to our school building this term! We are pleased to announce that our new building will be up and running after Christmas. There are some big changes to make you aware of. The main entrance to the school and the school office will be moving and will be based in the new building just off the staff carpark. We would ask that you still telephone the office first before visiting in person. If you do have to come to school, please come to the new entrance, wearing your face covering. There are signs directing you where to go. It is important to note that the security improvements in school now mean that you will not be able to access the site as you did before. If you are late bringing your child to school, the only way in is through the main entrance.

### Parking

We started off in November with the majority of parents driving and parking safely around the school site. Unfortunately, this has declined over the last few weeks and traffic on Sussex Place is becoming increasingly more dangerous. There is not the capacity for all of the cars to go onto the spaces at the shop. It causes a back log of traffic along the road and there have been a number of dangerous situations where accidents have almost happened. Please do not come onto Sussex place and I would ask that you do not pull up or park on the double yellow lines across the road from the school entrance. We are working really hard to keep your children safe, please help us to this by doing your bit.

### Prayer Corner

A prayer for the Christmas break;

*Our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Thank you for giving us our school family. Thank you for the support we have all shown to each other and for all of the key workers who have helped us and our families. Please help us to remember the importance of kindness and consideration and help us to enjoy a safe Christmas with our families. We ask this Lord in your name, Amen.*



### Dates for your diary

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens for staff and Pupils
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Normal school day for staff and children (Not INSET as previously planned) Finish for half term – normal time