



**"Doing our best to be the best"
Safe, Happy, Learning**

Severn Academies Educational Trust St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr Ian James MEd, NPQH

Princess Way
Areley Kings

Stourport-on-Severn
DY13 0EL

Telephone: 01299 823454

Fax: 01299 825655

Website: www.st-bartholomews.worcs.sch.uk

Email: office@sbp.saet.co.uk

05 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Start of term

On behalf of all staff and governors I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new school year at St Bart's and hope you had a great summer.

As you might expect, the new term always brings with it lots of information as new routines and relationships are forged between staff, pupils and parents. Whilst we endeavour to provide all the information you need to make the transition as effective as possible, I encourage you to speak to your child's class teacher with any questions, no matter how small. For more general school information please do not hesitate to contact Miss Hartland and Mrs Cooper in the main office who will aim to resolve your queries as quickly as possible or direct you to the right person office@sbp.saet.co.uk or 01299 823454. I also direct you to our website www.st-bartholomews.worcs.sch.uk and Twitter feed [@stbartssaet](https://twitter.com/stbartssaet). Later this term we will also be adding Instagram and Facebook to maximise all communication channels. Each month we produce a newsletter which captures all the brilliant things that we've been up to and these can be found on our website along with all other letters and school information in the 'Parents' section.

Uniform

I am very aware of the current cost of living crisis that is affecting most people at the moment and want to work with you to ensure your child's education is not detrimentally impacted in any way. Whilst we have always been mindful and understanding of the cost of school for parents with stationery, charity fund-raising and trips, etc, it is often uniform that is a cost that can be a challenge at times. With this in mind, we have reviewed our uniform policy and expectations to make it as affordable and accessible as possible without losing our identity and sense of belonging. Our PTFA are always on-hand to support with previously-loved uniform too.

Please read our updated uniform booklet which clearly outlines our expectations to maintain our high standards, which are important for positive attitudes to learning and taking pride in our school. To support you, we are not insisting on the school's logo to allow you to purchase plain white or burgundy t-shirts. We have also widened the choice of uniform items e.g. polo shirt and jumper, or shirt with or without tie, or cardigan, etc. I believe the standard of appearance is generally very high and all pupils represent our school smartly. However, the one area of uniform we would really like to improve is PE kit, with some pupils not always in our school colours. This will be a focus this term and we ask for your support please.



PE and Forest School lessons

We would like all pupils to have a clear routine of bringing in their PE kit (and Forest School clothing for younger age groups) every Monday and taking it home every Friday to be washed. Every child has a locker which can be used to store their kit.

Unlike last year when most PE and Forest School lessons were on a Friday, they will now take place at different times on different days to maximise our facilities and staffing. Therefore, pupils will be expected to come to school in school uniform every day and change into PE/Forest School kit on their respective days. Timetables will incorporate time for changing into appropriate kit with consideration given to individual needs.

From a parent perspective, you simply need to ensure PE Kit comes in every Monday – all pupils will then take their kit home every Friday, something teachers will ensure happens when children are getting ready to take their bags home for the weekend.

All children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will have 1 x 30-minute PE lesson and 1 x 60-minute lesson per week whilst pupils in Reception and years 1 and 2 will have 1 x PE lesson plus 1 x Forest School lesson. By having their kit already in school, a further benefit for pupils is that they will be able to quickly put on their trainers for Active Maths and Literacy lessons and lunchtime activities too.

Free School Meals

It is important that you receive all the financial support you are entitled to and encourage you to claim free school meals if you are eligible. Please speak to Mrs Johnson, Attendance and Welfare Officer, in confidence if you have any questions or require support with applying.

Attendance

Attendance is deemed good when above 96% and persistent absence (poor attendance) when below 90%. Therefore, both the school and parents have a legal and moral obligation to ensure pupils attend school regularly. Of course, there will be times when a pupil will be unable to attend but it is vitally important that good communication is maintained. Mrs Johnson has a direct responsibility for attendance and she has a duty to report and act upon attendance concerns. Our aim is to establish good relationships with you so that we can work together to resolve any attendance matters that arise.

Your feedback is important to us...

Finally, it goes without saying that we want to ensure the very best education and opportunities for all children at St Bart's and we are constantly striving to improve further. All decisions are made with pupils and parents in mind and careful thought and discussion is carried out involving relevant staff and governors before any changes are made. Parents play an important and pivotal role and you are always invited to provide feedback, not just when we ask as part of our annual Parent Voice survey or when Ofsted visit us, but at any time. This open and honest communication is crucial to ensure we become the best that we can be.

I look forward to another fantastic year in the school's development and thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely



Ian James
Headteacher

