



Dear Parents and Friends,

I hope that you are enjoying the variable October weather.

Changes

A warm welcome to new member of staff Helen Marton. Helen, mother of Eli, Sasha, Faith and Noah is now working with us two lunchtimes a week as a SMSA.

Welcome also to new Parent Governor Dr Helen Sheppard. Helen is the mother of Rebecca, George and Ben. Her background is in Chartered Accountancy and she is currently the Chairperson of the Bathampton Playgroup.

We are very grateful to Louise Fitzsimons who has retired as a parent governor after many years. Louise gave excellent support with her expertise and experience in early years education, especially in the area of recruitment.

Our current parent governors are Helen, Emma Naysmith, Alison Howell, Kara Maylor and Alison Deane.

Settling In Our First Term



It's been a real pleasure to see the new Reception children in Class One gain confidence as they get used to being in school. This cohort is particularly special as they are our very first single form entry class. They are doing really well and we are all proud of them!

Bereavement

Many parents will be aware that tragically one of our ex-pupils died in a motorway car accident on Sunday 14th October. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Rhiannon Priestley who was a greatly valued member of the school community. Rhiannon was a delightful girl who loved school, and was popular with her peers and staff. She will be greatly missed.

Admiral Arthur Phillips

On Friday 12th October the children in Class Four and Five attended the annual Service in St Nicholas Church for Admiral Arthur Phillips, first Governor of New South Wales.



'Lettuce Rejoice!'

We enjoyed an 'Easy Peasy Harvest' service on Monday 8th October, which was memorable for the record beating number of food related puns. The narrators also encouraged us to eat a good range of food in order to stay healthy. Well done to Classes Four and Five who led the service!

The Harvest Festival collection raised £103.61 for Julian House which is currently being renovated. It is worth emphasising that parents are always welcome to the school services held at St Nicholas Church.



We are also collecting tins and dried food for 'Foodbank', which provides food and signposts support for local people in financial crisis. We have a collection point in the school entrance hall.

Key Dates

Monday 5th November INSET Day 3

Tuesday 6th November Children return

Monday 26th November Child Protection training 3.30 to 5.30

Wednesday 19th December Carol Service 2.00 p.m.

School dates online at

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

New School Council



The new and the old School Council

Our newly elected School Council made an enthusiastic start as they gathered for their first meeting. George Sheppard, Aminah Symonds, Maria Maylor, Bertie Lye, Charlotte Box, William Nicholson, Hannah Benjelloun and Jim Nankivell were all elected by their classes. The children were served drinks by the outgoing School Council members.

It is enormously helpful to hear the children's own ideas about ways in which we can enhance our school life. Many thanks to last year's Council who completed their term of office by giving our new representatives a warm welcome and awarding them their School Council badges.

Report by Mrs Skurczynski

Big Ted



On Wednesday 17th October Big Ted visited the school and was introduced to each class. Many children took the opportunity to give

Big Ted a hug! Thanks to Governor Steve Treharne for encouraging Big Ted to come to the school!

Fluorescent Friday



On Friday 19th October we celebrated Ted's Big Day Out. The children enjoyed dressing up in fluorescent items. We raised £120.50. Every penny will go towards the RUH Cancer Care Campaign to build a sensational new Cancer Centre at the RUH, helping to improve cancer patients' journey and experience.

Paralympic Flame



It was a pleasure to have a visit from Pamela Galloway earlier this term. Pamela told an assembly how she had been invited to carry the Paralympic flame and had ended up carrying it down Regent Street to be met by well-known wheel chair athlete 'Tanni' Grey-Thompson.

Barbara explained how she had started up a now popular swimming programme in Bath

for children with a disability. Many thanks to Barbara for an inspiring assembly!

Out and About Cirencester



'On Tuesday 2 October, Class Four went to Cirencester Museum to find out more about the Romans.' (Edward Cook)

What did they think of it? Here are some more quotes from children in the class!



'It was a really good inspiration for me because I did not know much about the Romans.' (Tom Ovigne)

'We saw some real Roman mosaics; one even told a story.' (Laurie Leake)

'I went past a Roman model and I'm sure I saw his spear move - yikes!' (Lizzie Wylie)

'My favourite thing was playing Calculi because I kept on winning. In the Roman times, the Generals would use this game to help them plan their battles.' (Sophie Francis)

'My favourite part of the workshop was when we dressed up like Romans and got to wear real Roman jewellery.' (Eleanor Evetts)

Orienteering



Class Four kicked off the year with some orienteering activities around the school grounds. In small groups, they took turns to orient maps in order to locate clues at various places around the school grounds. They then transferred these onto a code cracking sheet. It was necessary to work as a team in order to solve the clues. Elements of keep fit, Maths and English also came into play. A great time was had by all.

Class Three Maths @ Warleigh Farm



Class Three had a brilliant maths trip to Warleigh farm at the end of the term. Thankfully they were blessed with fine weather. The day started with a competitive fodder beet hunt. Who could find the longest, heaviest and in the words of Otis 'the fattest,' otherwise known as the circumference, fodder beet. The 'Stars of the Week' also got weighed on the pig scales, fortunately none of them were fat enough to send to market - 65kg.

It was a very practical and hopefully memorable day that will help the children to measure accurately and estimate more precisely.

Our Body

On Tuesday 16th October parent (and nurse?) Ros Sweetingham came in to talk to Class Two about bones. She told the children lots of interesting information. Aminah and Lucy remembered afterwards that there are 27 bones in your hand and 26 bones in your feet. Lawrence now knows that 'there are 206 bones in my body' and that 'the biggest bone is actually in your leg!'

Art for Ever

Bath Riverside Arts Project



Crest Nicolson have been exhibiting works by winners of a competition to design features for permanent display on the Bath Riverside development. We are proud to announce that of eleven pieces chosen to be cast in bronze four were designed by children from Bathampton Primary School. We took part in this project as the only primary school alongside all the secondary schools in Bath.

Bathampton involvement was appropriate as the initial designs were made of Plasticine, a modelling material invented by Bathampton resident William Harbutt in 1897, and originally made in his canal side factory. The best designs were chosen by a panel of judges.

I am grateful to teaching assistant and artist JoAnne Huntley who supported the children in developing their ideas, and to lead artist Peter Dickenson for his enthusiasm and encouragement.

Sport and Fitness

Football @ St Marks

On Tuesday 9th October Y2 children were invited to St Mark's School for an afternoon of football. "We were very determined to get a goal and tackle people," said Gabriel. "We played a few matches and really enjoyed ourselves". Football is fun!

Report by Oliver Symonds, Billy Nash, and Gabriel Adams-Wainwright.

Year 5/6 Football Festival



On Tuesday the 9th of October, Class Five competed in a Football Festival. Everybody played very well and really enjoyed it. Oliver Howard said that it was a good time for people to get to know the game of football, whereas Louis Messer thought it was a good opportunity for people to get to know one another.

Reported by Louis Messer and Oliver Howard.

Dance

Michelle Rochester has been working with Class Four and Five this term producing dances linked to their topic work. Next term we look forward to her working with some members of Classes Two and Three.

Lion Heart!



During the summer holiday Florian Madigan, cycled from Bath to London in five days with dad Brian to raise money for the Royal United Hospital.

He decided to set himself the challenge to raise money for the stroke unit at the RUH, where his mum Barbara works.

So far Florian has raised £600! However it's not too late to sponsor him and it would be great to boost the figure so why not visit www.justgiving.com/Florian-Bike-Ride?

Congratulations on your achievement Florian!

Child Protection is always a top priority for schools, and we have a training opportunity anyone who is currently working or volunteering in school, or who might in the future. It is taking place after school on Monday November 26th. (3.30 to 5.30). Please come if you are able to!



Following on as from the item above it is worth asking that a community we try to show consistent support for all children at the school.

It can occasionally become apparent that a child is displaying less than perfect behaviour. It is important to remember that all the children at the school are very young and are still learning how to get on with others. So when there are relationships issues or unfriendliness we need all adults to be as supportive and understanding as possible especially when children are listening!

The school staff will be working very hard to manage and help every child. Do let your child's teacher know if there is a problem, and please allow the staff to manage any in-school behaviour issues.

Communication & School

Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the two parental questionnaires in Term 6. We will be studying these in detail and will be using these to help improve our communication systems.

One immediate change we will be making is to reduce the amount of 'junk mail' sent home and to avoid duplicating letters within families where possible. We will have the general policy of sending letters by Zendamail/email when possible to save paper, except when a return slip is required, or when an item like this newsletter is memory heavy.

After the holiday we will be to sending paper letters home with the youngest sibling of each family in the school. The text system is popular but again we will try to avoid over-using this. We are also looking to improve our website, and the system for keeping the website calendar up to date.

Staff and Governors will reflect on the responses to both questionnaires when preparing the new Strategic Plan for the school

Playground Project Part One

The children have enjoyed having the asphalt playground back and during the coming holiday local company Playforce will be busy installing play equipment. They will be re-installing our original equipment and also some new items.



There will be two separate areas with one aimed more at the younger children near Class One and the other close to the Sun shelter. The areas will be joined by an artificial grass path to enable year round access. I am very grateful to Emma Naysmith and Alison Deane who have worked tirelessly on this project, and to the amazing team who helped prepare the ground!



Woodland creatures

We understand that one child may have come across a tick while in the woods. Tania Orgill (in her Forest School letter for parents) suggests where ticks might hide.

Preferred areas include:

- Hidden in:** belly button, around or in the ear, hairline and scalp.
- Parts that bend:** back of knee, elbow, between fingers and toes, underarms.
- Pressure points where clothing presses against skin:** underwear elastic, belts, collar.

More information on ticks and how to remove them can be found on many websites,

For example www.bada-uk.org

Diary Dates
Bathampton Primary School
Together on a learning adventure



Diary Dates

October

Friday 26th End of Term 1

Heritage Open Week 27 Oct - 4 Nov
November

Monday 5th INSET Day 3

Tuesday 6th Start of Term 2 for children

& Parent/ Teacher interview fortnight.

Friday 9th Open Morning for prospective parents
9.15 for 9.30 start. Current parents welcome.

Wednesday 14th Year 5/6 Football team at
Glasshouse playing fields 12.30-4.00

Friday 16th Class Five to @Bristol

& Closing date for photos for the 'What's For
Tea?' Cookery Competition (information out
separately!)

Monday 19th National Anti-Bullying Week 2012

Tuesday 20th Class Four to Roman Baths

Friday 23rd Class Four Roman Assembly 9.15 a.m.

Monday 26th Child Protection training 3.30 -
5.30p.m.

December

Monday 3rd Class Five to Bath Abbey for Carol
Service (& School Orchestra who are playing)

Wednesday 12th Governors Meeting

Monday 17th Children's Christmas Post begins

& Class Two Party

Tuesday 18th Class Three Party

Wednesday 19th Carol Service @ St Nicholas
1.45pm (Parents welcome)

Thursday 20th Class One & Class Five Party

Friday 21st Class Four Party

& End of Term 2

January 2013

Monday 7th Start of Term 3

February

Friday 8th End of Term 3

Monday 18th Start of Term 4

March

Friday 22nd End of Term 4

April

Monday 8th Start of Term 5

May

Friday 24th End of Term 5

June

Monday 3rd INSET Day 4

Tuesday 4th Children start Term 6

July

Friday 19th End of Term 6 for children

Monday 22nd INSET Day 5

All term dates available online

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

Holiday Activities

We would be very grateful if families could take part in the 'What's for Tea' competition, as detailed in a separate letter sent recently. We would love to win the prize to improve our dining experience for the children. The closing date for all photographs to be received in school is **Friday 16th November**. You may also like to use the time in the holidays packing a Christmas Shoebox which we will be collecting next term.
(www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/ for details)

Job Opportunity!

We now have an excellent Crossing Patrol Officer each morning. We are keen to recruit someone for the afternoon.

15.05 - 15.35, 30 minutes per day term time only. Application forms for current vacancies are available on www.bathnes.gov.uk;

This could be linked with an hour per day working in our superb Cleaning Team who help keep the school looking great! Please see Mr Falkus for details.

