

Bathampton Primary School

Term Three Newsletter

Spring 2008

Dear Parents and Friends,

People



Many of you will by now have met our new Caretaker-Handyman Mike Ball. Mike is making an impact already and even in a small school there are plenty of jobs needing doing.

Mike also works as a driving instructor, so don't be surprised if you see a driving instructor's car in the staff car park. Mike is married to Jane and has two school age children.

Mike has asked if all children's clothes could be named to avoid lost property problems!

We have recently said goodbye to Student Anna Bergman who successfully completed her second PGCE placement in Blue Class last week. Anna has brought many skills to her teaching including P.E. expertise.

Please note follow up from the Premises Committee Meeting on Page 9

New Governor

I would like to welcome Dr Richard Baldwin as our latest Parent Governor. Richard was elected unopposed. Richard is the father of Alex and Sophie, and husband of Caroline. Richard works at the University of the West of England as a management consultant and in areas involving education, business and the community. He has extensive project experience, and a MBA, and will be able to assist the school with strategic and business planning. He is keen to contribute to help the school develop active, enthusiastic and socially aware children who love learning!

Awards

Bronze Merit Awards



Congratulations to those pupils who have recently received their Bronze Merit Awards.

These are awarded once the children have been given 60 merits in class. Merits are awarded for a range of reasons including excellent work or presentation, contributing in class, effort, good behaviour, thoughtfulness, good manners, and the Bronze Award is rightly coveted!

Well done to Mrs Skurczynski who is now our second Higher Level Teaching Assistant. She took the assessment in November, and passed with flying colours.

Key Dates

Monday 25th Feb. INSET Day: New Primary Strategy

Tuesday 26th Feb. Children return



Science Day

On Friday 8th February all children got busy leaning about materials. Thanks to Subject Leader Mrs Wood for her enthusiasm, organisation and ideas. Each Class focused on a different aspect of 'materials'.

Red Class



Red Class did lots of different experiments. They found out what colours could be seen in bubbles, what shape made the best plasticine boat, how to do paper marbling, and what happens when you put a doll in a tub of water.

Purple Class



Purple Class investigated the properties of different materials, initially thinking up ways to sort materials, and then conducting experiments to see which materials were water proof and which were not, learning about 'Fair Testing' on the way.

Indigo Class



Indigo Class conducted experiments to find out which materials were the best insulators. They also tried the experiment in different rooms to compare variables.

Blue Class



Children in Blue Class learnt about viscosity. The children worked in teams and were aided by parent Phil Davies and Bath Spa students. They discovered that the thicker a liquid the more time it takes to run down a vertical surface.

They filled two sheets of paper with information they recorded during the series of experiments.



We want to encourage children to experiment, and test out their bright ideas

Inspiring writing

2008 Staff Team



The 2008 Magazine Staff are busy planning the next installment of the Bathampton Bugle. Parent Ali Stewart who is a professional editor was very interested to see what aspects of the 2007 Bugle the team enjoyed and which elements they thought could be improved.

2008 Magazine Team

Editor

Elinor Wood

Deputy Editor

Olivia Bools

Journalists

Lydia Adams

Matthias Jarosz

Alex Baldwin

Jessica Clarke

Hannah Abel

Head Researchers

Ashley Tutcher

Linnet Tutcher

Apprentice Journalists and researchers

Deeva Dewey

Lottie Millhouse

Kitty Gillings

PoppyStewart-Jackson

Photographers

Head Photographer – Jessica Schofield

Olivia Davies

Cajsa Thulin

George Peach

Illustrators

Head Illustrator – Ben Heseltine

Kiera Fitzsimmons

Molly Griffin

Shane Bowditch

Sophie Baldwin

Around the school

Playing with Ice



Earlier this term children in Red Class learnt about freezing and melting materials.

Peg Puppets



Children in Purple Class enjoyed making Peg puppets. This not only encourages creative skills but also speaking and listening skills. It certainly was fun judging by this photograph!



Different ways of learning about R.E.

Acting out a story



Here Jake is enjoying acting the part of one of Joseph's (Josiah's) brothers in the well known biblical story of Joseph and his exceptionally posh coat. This story shows how sibling rivalry leads to all sorts of problems, and there are many personal and social lessons that can be developed from it.

Visiting sacred places



Although we may visit St Nicholas each year it is still instructional to understand the significance of the artefacts and symbols present in the building.

Experiencing special food

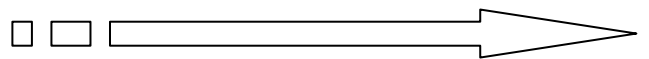


Here Blue Class children try out Seder food associated with the Jewish festival of Pesach.

Visitors



During the autumn term the children enjoyed an assembly by Pari Dewey in which she told the story of Divalli and explained how Hindu children celebrate this festival.



Balloon flies to Butser Hill



One of our 'Schools for Health' celebration balloons reached Hampshire. It was found in the woods on the side of Butser Hill, near Clanfield, Waterlooville. Thanks to Ian Rook who emailed the school to let us know.





Music

Sensational Samba Sessions



Blue Class have had the opportunity to learn how to play the Samba. Musician Mark Whittam came in for five sessions, in between teaching musicians at the Royal School of Music.

After the holiday Indigo Class will be learning drumming skills through the Djembe Music Project. These additional music experiences are provided through the 'Extending Opportunities programme'.

Weekly Violin Lessons



Regular practise is essential in learning how to play an instrument, and here Thomas, Kiera and Lydia are warming up before a music lesson with Mrs Jenkins.

Drawing music



You do not often get the opportunity to draw music but here Purple Class children are drawing while listening to music. They were encouraged to make marks, patterns and shapes in response to different pieces of music. Some of their work is currently displayed in the downstairs corridor.





Art

3D art inspired by Picasso and xx



Blue Class have produced some interesting art pieces inspired by Picasso's cubist period. This work demanded both artistic and design technology skills.

Tudor Houses by Indigo Class



Children in Indigo have enjoyed making Tudor houses as part of their historical topic. After the holiday they are going to have a day travelling through time when Tudor Pedlar Jack Greene visits the class. Older children will remember his visits as one of the highlights of their time at Bathampton School.

Painting



Jack Waller enjoyed painting this pattern during a lesson in Red Class.

School Council



School Council

The School Council has been working hard at updating our school rules. They have discussed possible guideline rules with their classmates, and members of staff have contributed suggestions. It is important that we have shared values, and agreed behaviour guidelines. The new rules will be sent home once completed.

Book Fair



Book Fair

Thanks to everyone who came and bought books at the recent book fair, and to Mrs Netherwood who ran the fair, which made £169.96. Most importantly some children have gone home with some great new books to enjoy!



Healthy School
Sport
Sporting potential!



Well done to Moses Stanton and to Emma Hurley who were both assessed by Oldfield Sports Co-ordinator Brendan Rouse as potentially Gifted and Talented within Physical Education and School Sport. They have been invited to attend a Multi-Skills Club at St Marks School. The club is intended to both develop skills and identify those with further potential.

Medals Galore!



Well done to these girls who all have recently been awarded medals for sport outside of school; Amelia and Esther for Gymnastics and Niamh for Skiing.

Football
Success



Congratulations to the Bathampton Football team who recently won 7-0 against Swainswick School.

F.A. Charter Standard



This is awarded to

Bathampton Primary School

In recognition of achieving
The FA Charter Standard for Schools

CS Primary School
Somerset FA



Sir Trevor Brooking
Director of Football Development

Date: CS Primary School Status valid until: 31/12/2015

TheFA.com

Well done to all those involved in football development at the school especially Paul Hurley and Mark Archer. We recently were awarded this certificate in recognition of the football training and games at the school.



WOW

Walk Once a Week News

Well done to all the children who gained a certificate for walking to School.

Watch out for another Walk to School initiative soon!

Clubs

Lace making Club



It is great to keep in touch with old friends and this club offers ex-pupils the opportunity to get together each Tuesday after school and catch up on news and also to continue learning the art of 'lace-making'. Member of staff Mrs Huntley also runs two lace making clubs for current pupils and has x members at present.

Mrs Huntley is one of the pioneers of the re-emergence of this skill. In her spare time she is a practising artist, and craft worker. Do look out for her handmade jewellery at the school fair this summer.

Memories Club



Hannah, Sammy and Holly have been sharing a trip down Memory Lane during weekly workshops with Ali Stewart this term.

Starting with a pile of personal photos – including time spent here at school – the girls have stamped their personalities on memory albums they and their families will cherish for ever. How? Well, they've been dipping into Ali's big boxes of goodies – shape cutters, colourful paper, stickers and glue – to lay out and write album pages that tell the story of their lives and look great as well.

Ali runs similar sessions for children during each school holiday at Oriel Hall in Larkhall, with the first on February 21. See her notice on the school notice board for contact details. She also runs creative album and photo organising sessions for adults – it's very therapeutic and satisfying!

For more information contact Ali as below...

Tel.01225852545

M07834415137

E ali@alistewart.co.uk

W www.alistewart.co.uk

Story Club



Every Thursday after school, 23 children from Reception to Year 4 follow their helpers into the Miller room in St Nicholas Church for the Story Club. Each week the children listen to a Bible story, and enjoy a variety of games, singing and art and craft activities based around the story. There is nearly always something special to take home at the end!
Report by Marilyn Thomas.

School Notices

Developing our space

I am grateful to those parents who came to the recent Premises meeting, and to those parents who expressed an interest personally.

Premises Committee members Kevin Stamper and Paul Burden led the evening.

A small number of parents and governors gathered for the meeting on the future accommodation needs of the school – fewer than we'd hoped, but still a helpful discussion ensued. It was explained that the Premises Committee have taken a deliberate step back from previous ideas about buildings in order to investigate the basic needs of the school in terms of accommodation. This discussion was to get ideas and thoughts as we begin to form an architect's brief. The Statement of Needs (already circulated to parents), and an example of an architect's brief were presented, and those attending gave feedback and ideas. All those comments are to be considered by the Premises Committee, but in brief asked that the committee consider:

Detailed proposals for the funding for the build, and running costs
Definition of the school priorities
Impact of a new building on other classrooms, playground area, and neighbours
The impact of building work on the children's education (the benefit of pre-assembled buildings discussed)
Keeping the issue of where to locate a building open at present, not just the swimming pool site (the VAT benefits of linking were mentioned)
Aesthetics and green issues
Making it different from current village facilities to encourage community use, with

issues of access, storage and separate metering for that purpose

A large space that could be adapted for sports, divisible for other activities would be preferred

Include consideration of the use of the current hall in plans, and also the current use of the covered play area.

Governors were asked to publish a summary of the meeting (this is it!), and to keep parents informed as we take this process through, which we will do.

- It is worth noting that the Local Education Authority and the school are reviewing our standard number in the light of the rise in applications for Reception places. The Governors will be considering whether any change would be possible.



A reminder that we are all members of the superb GridClub. This award winning website suitable for primary aged children is accessible to Bathampton pupils using the details below.

Address: www.gridclub.com
User name: bat0219
Password: ba26tq

Improve learning and have fun!

All of the activities are linked to the curriculum and cover English, maths, science, history, geography, art, music, health, modern foreign languages and even more.

The site is designed to be highly motivating and rewarding. It has won many awards for its innovative approach and its comprehensive coverage of the curriculum.

If you have used it before try the new Spelling or French activities.

It would cost nearly £25 each per family to belong but it is free for members of the school community!



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

This scheme starts again on 14th February. Please help to keep our PE and playground equipment up to date by collecting as many of these vouchers as possible again this year.

We collected an amazing total last year of just over 10,000!! We now have some new gym mats that are much lighter and easier to handle than the old ones.

Absence

I was concerned to see that our school absence percentage for Term 2 was very high. We had 5.04 % authorised absences, and 0.17% unauthorised. Our target is to be significantly below 4% across the academic year. Please avoid term time holidays. **Every school day and every lesson counts.**

Community Notices

Late notice. Parents will be sad to hear that Jean Bird passed away this week. Jean worked at the school as a cleaner for many years and was appreciated for her delightful sense of humour and quiet dedication. She was unwell for a number of years and coped bravely with the difficulties this created. She will be greatly missed.

Notice from St. Nicholas

Bathampton Parish Church
Start of term prayers in support of
the pupils, teachers and families
of Bathampton School.

All are welcome!
Do join us in church
at 9:00am until 9:15am
on Wednesday 27th February

Does your child have Special Educational Needs?

Do you have concerns about your child's education?

Bath and North East Somerset Parent Partnership Service

Independent Parental Supporter Service (IPS)
From Monday 25 February 2008

Based at Ralph Allen School, Bath, the IPS service is available to parents of children with additional needs who attend schools in the Bath area. IPS will be available on Mondays 9.30-11.30 am to offer impartial information, advice and guidance to parents/carers of children aged 0-19

To make an appointment telephone Ralph Allen School on 01225 832936 extension 274 or 287

For further information, and details of how to become a volunteer Independent Parental Supporter, please contact the Parent Partnership Service Helpline 01225 394294 or 01225 394382
email: parent_partnership@bathnes.gov.uk



PLEASE ADD RELEVANT DIARY DATES TO YOUR HOME CALENDER.

2008 Diary Dates

February

Friday 15th End of Term 3

Red and Purple Class Disco

Monday 25th INSET Day

Tuesday 26th Pupils start Term 4

Thursday 28th Djembe Project Music Sessions starts for Indigo

March

Tuesday 4th Tudor Pedlar – Jack Greene in Indigo Class

Friday 7th Performance of Pirates of Bathampton by Mrs Wood & Drama Club

Thursday 13th Blue to Steam Museum, Swindon

Wednesday 19th Indigo Parents Great Wood Residential Presentation 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 20th Class Group Photos

Friday 21st Good Friday. Bank Holiday

Monday 24th Easter Monday Bank Holiday

Thursday 27th Governors' Meeting

April

Friday 4th End of Term 4

Monday 21st Start of Term 5

May

Monday 5th Bank Holiday

Indigo Optional SATs week.

Thursday 8th Blue Class Parents Meeting for Pembroke Residential 6.00 – 7.00 p.m.

Monday 12th Year 6 & Year 5 Optional SATs Week. All children must be present.

Indigo to Greatwood (One night residential)

Friday 16th Open Morning for 2009 Reception Parents

Wednesday 21st Governors' Meeting

Friday 25th End of Term 5

June

Monday 2nd Start of Term 6

Friday 13th INSET

Wednesday 18th Pembroke Visit for Blue Class

Friday 20th Pembroke visit returns (approximately 8.00 p.m.)

July

Thursday 3rd Year 6 pupils to their Secondary Schools, Other pupils to their new classes p.m.

Friday 25th End of Term 6