



Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

It is a pleasure to report the recruitment of Mr Milne who will teach Class Five during Mrs Edmund's maternity leave. Mr Milne is an experienced teacher and has a wealth of interests that he is bringing to the school. He has written plays and novels, and is also a painter. We place a strong emphasis on transition and are delighted that both Mr Milne, and Mrs Best, who is taking over from Mrs Evans during her maternity leave, starting on January 17th, are willing and able to spend time in school getting to know the children and class routines and expectations before starting.

A warm welcome to Vallen Oliver and his parents Emily and Oliver, also to Oliver Howard, and to his parents David and Henny; we hope that they will enjoy their time at Bathampton!

Congratulations to Emma and Darren on the birth of Soma, a sister to Seth and Saul. Soma was born in the early morning of Tuesday 14th December.



It was also a delight to welcome three new girls to the school. Poppy, Ruby and Rosie have started in Class One. They are three friendly guinea pigs given to the school by a very special family. Millie Romer and her parents Kate and Giles have recently moved to Portugal, and felt that the guinea pigs would prefer to stay in England. Kate led a recorder group in school and along with Giles and Millie will be greatly missed. The new 'girls' have settled into Class One life and Mrs Evans reports that they are well behaved and a wonderful addition to the class!! They are living in comfort in the deluxe home donated by Mrs Fenna, and handcrafted by Doug Netherwood.

'Every Child Matters' Day Report by Mrs Wood.



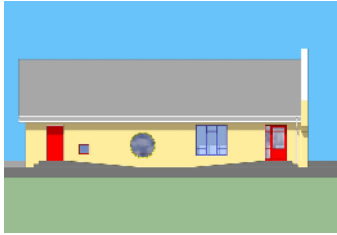
It was wonderful to see lots of children dressed up on our 'Every Child Matters Day', and what an insight it was to see the huge array of aspirations our children have. Costumes included doctors, palaeontologists, vets, fashion designers, photographers, pilots and even teachers, which was, of course, very pleasing to see.

Each class spent time investigating their theme. Class Five investigated ways of making money, budgeting and interest rates. Class Four spent time thinking about all those people that work within the school helping children to learn, feel safe and have fun. Class Three learnt about how to deal with minor accidents and had the help of Noah's mum to check out their ideas and help demonstrate the best techniques. Class Two thought about how to stay healthy and also made some terrific posters about their aspirations for the future and finally Class One considered all the things they had learnt and enjoyed in their first two terms at school, including making Christmas Cakes.

Our thanks to Mrs Wood who organised the day and who is also planning the Disability Day on Friday 21st January. Her inspiring ideas for promoting inclusion really enrich school life!

Thanks also to parents for helping with costumes!

Fund Raising for our New Learning Zone



We are raising money to enable us to have a good sized 'Learning Zone' in the New Building. This will benefit every child as we use this space for an incredible range of activities, lessons and meetings.

Thanks to the amazing teams who organised Friends events. The Cake sale during the book fair raised £66. Teresa Hall and Bridgette Love organised the Bonfire Night which was enjoyed by many and raised £180. Jenny Franks arranged the Pamper Night which was really well attended and raised £620. Penny Lye managed the sale of Christmas Cards and raised £198.75. We have also had two donations of £50, and another of £50 from Hayley Symonds who organised a raffle.

Well done to George Peach who has sold over £100 worth of raffle tickets! A fantastic result, well done! Ashley and Kaye Peach have matched this making a £214 raffle contribution from The George.



We are grateful to the Parish Council for their generous support of the school. They have recently given the school a cheque for £2,769.91. This was raised through the Bathampton Village Celebration in the summer. Members of the superb team, together with the School Council, are shown here with a very large cheque!

Christmas Fair



A huge well done and many thanks to all the Friends who organised the Christmas Fair, to those who worked behind the scenes arranging stalls and prizes, to those who ran stalls, to those who stayed to clear up, and to everyone who came and parted with their hard earned money. Thanks also to Lisa Doerr for her work on the School Calendar and leadership of the Friends. The Fair raised a grand total of £1545. This means that we have raised a grand total of £5,724 so far and have £4276 to go to reach our £10,000 target!

We also appreciate the Friends' provision of mince pies and tea after the Christmas Service on Wednesday 15th December and the generous contributions at the service and for tea and coffee which came to £143.

In School

Snow and Frost Fun



The snow came and didn't interrupt learning or fun at school; in fact the wintery weather inspired some exciting ideas. As well as making snowmen and having snowball fights activities have included a Class Two art lesson led by Mrs Huntley based on work by artist Richard Long who makes environmental art by disturbing the landscape.



Class Four took a walk in the grounds one beautifully frosty morning and wrote some very poetic descriptions.

Our Assembly

On Friday 26th November Class Four entertained and educated parents and school alike with their biologically focused assembly which included some Shakespearean acting, a rap and lots of surprising information about the body.



We are always keen to have visitors who can bring learning to life, and Class Four have enjoyed visits from parent and Chiropractor John Yardley, and physiotherapist Simon Case, a colleague of Penny Lye from the Bath Clinic.

Bird Watching

On 16th November, the School Council met to discuss plans for setting up our school bird watching club. Parent Bob Goodman came and inspired the children with his infectious love of bird watching. The children were very enthusiastic and put forward a variety of constructive ideas about how we could make best use of our new bird hide. They were keen to start using the hide as soon as possible. Class Four are going to be building bird boxes with Vic Ross on 13th January and we hope to create a bird-rich wood around the hide.

Bird Watching Week

24th January marks the start of National Bird Watching Week. During this week, the whole school will be encouraged to engage in bird watching activities.

Bird Watching Week will also be ideal timing for the opening ceremony of our new bird hide. Ex-pupil Shane Bowditch, (who first suggested setting up a bird hide at a School Council meeting in 2008,) will be our "Guest of Honour," and will cut the tape for the opening of the bird hide.

Out and About

Classes Visit @bristol

This autumn we had a number of classes visiting @Bristol. This is a superb local resource offering expert specialist Science teaching.



Class Three had a really interesting and interactive trip to @ Bristol this term related to their science topic of 'Bodies'. The activities included building a body, measuring your pulse, testing your senses and reactions and seeing how much energy your brain uses. One highlight was an explosive demonstration of how much energy is in sugar, followed by an illuminating explanation of the digestive system and a clever experiment showing how muscles work.



Class Five - Trip to @ Bristol By Jessica Clarke

Class Five went on a trip to at Bristol to study Space. We had a workshop about our planets, the Earth, Sun and Moon, where we were taught many interesting facts. We also watched some marshmallows in a vacuum. When the air was sucked out, the marshmallow expanded! It was brilliant and we learnt lots!

A huge thank you to all the parents that came with classes to this and other events for encouraging, explaining and supporting the children's learning. It is greatly appreciated!

The Arts

Peter Dickinson Exhibition



I am really grateful to artist Peter Dickinson who has entrusted four of his paintings to us. These powerful abstract paintings are adding an enjoyable splash of colour to the school, and incidentally are for sale.



It is worth mentioning that the Stair Gallery Curators, Molly Griffin and Sophie Baldwin, are currently organising the next exhibition. They found some artwork that they liked online, and are arranging an exhibition with the artist.



Bath Abbey Soloists

Congratulations to Joe Franks, Jessica Clarke and Jack Stamper Watling who sang a solo verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' to start the Schools Carol Service in Bath Abbey.

It was a real honour to be invited by Tim Parker who conducts the service and is recognition of the high quality of singing at our school.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jessica Clarke who has been invited to join the South Western Regional Orchestra of the National Children's Orchestra. She is also on the reserve list for the National Children's Orchestra. She is a very hard working and talented cello player; and definitely one to watch!

Stage Stars

Well done to Molly Griffin who is dancing in 'Aladdin' at The Theatre Royal between 16th December and 23rd January.

Jamming



Many thanks to Brian Madigan who not only gave a really enjoyable concert in October to raise money for new music stands for our musicians and orchestra, but gave a concert which turned into an improvised jam session with the School Orchestra. Brian encouraged the children to consider trying to create their own music.

Links abroad

French Pen Friends

Our link with The Lime Tree School in France is still strong! Amazingly 61 children are currently writing to a penpal at the French school. I am very grateful to Sarah Surgey, Samia Gibbins and Ms Ovigne for their hard work. In a new development we expect two children from the school to visit in the New Year, and spend up to a week in our classes, and are hoping that reciprocal visits may happen. This is designed to bring language learning to life!

Caring for other people



Many thanks to all the families who contributed a Christmas Box for the charity Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to your kindness 32 children, who might otherwise have got nothing, will receive a present this Christmas! The organisers were very pleased to accept your contributions.

Writing Milestones



Our Creative and Technical Writing Milestones are now underway. The children have their creative and technical milestone targets in their writing books and are busy seeking evidence to prove that they have reached their next milestone. Mrs Evans and I have assessed the older children's first attempts and are looking forward to seeing children getting more and more evidence of their achievement.

Don't be surprised if the children are not fully confident explaining the process yet, as this system encourages them to take a very mature approach to their own writing and we are taking a long term approach to this. Parent Dr. Harvey Maylor commented that to encourage these higher level skills of reflection at such a young age is to harness a powerful learning medium. "These skills are vital for education way beyond these early learning years and if more of my postgraduate students had these skills my job would be far easier!"

I am grateful to the many people who have worked behind the scenes to get this project going.

Sport and Fitness

Football Success



Well done to the team and Manager Roberto Montani on their 4-2 win against St Johns! There were goals by Mike Cottell and Dillon Pike and the team played superbly. As you might expect with an Italian manager their defensive skills were as strong as their attacking ability.

Netball Tournament at Royal High School.

Some children in KS2 played in their first high-five netball tournament, held at the Royal High School. As the children gained in confidence, they began to play really well against some more experienced teams. The children were able to rotate around each of the different positions and help the umpires keep the scores. It was a great experience for them all.



Just thought I would update you on the excellent progress of Elise Maylor since starting at The Academy of Gymnastics at Portishead this summer. Elise was invited to a training camp at The Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff with the Welsh squad for a period of 5 days, training with many British Squad gymnasts.

She was selected to represent The Academy in two events with her performances being key in helping The Academy winning the "Gold" team medals. It is exciting to see Elise doing so well.

School & Community Story Club



Well done to all the members of Story Club who put on a really enjoyable drama at their end of term event on Thursday 2nd December. Thanks to the great team of people who run this club.



A big thank you to everyone who collected and donated Morrison's 'Let's Grow' vouchers. Our total of 1831 has allowed us to order some essential tools for the new field/growing project and we have also been offered a free apple tree with this amount.

Sandwich Provision

Many thanks to those parents who generously contributed towards the cost of sandwich provision.

Childcare vouchers

If you have Childcare Vouchers these can now be used in **our Breakfast Club**. Thanks to the parents who suggested this!

Help the school

by claiming free school meals!

If your family is eligible for free school meals we would be really grateful if you could claim this entitlement. Under government plans schools will get a pupil premium of over £400 for every child who claims. By claiming you are, in effect, significantly benefiting the school's budget, and in tough times every pound helps.

Goodbye!

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Hannah King who has been in school since September on a University year in industry. We want to thank Hannah for all her hard work in school and for running the dance club. I am delighted though that she will be able to continue this club after the Christmas holidays. Hannah has been a real help and added a lot to the staff team while here.

Diary Dates

January 2011

Tuesday 4th INSET Day 5

Wednesday 5th Term 3 starts for children

Thursday 13th Bird Box Building Day for Class Four with Vic Ross & First Freedom School Drama Club

Monday 17th Mrs Best starts in Class One

Friday 21st Disability Day

Monday 24th Start of National Bird Watching Week for Schools

February

Friday 4th Friends Quiz Night

Thursday 10th Wessex Water visit for Class Five

Monday 14th Personal Projects Week

Friday 18th End of Term 3

Monday 28th Start of Term 4

March

Monday 7th Mr Milne to start in Class Five

Tuesday 8th Class Four to Warleigh Lodge Farm

Saturday 12th Auction of Promises (TBC)

April

Friday 8th End of Term 4

Tuesday 26th Start of Term 5

Friday 29th Royal Wedding Bank Holiday

Other dates online

Monday 6th June INSET Day 6

*Happy Christmas and New Year from all the
staff*



The Christmas Angel goes on top of the tree!