



Dear Parents and Friends,

### Changes

It is a pleasure to report the recruitment of Mrs Kirby who will teach Class One on Mondays and Tuesdays starting from January. Mrs Kirby is an experienced teacher who will bring valuable skills and knowledge to the team. We would like to thank Mrs Best for all she had done this autumn.

We welcome back Mrs Edmund starting after her Maternity leave. Class Five said goodbye to Mr Milne on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Many of us were sad to say goodbye to a well-liked family. The Forsters have moved to Cornwall, and we wish Ollie, Charlie, Max and Emily and Charlotte and Andy all the best, and hope they can cope with everyone who wants to visit!

### New Classroom Opening



Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November was a memorable day for many people and we hope that the children at Bathampton will remember the day that Henry VIII graciously appeared to open their new classroom.



Actor Mike Farley who looked remarkably like portraits of the Tudor king was giving Class Three a taste of Tudor life that day so didn't

have far to go and we greatly appreciated his contribution! A number of invited guests including ex-members of staff, members of the B&NES team who had managed the project had a tour of the school, and heard speeches.

James Richardson and Deeva Dewey spoke for all the children and said: "We are all thrilled to have a wonderful new building with more space for children to experience different types of learning. When you walk in the room you can see so many interesting things you can do! Our new classroom is a really child-friendly environment. The little reception class children can even see out of the new, lower windows! We are looking forward to being able to have more children in our school, which will mean making even more friends!"

Linda Fursland the Chair of Governors gave a thought provoking speech in which she drew attention to features of the architecture and the key role that the building will have in the crucial first year of education for many children over the years. I had an opportunity to thank some of the people who had helped make the building happen, including representatives of those who have raised funds for the 'Learning Zone'.



We love the new building. The architect has done a superb job turning our ideas into bricks and mortar. We wanted a classroom that was spacious and that invites children outdoors. The wide glass bi-fold doors overlooking our field and woods do just that. We wanted to create a calm but creative atmosphere and we have noticed how quiet, happy and busy the children are in their new classroom. We are grateful to Bath & North East Somerset Council and to Halsalls for the hard work put into this project.

I hope that most parents by now will have had an opportunity to pop in and see the new

building; if you haven't please do come and see it!

## In School

Class Three Tudor Day



Report by Mrs Wood

Class Three had a tremendous Tudor experience on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The day started with a visit from Henry VIII. True to form Henry proved to be an extremely impressive character. He started by telling the children about how his father had, against many odds come to be king. He then told the children about his many wives and how each in turn had affected the course of Tudor history. Finally he explained in glorious detail the rather slapdash Tudor approach to hygiene.

Next the children enjoyed a Tudor lunch. This included honey glazed chicken legs, lamb pie, fruit, rolls and jam tart and custard. All the children embraced the experience of eating in the Tudor style with knives, spoon and no fork. Finally, the day was completed with Tudor dancing instructed by Michelle our amazing dance coach. So taken by the delights of this some children spontaneously started practising in their playtime. It really was a memorable Tudor Day for all. A huge thank you to all those mums who helped with the meal and the washing up

## Out and About

Problem solving in Bathampton Woods



On a cold, wet, windy November morning, Class Four trekked up to Bathampton Woods where they practised problem solving skills. An amazing time was had making dens with tarpaulin, string, sticks, and leaves. We learnt how to survive overnight in the wild. Thanks to Tania Orgill who lead the trip.

Harvey Berry and Enya Maylor

Class Four Roman's topic

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November Class Four had a fascinating trip to the Roman Baths. Some children explained what they learnt on that visit.



'Whilst at the Roman Baths, I learnt that olive oil was used for many things, such as cooking oil lamps and for putting on before they got in the Baths.' Elle Metcalfe

'The Roman Baths was very hot because there was a natural hot spring coming from the Mendip Hills' Rowan Yardley

'It was amazing because we got to see the water coming from the Mendips!' Jamie Bowditch

'The workshop at the Baths was amazing, especially the counter challenge which was a game where you had 50 Sestrertü (Roman coin) and there were some implements that

you would use at the Baths. You had to use your money wisely and buy necessary implements. The sandals were at an outrageous price, 75 Sestertii and I only had 50!' Louis Messer

'I also learnt that if someone stole a belonging they would curse whoever stole it' Davide Montani

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November Class Four staged a superb Roman assembly followed by a sumptuous Roman feast – stuffed dormice was a favourite delicacy. Thanks to those parents and grandparents who helped dress the children in their togas.

#### Class Five Outdoor Science Lesson



On 8 November Class Five visited the Dry Arch Growers Project. They had been studying micro-organisms and natural decay in the classroom and school-grounds and were ready to take their studies further by examining the natural decay of blackberries, apples, potatoes, comfrey and other plants at the end of the autumn at the Dry Arch. They were able to hunt for these plants, sketch & label them and photograph them.



The children were also met by Adam from Heartwood Project who gave them a talk on the compost toilet that he has been making there. The children enjoyed the visit very much and said that they would like to study the Dry Arch through the four seasons and that they would like to return to the site when the compost toilet was finished. They also thought that they would be seeing more

compost toilets in public places over the next few years.

#### This Little House!



Class Two have enjoyed working collaboratively building stick houses after reading a well-known children's story. They used resources they found in the school woods.

#### Handwriting and Tables Milestones

Children did well in their recent tests. Mrs Clarke and I noticed that some children didn't always maintain sharp pencils. We do have sharpeners in school but children are welcome to bring in their own sharpeners if they are the barrel types that hold shavings and can be used at a desk.

Mrs Cox has been testing children who are ready to take their Tables Milestones. We have been impressed by the determination children have shown to pass these. We recommend using music and games to learn tables. Ms Johnson has suggested the 'Memory Energy Muzik CD on our website, and there are many similar products available. This makes learning tables fun!

#### Helping Readers

Mrs Wood and I have met with Professor John Stein of Oxford University and Roger Hall of the Mentoring Plus Visual Filters Project to discuss taking part in a trial of visual filters in early 2012. You may be aware that some children find that coloured lenses help them to read comfortably.

We will be inviting children in KS2 to complete a simple questionnaire and if appropriate offering the use of a free coloured lens, or suggesting an eye test. An earlier trial in 2010 found that 71% of children who had experienced vision

problems when reading were helped by wearing a lens over a period of about three months, and many experienced a significant improvement in their reading age.

We heard anecdotal stories concerning children who described seeing text as moving 'rivers of print' who were able to read without difficulty using a lens. We feel that even if only one child benefits from this trial, it will have been worthwhile.

### Primary Leadership Academy

Well done to James Nankivell, Alexis Hawker and Dillon Pike who were invited to join the first session of this leadership training programme. We look forward to implementing their leadership skills next term.

## The Arts

### Peter Dickinson Project



I am really grateful to artist Peter Dickinson who entrusted four of his paintings to us. They have gone now, but Class Five will be working with Peter in 2012 in an exciting new project. Peter is the official artist for the new Riverside development, and will be working with us and two other schools to create a design that can be used as a feature in metal railings at Riverside. He will be coming in to inspire the children in Class Five to create designs based on 'Elements'. This theme hints at the industrial history of that part of Bath.

## Sport and Fitness

### Football



The Bath and Keynsham Y5/6 Tournament on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at the Glasshouse Fields was a great first experience of competition for some children. The children were fantastic and the competition was very strong. Max Knight, Will Abel and James Nicholson were our Players of certain matches and Lorenzo Montani was our Player of the tournament.

Our team were the Small Schools Winner – and will have an opportunity to play off with the Small Schools Winner from MSN and Chew Valley on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at Wellsway School to decide who will progress through to the South West Final on Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> at Bridgwater College. Thanks to David Howard for managing the team.

We have also played against the Combe Down A team in the 2011/12 Bath & Keynsham Association Football Cup Competition and despite playing very well indeed lost 5-2.

### Rugby Training

The older classes have benefitted from some excellent Rugby coaching from Bath Rugby Outreach coach Jimmy Deane.

## Admission changes



As previously indicated the school will have six classes in September and seven at a future date. There will be a set reception class and the other children will be spread through the remaining classes. Initially the spare classroom will be used for music lessons, small group teaching and school clubs, in addition to the learning zone. The temporary classrooms – refurbished and equipped to a high specification for Key Stage Two children – will be placed during the Easter holidays on the south side of the field and the area landscaped; allowing excellent access to the outdoors.

It is worth noting that although we may eventually use the Church building slightly more than we do now (for reasons of space) the ethos and nature of the school and our assemblies will be unaffected and we will remain a county rather than a church school.

I am grateful to Governors Alison Howell and Emma Naysmith (pictured above discussing changes with the School Council) who have been worked hard at exploring issues related to the expansion. The staff will be focusing on 2012–13 curriculum and pastoral improvements during the INSET Day on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### *Christmas Fair*

A big thank you from the Friends of Bathampton Primary School

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our two fundraising events held this term – the bonfire and Christmas Fair which together have raised over £1200. There was a great response to our various requests and we really appreciate all your contributions. We are also very grateful to the hardworking volunteers that helped organise, run and clear away after these events, including the Year 6 pupils who were a marvellous help on the day. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves but are always open to suggestions on how to improve these events in the future. Next year, we are planning a quiz, Easter Fair and of course our Summer Fair which will be combined with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. So, if you would like to be involved in future events, or join the Friends of Bathampton Primary

School Committee, you are very welcome, just speak to your Class representative:

Class 1 – Emily Hoskin

Class 2 – Lou Skipp

Class 3 – Hannah Isaac

Class 4 – Hayley Symonds

Class 5 – Jules Millhouse.

#### *Nativity Rock*

We hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed the Christmas Service. It was great to see such a good turn out! Well done to the Orchestra, the Recorder Ensemble and all the musicians who started the service off so well. Well done to all the actors and narrators and all the children who sang their hearts out. Ms Johnson did an excellent job preparing the music and conducting the songs.

We also appreciate the Friends' provision of mince pies and tea after the Christmas Service on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The Friends are an amazing group who do so much for the school, and help make it a richer place in many ways!

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## School & Community

#### *Blue Peter Fund Raiser*



Alex, James and Thomas Nankivell made cakes for a Blue Peter fundraiser and sold them outside their house on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. They were allowed to leave school early to set-up their bake sale so they could have lots of customers from our school when they were walking home. They sold all of them and managed to raise £36.40. Well done to the enterprising Nankivells!

### Congratulations

Congratulations to ex-pupils Jack Bull and Kelly Russell who both won academic prizes at Beechen Cliff this term.

### Stage Stars

Well done to Edward Cook who was recently acting in 'Toy Story' with the Curtain Up School. He and Josephine Lye will be appearing in a production in the New Year.

### Morrison Vouchers

Our total of 2488 Morrison's 'Let's Grow' vouchers has allowed us to order a state of the art weather station, and materials to grow our own potatoes in school. A big thank you to everyone who collected and donated!

## Free Money

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.

## Diary Dates

Please transfer these dates to your new 2012 diaries and calendars! We rely on parents doing this in order to know what is coming up!

### December

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** Class Four Party

& End of Term 2

### January 2012

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** INSET Day 4

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 3

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** School Football Tournament Winners Play Offs @ Wellsway School leaving approx.. 3.00 p.m.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>** Class Four Swimming starts again

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** Class Three trip to Somerset Science Centre

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** The deadline for admission is January 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have a child who is due to start school in 2012 please ensure you have applied for a place. (It happens!!)

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Class One Spanish Trainee Teachers begin visit

### February

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 3

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 4

& Class Five swimming starts

### March

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** Table Tennis Tournament @ St Saviours School 3.25 p.m.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to WW2 event @ Swindon Steam Museum

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to Bathampton Manor to sing WW2 songs to residents

Dance Umbrella this week

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 4

### April

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 5

### May

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Y3 & 4 leave for Greatwood

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** Return from Greatwood

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Year 4 & 5 to Ironbridge

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>** Return from Ironbridge

### June

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** End of Term 5

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>** INSET Day 5

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Children start Term 6

### July

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 6

All term dates available online



*Happy Christmas and New Year from all the staff*

We hope that everyone has a chance to recharge their batteries this holiday!

It would be appreciated if children started their earlier bedtimes **before** the term begins so that the children come back ready to hit the ground running.