



Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

Barnaby Armitage is moving to Corsham Primary School which is closer to home in preparation for Secondary School. We wish him all the best and would like to thank Charlotte and Robert for their support over the years.

Class Four have recently said farewell to Bath Spa trainee teacher Rebecca Wakefield, we wish her all the best in her teaching career.

Welcome to Courtney Mann who will be in Class Two most Tuesdays until May. Miss Mann hails from Texas. She is learning about the English education system through the Bath based Advanced Studies in England programme.

Sad News

Mrs Seaford has let us know that she is intending to retire in July this year. Mrs Seaford has taught at the school for 21 years, and will have taught many children in that time. We are going to miss her skilful teaching and her gift at helping children to settle calmly and happily. We are glad that she has been able to experience a straight Reception Class before leaving. This has long been a dream of hers!

Snow News is Good News



On Wednesday 4th February children at school had a fantastic time in the school field making snowmen. For many it was their first experience of significant snowfall. On the Thursday and Friday the school was closed, and many children were able to experience the joys of snowballing and sledging.



Class Five Visits Rolls Royce

On Thursday 22nd January Class Five learnt about forces from Rolls Royce engineers who know more than most about forces. The children worked in teams designing, testing and modifying balloon powered aeroplanes. They learnt about air resistance and the various engines manufactured by the firm. They rated the visit as 'awesome'. Thanks to the parents who came in support of the trip.



Breakfast Pilot

Trial breakfast sessions

I have often been asked if we could run a breakfast club, and now that we have the new building it seems like a good time to see if it is feasible. The school governors have organised two trial sessions with Karen Fleming of B&NES Extended Services. After the trial we will have to decide if there is sufficient interest and if it is manageable.

The trial sessions will run on Tuesday 9th June and Thursday 18th June from 8.00 to 8.45 a.m. A letter will be sent closer to that date gauging interest.

If it is successful we will need to recruit somebody to run the club. On Tuesday 10th March from 2.15-3.15 p.m. Karen Fleming will lead a Q&A session for people who may be interested in running the club. Please come if you think you may be interested in running the club.

Science Day

The Science Day on Friday 30th January started with an assembly based on the theme of Forces. Mrs Wood demonstrated various forces with the help of her assistant Edward Clarke, in particular attempting to explain Newton's second and third law of motion. Following that the children returned to their classes to commence their investigative work.

Class one investigated pulling and stretching forces and made wonderful animal mobiles with stretchy tails. Class Two investigated gravity and friction, finding out how far objects rolled down a slope. Class Three used their buggies in a similar way, finding out which buggy went the furthest and trying to explain why. In the afternoon the children were encouraged to investigate their own enquiry, these included changing the angle of the ramp, changing the ramps surface, timing their buggies descent and improving their buggy design to see if it could roll further. Class Four worked with parachutes. This involved them designing and making parachutes, testing their designs and explaining their results. Finally Class Five spent a lot of their day working with Newton Meters, investigating how they worked and using them to measure various objects. In the afternoon they attempted to reduce the amount of Newtons an object takes to be dragged across the table by reducing the effect of friction.

The day ended in the hall where all the classes reported on their day, what they had found out, what surprised them and which ideas worked best. Many thanks to Mrs Wood for organising the day!

India



As part of their topic on India, Class Four had a visit from Hettal, an Indian friend of Miss Wakefield's. They learnt about Indian traditions and learnt a Hindu wedding dance.

Celebrating and Achieving Success

Bronze Merit Awards

So far this academic year 33 children have achieved their Bronze Merit award. The children have each gained 60 merits. These will have been gained for good behaviour, helpfulness, academic effort or high achievement.

Milestones

So far this academic year a good number of children have gained Milestones Awards.

Handwriting: Milestone One 38 children, Milestone Two 26 children, Milestone Three 15 children, Milestone Four 5 children.

Tables: Milestone One 17 children, Milestone Two 12 children, Milestone Three 6 children, Milestone Four 4 children.

We strongly encourage children to work **patiently** towards these key goals. For some children achieving a Tables Milestone One in Year Six is a superb achievement. We need to celebrate children's progress without making unfortunate comparisons. The tests are rigorous and I am sure that not all adults would be successful if tested as thoroughly as the children are!

I was encouraged to speak to Alex Baldwin, who had achieved Tables Milestone Four (which involves knowing all of the 12 tables back to front and in a range of contexts). He wanted advice on what the 'next step' could be. It doesn't matter how good we are there is always a challenge ahead of us, and with the right attitude the sky is the limit! We want to develop enthusiastic learners!

Entrance Exams

Congratulations to the following Year Six pupils who all were successful in passing entrance examinations to local Independent Schools

Alex Baldwin, Olivia Bools, Toby Fenna, Cajsa Thulin and Ashley and Linnet Tutcher

Monday 11th May is KS2 SATs Week

Year Six children **must** be in school this week. Please do not book any sleepovers during this week or in the week before as these tend to affect children's concentration and morale.

Parent/ Teacher Interviews

The Term 4 parent teacher interviews will provide an insight into your child's current academic strengths and weaknesses. We will try to be frank about his/her progress and the next steps needed. I have found from professional and personal experience that children have times of success and times when they need to be strongly challenged to do better. If parents and teachers operate in partnership at this point it is amazing how quickly children can regain their motivation and focus.

Music Room



Firbanks to the Rescue

Thomas Firbanks has once again proved himself a great friend of the school. As well as providing the school with our Tag Rugby kit Thomas Firbanks has kitted out our Learning Zone/Music Room with a second hand Bentley piano. You couldn't ask for a better neighbour! The peripatetic musicians have been delighted with the new facility.

Out of school



Well done to Sophie Baldwin and Molly Griffin who were in the recent Pantomime at The Theatre Royal. The girls learnt a lot of acting skills and enjoyed every minute. One highlight for Sophie was meeting Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall.

Well done to Ashley Tutchter who has been elected a member of the Bath and Wells Change (Bell) Ringers! This is an impressive feat for someone of his age.

Sport and Fitness

Football Tournament



Congratulations to all the Year 3 and 4 children who took part in the Year 3 & 4 Football Tournament at Monkton School a.m. on Saturday 17th January. They played in five matches, winning against WASPs, losing against St Stephens, and drawing with St Marys and Newbridge. Thanks to manager Mark Archer and assistant coach Oscar Archer, and to the parents who braved the cool January weather.

Fitness

Sports Coordinator Brendan Rowse has been in school challenging children to develop their fitness and identifying children who are especially able. We are keen to encourage children to get out and about and participate in healthy activities in and out of school.

Governors



It's sometimes easy to forget our superb team of Governors who beaver away behind the scenes, often early in the morning or late into the evening. On Friday 23rd January, for instance, we had a marathon Governors session starting with a Personnel meeting at 8.00 a.m., then a 6 hour Finance sessions, finishing with a Premises meeting at 3.00 p.m. Here the Finance team are shown having a working lunch while getting to grips with the new Financial Standards for Schools. We are grateful to all of the Governors for their dedication and support!

School & Community



Books for Schools

Each week The Times and The Sunday Times will be printing 12 Books for Schools tokens; four in The Sunday Times in the News Review section, three on Saturday in The Times in the Books section and one each day from Monday to Friday in Times2 for parents and teachers to collect. With some fantastic titles available for as little as ten tokens, one person reading The Times and The Sunday Times could put up to 43 books into a school library during the promotion



Active Kids

From 11 February to 3 June 2009, every £10 you spend at Sainsbury's supermarkets, Centrals, petrol stations or online at sainsburys.co.uk/groceries you will earn one AK09 voucher. When you shop in Sainsbury's Local stores you'll get one voucher for every £5 spent.

A reminder to claim for Free School Meals if eligible. Sue Gilbert has the necessary information. If you are due to buy a new sandwich box a small or medium size box rather than a monster would be appreciated for space reasons.

Diary Dates

February

Wednesday 11th Fire TV for Class Four

Thursday 12th Last day of term for pupils

Friday 13th INSET Day 4 Year Strategic Plan

Monday 23rd INSET Day 4 Year Strategic Plan

Tuesday 24th Children Start Term 4

Wednesday 25th Class Photographs

Leah Sleator (Bath Spa PGCE) first visit to Class Two

March

Monday 2nd Parent/ teacher interview fortnight

Wednesday 11th Class Four RE Visit to Hindu Temple, Bristol

Tuesday 24th Roly the Clown Assembly / Governor's Meeting 7.15 p.m

Thursday 26th Dance Umbrella Evening Performance @ Forum

April

Wednesday 1st Easter Service

Drama Club Evening Performance

Friday 3rd End of Term 4/ Friend's Cake Sale

Monday 20th Start of Term 5

Monday 27th Leah Sleator Placement begins

May

Monday 5th Bank Holiday

Friday 8th Friends Quiz Night 7.00 p.m.

Monday 11th KS2 SATs Week

Tuesday 19th Governors' Meeting

Friday 22nd End of Term 5

June

Monday 1st Start of Term 5 & Bikeability

Wednesday 6th KwikCricket Tournament @ Kingswood Playing Fields

Friday 5th Class 5 Tribal @ St Marks School

Tuesday 9th Pilot Breakfast Club Session One 8.00 a.m.

Friday 12th INSET Assessment

Thursday 18th Pilot Breakfast Club Session Two 8.00 a.m.

Tuesday 23rd Annual Cricket Match v Village Team (Refreshments by the Friends)

Tuesday 30th Class Three Sports Festival p.m.

July

Saturday 4th Summer Fair 2.00-5.00 p.m.

Friday 24th End of Term 6