



Dear Parents and Friends,

It is time to say goodbye to our very special School Secretary. Sue Ayres has worked at the school for six years now and sadly for us it is now time for her to move on. Sue has gained a promotion to a senior position as Secretary in the office of St John's Catholic School in Bath. Although we are very sad to be losing Sue, we are also proud of her achievement and glad for our colleagues and the parents at St John's.

Sue has been an outstanding secretary since she joined us in 2005. She has been unfailingly friendly, professional, reliable, discreet, supportive and efficient when dealing with staff, parents, children and other visitors. I am sure that many parents will remember being greeted by her for the first time and feeling that this is a school where everyone matters. Sue will take up her post at the beginning of Term 4.



I would like to thank Ann King for all of her work reading with children in KS1. Ann is a Bathampton resident who has faithfully come in every Tuesday morning for many years now, and who has now finished her weekly visits. We think that nearly all of the children in school will have been heard read by her at some time! Anne is always positive and encouraging! It's great to have such lovely people supporting the school!

I am pleased to say that Sally Crampton will be joining the staff as an SMSA after the holiday. Sally, who is the mother of Betty in Class One, loves the outdoors and will be a real asset to the lunchtime team. Helen Bowditch will be stepping down as SMSA after

many years of giving the children superb care at lunchtimes!

Spanish Visitors



We have enjoyed a visit from Susana Gil and Silvia Carlero from the University of Vic in Catalonia, Spain. They are preparing to teach English in Primary Schools in Catalonia. They have been with us for three weeks finishing on 10th February and have been enthusiastic and very helpful.



A warm welcome to our trainee teachers from Bath Spa University; Ms Lockyer in Class One, Ms Edwards in Class Three, Mr Manning in Class Four and Mr Joyce in Class Five. They will be with us one day each week until the end of Term 4

Temporary Classroom

We have news on the planning front. We have made a strategic decision to move the play area from its current position in order to move the temporary building into that space. The need for a wild life survey makes the 'wild area' a planning challenge in the short term. The Local Authority will manage the process and also pay for the play equipment to be moved. We will have to wait until the summer for the temporary building to be moved. I am sorry that this is taking longer than we hoped and appreciate everyone's patience in the meantime! A portion of the wall adjacent to the wild area will be removed during the holiday as part of the preparation.

Maths Training

How are your mathematical skills? We invite all parents to attend one of the two training sessions on Tuesday 6th March. There is an afternoon session from 2.00 until 3.00 and a identical evening event from 7.00 until 8.00 approximately.

Reminder: Final INSET Day Monday
11th June
Please sign up for parent/ teacher
interviews!

Monkton Music Day



On Tuesday 31 January our Orchestra attended a musical day at Monkton Preparatory School where they joined musicians from five other local schools to make up a group of around 75 young musicians. The children experienced the discipline and excitement of playing in a large group whilst also having fun.

Traditional Spiritual musical pieces were attempted by the entire group before the children were disbanded to sectional rehearsals to study their parts in greater detail. The young musicians also had an opportunity to perform percussion pieces. The day culminated in an afternoon performance for parents.

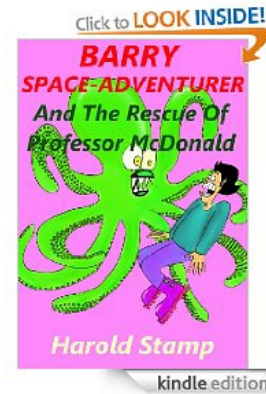
Many thanks to Chris Stafford, the Headteacher, David Sibley Director of Music and all the other staff who made us feel so welcome. Chris Stafford emailed and noted that we had the largest contingent and that our pupils put their heart and soul into the practices. Report by Vee Johnson (Music)

Parent Jules Millhouse also kindly made contact to thank the staff involved.

'...Opportunities like this are so enriching for the children...It can only help in building their confidence in playing in front of an audience, working as a group and working with unfamiliar teachers. I was really impressed

with Monkton School for not only giving the children a well-planned and purposeful day, but in also looking after the parents who went to watch the performance at the end of the day and were provided with tea and cake.'

Teacher's Writing Appears in Cyber-space



On a literary note 'Barry Space-Adventurer' is now up and running on Amazon's Kindle store. This light-hearted sci-fi story for children is written by Class Five's maternity cover teacher, Mr Milne (writing under the pen name of Harold Stamp). At the Kindle price of £0.77 it is a bargain, although better still, it may be free on the first holiday weekend!

In School



Class One

Class One have been learning about the Chinese New Year. Their classroom has been transformed with colourful displays, red banners and dragons.

Class Two

Class Two have had fun this term learning through their topic of 'Toys'. To finish the term they had a board game day on Wednesday 8th and are having a teddy bear day on Friday 10th February. The final afternoon is due to be spent having a teddy bear picnic with their friends in Class One.

Out and About

Class Three Visit to Moons Hill Quarry



Class Three started this term with a trip to Moons Hill Quarry. This visit enabled the class to see a working quarry in action and learn about the different kinds of rocks and learn about how they are used.

The day started with investigating different types of rocks. Children investigated the texture and appearance of the rocks and then used this information to identify them. Next they tested their hardness, their porosity and lustre. They used this information to discuss how the rocks might be used. The children found out that rocks can be found in a number of unsuspecting places like toothpaste!



*All BPS children are members of this
award winning online resource.*

User name bat0219

Password ba26tq

@ www.gridclub.com

After lunch the class studied quarry safety and got to try on equipment worn by quarry workers. During the day small groups were taken out to the quarry in a minibus to visit different parts of the quarry and have a closer look at the machinery used. It proved to be a very interesting day and an informative visit.

Report by Mrs Wood



BATH RIVERSIDE PUBLIC ART

Class Five have been invited to take part in a unique venture which will give the children an opportunity to work with artist Peter Dickinson (who kindly exhibited a selection of his paintings in the Stair Gallery) to produce a piece of art that could eventually become a lasting part of the city's newest quarter.

Students will be asked to create sculptural pieces from Plasticine, which relate to the 'Elements' theme that is part of Crest Nicholson's site-wide arts strategy. Bathampton Primary is one of three schools taking part and the only primary school. It is very fitting that we are taking part as Bathampton was the home of William Harbutt the inventor of Plasticine and also of the first Plasticine factory.

From the submitted students' works, a selection will be cast into bronze and used to add creative features throughout areas of the development.

Success @ School

King Edwards Exams

Well done to the four Year Six children who took entrance exams for King Edward's School. All four passed. Special congratulations to Lorenzo Montani who was awarded an academic Scholarship. We have also had some very positive comments about our pupils from Stonar, Kingswood and Millfield Schools.

Sport and Fitness

Somerset F.A. Small Schools Final



On Friday 13th January the school football team travelled to Bridgwater College to take part in the small schools final. They played four games; losing against Ditcheat, Kingsmoor and Sandford but winning against North Curry. I am very grateful to David Howard for his excellent managerial support and to Milena Sorlini and Roberto Montani for their help. The event was very well organised and we had the help and encouragement of a Bridgwater College student through-out.

Playground Leadership



James Nankivell and Dillon Pike have attended playground leadership training sessions. They write

'It's fun, its energetic; it's the B&NES Sport Leadership Academy! We've been learning how to run playground clubs and this is what we are hoping to do! We have made lots of friends from different schools and we love to share ideas with them. In the next term we will be discussing a small club for the younger children. They have provided us with some game ideas and we hope to use these in the next term!'

Report by Jim and Dillon

Lacrosse

Children in Class Five have enjoyed some Lacrosse coaching. They learnt a range of different skills, whilst learning how to play a new sport. The highlight was playing a large game on a very muddy field!

Skipping

Brendan Rouse has visited this school and our four other cluster schools to check skipping scores. So far we have done well. We came first at Year Six, and second at Year Five and Year Four. We are working to improve fitness and this suggests that the hard work is paying off!

School & Community

The difference you make!

I recently noticed that a child in KS1 had improved in his reading and writing by leaps and bounds. I was very interested to talk to his father and learn that he is being read to most nights for up to half an hour, and enjoying stories such as those by Roald Dahl. I am sure that it is his developing love of stories and books that is contributing to his improvement.

Research suggests that listening to our children read is the most significant factor in their success at school, and beyond.

Notices

Some children have brought in 'over-trousers' to wear at playtimes and this can help reduce mud issues!

A reminder that when children have been sick they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the event!



Diary Dates Insert

February

Friday 10th End of Term 3 & End of Spanish Visitors placement

Monday 20th Start of Term 4

& Class Five swimming starts

& Some parent teacher interviews

Friday 24th Y5/6 'Cross Country' Running @ St Marks 1.30–2.30 p.m.

Monday 27th Main parent/ teacher interview fortnight

March

Friday 2nd Quiz Night (confirmed)

Monday 5th Class Five Sports Day at King Edward's School

Tuesday 6th Parent's Maths Sessions! 2.00–3.00 and repeated at 7.00–8.00.

Monday 12th Table Tennis Tournament @ St Saviours School 3.25 p.m.

Tuesday 13th Class Four to WW2 event @ Swindon Steam Museum

Friday 16th Anglo–Saxon day for Class Three

Tuesday 20th Class Four to Bathampton Manor to sing WW2 songs to residents

Thursday 22nd Dance Umbrella @ The Forum

Friday 30th End of Term 4

& Easter Service 9.30 a.m.

April

Monday 16th Start of Term 5

May

Monday 7th Spring Bank Holiday

Wednesday 9th Y3 & 4 leave for Greatwood 8.30 a.m.

Thursday 10th Return from Greatwood

Monday 14th Year 6 SATs week. Please ensure all children are in school, and please avoid sleep overs in the week and weekend before the SATs.

Tuesday 22nd Olympic Flame near Bath

Wednesday 23rd Year 5 & 6 to Ironbridge

Friday 25th Return from Ironbridge

June

Friday 1st End of Term 5

Monday 11th INSET Day 5

Tuesday 12th Children start Term 6

Saturday 16th Jubilee themed Summer Fair

July

Thursday 5th Secondary Invasion Day/ Induction Day

Thursday 19th End of Term 6

All term dates available online

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

Tesco & Sainsbury's School Vouchers



Families have kindly donated these vouchers in the past and both companies are running them again this year.

Have an enjoyable holiday!

NB Her number for your info is 463697. I would like her address as it would be nice to make her a card and give her a present..