



## Term Five Newsletter 2009

Dear Parents and Friends,

## Changes

Coming and going

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Elizabeth Evans will be joining us in September as the new Reception teacher. Mrs Evans is an experienced teacher who will also have responsibility for Literacy and KS1. She will be coming into school on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to meet the children who are starting in September. I am very grateful to our Personnel Governors for their time and support with this recruitment.

It is always sad when families have to move on, and we will miss Nial Penman, and his parents Paul and Tracey. Nial lives some distance away and joined his local school at the start of Term Six.



## Keeping Children Safe

A Pedestrian Friendly Tynning Road

The Safe Routes to School group and the School Council are working on plans to make area in front of the school 'Pedestrian Friendly'. We are keen to make it both unnecessary and unthinkable for parents to drive into the area in front of the school.

Plans include;

- a 'Walking Bus' from The George so that working parents can drop off their children who will be walked to school
- the Breakfast Club if there is sufficient take-up
- banners warning drivers that the front of the school is 'pedestrian friendly'

## Breakfast Pilot

Trial breakfast sessions

A reminder that the trial sessions will run on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 8.00 to 8.45 a.m. Letters have come home but if you missed them or mislaid the reply slips **there is still time to sign up for these sessions.**

## Coming events

Children's Parliament

An exciting event is coming up this summer. The Children's Parliament will convene twice a year at Bath Spa University's Newton Park campus. Two representatives from each School Council will attend, and have a chance to discuss issues of mutual interest, and local significance. Local members of Parliament and councillors as well as local authority officers will be invited to hear the children's ideas and perspectives. Mrs Skurszynski will be taking our representatives.

## Communication

Entrance Hall Improvements

A new communication system is being installed in the main entrance hall. There is a touch screen PC that will be used to demonstrate IT possibilities. We will be inviting parents and visitors to try out some of the programmes used in school, as well as showing photographs of school events.

Home/ School Communication

The lost letter or the scrumpled slip hidden at the bottom of the book bag will soon be a thing of the past for many parents.

With significant help from parent Sandra Surrenda we have bought, and set up an email based system called Zendemail and will have this in use from September. We are very grateful to Sandra for her expert help and encouragement!

We would encourage all parents who have an email address to join up. This will reduce printing costs to the school, helping both the school budget and the environment. Many thanks to those parents who have already joined the system.

# The Friends

## Quiz Night

Well done to the Friends for organising a really enjoyable Quiz Night. Special thanks to Quiz Master Russell Franks and his glamorous assistant Jennie. Thanks to Dr Iain Roberson for his help with the questions. The evening raised over £400 which will provide new sports equipment.



Musicians wanted!



We currently offer the following musical instrument lessons, delivered by teachers from the B&NES Music Service, in addition to the normal music curriculum

**Cello & Violin (Year 3 +)**  
**Clarinet & Double bass (Year 4+)**

Starting ages are approximate as it also depends on the size of your child's hands which need to be large enough to play certain instruments. If your child is interested please let Ms Johnson know as soon as possible but no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009. A letter has gone out to children who have already expressed an interest and there are letters available in the office if required.

## Diary Dates

### June

**Monday 1st** Start of Term 5 & Bikeability begins

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Clarinet Demonstration

2009 New Intake Parents Evening

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** KwikCricket Tournament @ Sulis Club (NB change of venue and date)

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Evening Annual Cricket Match v Village Team (Refreshments by the Friends)

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** Class Five Tribal @ St Marks School

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Pilot Breakfast Club Session One 8.00 a.m.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Class Two to PE Festival @ Bath University

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** INSET Assessment

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** Class Four Geography Walk in Bathampton

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** Pilot Breakfast Club Session Two 8.00 a.m.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>** Class Five to Life Skills Centre, Bristol

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** RSPCA Fund Raising Visit

Safe Routes to School Group 2.15 p.m.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to Bristol Museum, Egyptology

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** Summer Fair 2.00-5.00 p.m.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>** Children's Parliament @ Bath Spa University

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>** Class One and Two to Folly Farm 'Teddy Bear's Picnic'

Class Three Sports Festival p.m.

### July

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Invasion/ Induction Day

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Class Five to King Edwards Workshop

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** Class Five to Athletics Festival a.m.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** Class Three to Weston Super Mare

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** Orchestra & Windband Concert to parents 3.30 p.m.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** Class Three to Music Festival (TBC)

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** Invitation Parent Sessions this week

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Sports Day Option One Y3, 4, 5, 6 a.m. and Reception, Y1, Y2 p.m. (Option Two = Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to Tennis @ Bath University

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** Leavers' Disco

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** Leavers' Service 9.30 a.m.

End of Term

# School life

The primary focus of this newsletter is on everyday life and learning in school. We are about to produce a new prospectus so the photographs were taken for that purpose. I hope that it will give an insight into ordinary learning in school. I also hope it will be useful for prospective parents while the new prospectus is under production.

## Playtime



Playtime is an important part of school life, and I am sure that many of your memories of school contain playtime elements. Over some years the School Council, supported by the Friends of the school, have worked hard to improve the play facilities. We want children to have space, enjoyable apparatus, private spaces to chat and as much freedom as possible. The latest project is to select a Bird Watching Hide/ Summer House for the wooded area of the school grounds.

## Reading

### Adult Help



Young children require a lot of adult support when learning to read. This is the area where strong parental support at home makes the most difference, and gives the children both a head start, and continuing benefits in their learning.

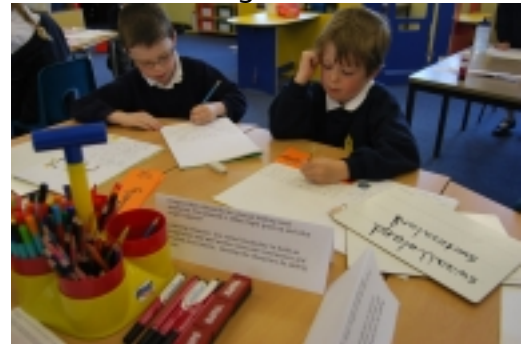
### Shared Reading



The wireless headphones mean that a number of children can listen to the same story, and chat about it together.

## Writing

### Aiming for Gold



Everyone in the school has been working really hard to achieve high standards in their writing. The Milestones project is beginning to produce real results in improved handwriting. We have designed two more writing Milestones one for Technical skills and another for Creative skills.



In Writing children are expected to be able to write fluently in a range of writing styles. Nationally it is the area that children find most challenging. We hope that continued emphasis on this subject will help create really strong writers. The subject has certainly changed beyond recognition from most adults' school days, and many adults comment that the children are doing things that they only learnt about at A level.

## Learning through Talk

### Teacher Led learning



Teachers work hard to prepare interesting and challenging lessons. The interactive whiteboards make learning much more visual than it used to be, but a strong emphasis is also put on speaking and listening. Teachers plan lessons so that children are encouraged to articulate their thoughts as well as listening.

### Paired Learning



Paired learning is an important aspect of many lessons. Children benefit from the opportunity to talk with a classmate, as one can often explain a new concept in a way that is helpful and consolidate their understanding as well as helping the other person.

### Challenging yourself



Most of the competitive element of learning takes place internally. We want children to challenge themselves, and to be self motivated.

## Learning through Play

### Physical and imaginative play



It is always a pleasure to see young children lost in their play worlds. While Reception contains plenty of teacher led learning the opportunities to play independently or with others are equally important.

### Role Play



Year One children also need time to pretend, and learn through acting out roles.

## Learning Outdoors

### Using the school grounds



We are keen to make the most of our grounds. Here children in Class Three are taking rubbings to create artwork. Mrs Wood has always been a strong proponent of the value of learning outdoors, and this is something that we want to develop through our new Strategic Plan.



We want to make Term Six a special term with a focus on learning outdoors, more independent learning combined with really high expectations.

## Personal and Social Education

Learning to listen to each other



During Primary School we learn a lot about ourselves as well as about others.

## Being in a community



Children also have both the benefits and the responsibilities of living in a relatively small community where each person counts.

## ICT

Becoming computer Literate



Computer literacy is important in today's worlds, and is also a great way of learning.



Children visit the ICT suite most weeks using it for research, word processing, creating artwork or graphic design. Children in the older classes are invited to join the Digital Animation Club, and make short animation films. Some children benefit from additional maths sessions through the RM Maths programme.

## Sport and Fitness

### Competitive Sport



Many children love competitive sport and we try to keep a balance between competitive and cooperative sport. Both are important.

Mrs Lake and the staff are designing a Fitness Milestone which will encourage cardio fitness as well as healthy eating and general exercise.

### Developing skills



Here Year Three and Four children are playing against Bathford. It was a really exciting match which the team won 4-1.

### Testing yourself



The school hall is used for apparatus and most children love this activity. The children have to learn to be safe and careful in PE lessons as well as developing strength and agility.

### Play Apparatus



Children love to climb and balance, and the playground apparatus gives them the opportunity to do this. The artificial grass means that this equipment can be accessed all year round.

## Music in School

### Lessons



Many children have music lessons with the violin, cello and clarinet peripatetic music teachers. The lessons now take place in the Learning Zone/ Music Room. A large number of children also learn important music skills through playing in the recorder in clubs run by school staff.

### Orchestra



Older children who learn an instrument are invited to join the School Orchestra or the Wind Band.

## Having Fun

### Dance floor fun



It is important to have fun at school and the annual KS1 and KS2 discos are always popular.

We want all children in the school to enjoy learning and to develop habits that will last all their life. We want their time at school to be happy and full of good memories.