



Term Six Newsletter 2009



Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

We are rapidly approaching the end of the academic year, and the end of a busy and interesting term. We are saying goodbye to a great group of Year Six pupils who have shone socially and academically, and also in some cases to families who have been with us for many years and made significant contributions to the community. We wish all leavers the very best in their new schools!

We are saying farewell to Sonny and Tessa Deacle and their parents Brain and Liz. The family are emigrating to New Zealand, and we wish them every happiness in their new life. Goodbye and best wishes also to Kitty Gillings and her parents Joe and Sharon.

We are saying farewell to Mrs Seaford after twenty one years at the school. Many parents and ex-pupils have written in special books and the comments reflect the respect and affection felt for a very special teacher. We wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement.

Key Dates

INSET Day Tuesday 1st September
INSET Day Wednesday 2nd September
Thursday 3rd September Children start back
Monday 7th September Reception Children start
INSET Day Wednesday 21st October

Children's Parliament



Children's Parliament

School Council members, Anna Green and Ashley Tutchter, did a fantastic job of representing Bathampton School at the first meeting of the BANES Primary Schools' Parliament. Local councillors heard the children presenting their ideas in the lecture theatre at Bath Spa University. Issues that Ashley and Anna presented included improvements in education and the importance of providing for children with disabilities. Well done to both of them! Ashley was interviewed on local television about the experience.

Summer Fair

The sun shines for us!



Many thanks to the indefatigable Jenny Franks and Samia Gibbins and the fantastic team from the Friends, who organised, prepared and ran the fair on Saturday 27th June, raising £1,750.



There are too many people to thank by name but special mention should go to Ashley and Kaye Peach at The George for the superb BBQ food, and the Regnard family for the ponies and rosettes. The money raised will go towards improvements in the Reception Class.

Personal Projects

Exploring your 'passions'



The week starting 13th July was one to remember for pupils and teachers. Children were encouraged to pursue their personal interests during the week. This was the first time we had tried this and it was astonishing to see what a range of ideas the children had.



Film making was popular with the older children. I was impressed by Dillon Pike's mathematical exploration of Premier Footballer nationalities which involved three of his interests; football, flags and maths. Molly Griffin made a superb model of Holcombe Close which included a grassy area made from a printed photograph of the actual grass. Some children in Class Three made models of underwater worlds based on their research about marine creatures.



Looking ahead

I am hoping that we can organise two or three 'passions' afternoons each year in which members of staff, and volunteer parents share their talents and enthusiasms with children, so children can chose from a wide range of opportunities. If you have an interest or skill that might be suitable please let us know. We will be able to organise a CRB check if required.

I love sketching so this might be my offering!

Farm Engineering Team

The future of British Engineering?



Thanks to the dedicated team of engineers from the 'Bathampton Farm Engineering Club' who came and spoke about their experiences at a school assembly. Josiah, Ben and Toby, who meet weekly after school to pursue their hobby, used PowerPoint to relate their attempt to build a rocket and were able to show a film of the attempted launch, and its aftermath, and then demonstrate the model car they had designed and made.

The assembly was designed to inspire pupils in their personal projects.



Many thanks to everyone who supported the fundraising for this important charity. We raised an amazing £600.

Learning through fun

Horrible Histories come Alive!



Elise Maylor's grandmother (who works in the Egyptology Dept. of Swansea University) visited Class Four. She demonstrated the Ancient Egyptian practice of mummification. The children all participated, removing 'internal 'organs'.

Class Four performed an Egyptian Assembly to a packed audience on Friday 10th July. They choreographed their own dance routines to accompany some lively songs and raps.

They also visited the Egyptology Galleries at the Bristol Museum.

Role Play



Class Five have really enjoyed their Victorian Topic over the past two terms. The children recently went back in time and became Victorian school children for an afternoon. They did really well to stay in character for the duration. Some children chose to dress up as a Victorian school child and everyone was given a different Victorian name. The children took part in a variety of activities such as arithmetic, drill, an object lesson and a poem recital. They particularly enjoyed it when they were asked to wear the Dunces' hat!

After comparing modern and Victorian schools, the children agreed that they much preferred their current school-life!

Music in School

Orchestra



On Wednesday 8th July the School Orchestra, the Windband, and the Recorder Ensemble gave a skilful and enjoyable concert. Many of the older children performed solos items on their instruments.

Windband



Assemblies

Congratulations to Class One on a lovely singing assembly on Wednesday 21st July. The reception children sang a lot of songs based on their Minibeasts topic work. The children sang with great confidence and skill.

Many thanks to all the parents who have returned the annual questionnaire, and the strategic planning consultation document. These will help the staff and governors decide future priorities and hopefully help make the school a better place to learn and an even happier place to spend the crucial seven Primary years.

Out and About

Bristol Zoo



To support their work on the Variety of Life Class Three visited Bristol Zoo in June. Initially, equipped with a map, the children were free to roam the zoo in small groups finding animals that had been marked on their maps. Fortunately most of the animals were out and about and the children had a great opportunity to get up close to crocodiles, hippos, gorillas and an abundance of insects, to name but a few. The children were also encouraged to look at how each enclosure was suited to each animal to inform them about their own enclosure construction back at school. The butterfly enclosure was especially memorable. Sound effects, high humidity and beautiful butterflies fluttering around your head transported us to a tropical jungle.

After a short lunch we were just in time to watch the gorillas being fed and listen to a gorilla talk. Finally Class Three enjoyed a really fascinating Variety of Life Workshop where children had to sort animals into groups, identify the key features of each group and then got to handle cockroaches, a snake and a rat. Some people enjoyed this more than others! All in all a really informative and fun day out.

Bikeability



On your bike!

Congratulations to all the cyclists who gained a Bikeability award recently. Those cyclists planning to take the course in later years need to ride as often as possible and develop skill and confidence at cycling.

Weston Super Mare



Class Three prove you don't need sunshine to have a lovely day at the beach, it just helps! On Tuesday 7th July the class headed off to Weston Super Mare.

Folly Farm Visit



On Tuesday 30th June Classes One and Two went to Folly Farm for a 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' where the children experienced a range of activities designed to stimulate their senses.

They also learnt how to be Teddy Bear guardians. Early in the day the teddy bears and packed lunches mysteriously disappeared, so the children followed a trail of signs in the shape of a paw and this eventually led them into a large clearing where the teddies were waiting to begin the picnic. A magical experience!

Sport and Fitness

Competitive Sport



Testing yourself

The school Football team played magnificently against WASPs, winning 6-1. We have a very talented team, with some outstanding players. This was Mark Archer's last appearance as manager so I would like to thank him for his superb help over the years. Mark has been a passionate and skilful manager, and his enthusiasm and sense of humour have made the team games very enjoyable.

Year Three/ Four Tennis Competition @ University of Bath



Congratulations to Michael, Dillon, Zoe and Molly who reached the finals of the tennis competition at the University of Bath on 16th July.

On 10th June Class Two also went to Bath University to participate in sports activities, led by the specialist coaches at Team Bath. The afternoon was great fun and a wonderful opportunity to benefit from the superb facilities.

On 30th June Class Three went to St Marks for a Multiskills afternoon with other Year 2 classes from our Cluster Schools.

Kwik Cricket @ Sulis Club



On Tuesday 2nd June the schools' cricket team took part in the KwikCricket Tournament at the Sulis Club. This team were as credit to the school, playing with determination and skill, despite the hot weather (remember it?) The team played 6 matches in their group and won two, drew 2 and lost 2.

Year Three/ Four Tagtails Tournament



On Friday 19th June Class Four played in a Tag Tails tournament with a number of schools from our Sports Cluster. The games were great fun, although one over competitive game led to some knocks, and a reflection on possible improvements for next year's tournament.



Well done to the class who played sportingly through out.

Tag Rugby



The children have enjoyed playing Tag Rugby this year, this team went to Stothert and Pitt on 23rd April, and another school team played at the OddDown Playing Fields on 2nd May. They played well and finished in fifth place ahead of many larger schools.

Improvements

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We have had a team from local firm K. P. Wilton making improvements to the school this term. They have managed the redecoration of the entrance hall, the new gallery on the stairs, the staff outdoor relaxation area, and the installation of the Bird Hide in the 'woods'. It has been a real pleasure to have a firm who do every job with care and expertise.

The bird hide is nearly complete, and we hope to have an official opening in the new academic year, and start up a Bird Watching Club.

We are also in discussions with Swainswick Explorers Edward and Rachel Leigh-Wood about ways of improving the school grounds to allow more access to the woods, and to create a wider variety of play opportunities.

Community Information

Swine Flu

Family Information Service is open Mon-Thurs 8.30-5.00 and Friday 8.30-4.30
on tel. **0800 073 1214** or email:
Family_InformationService@bathnes.gov.uk

There is also a National NHS Flu help line on **0800 1 513 513**.



(notice from Skool Kidz)

SkoolKidz have recently opened a new afterschool club in Bathampton. They also have a new location for holiday and breakfast club at Widcombe Infants school. Please visit their web site at www.skoolkidz.co.uk to find out what they will be getting up to. For more information and to book please call Teresa on 07917 568

Voucher Collection Results

Thanks to all the parents, friends and relatives who helped us collect recent vouchers and tokens. Our grand totals were;

7031 Sainsbury Vouchers, 3300 Tesco Vouchers, 380 Times Books for Schools.

With these we have been able to order some exciting new equipment for PE, playtimes and ICT, as well as books to add to the school library.

Diary dates

See inset day info on the front page.

More dates to follow in September

Best wishes

The staff would like to thank all the parents for their support and hope that everyone has a safe and happy summer.