



Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

We will be saying goodbye to a very special family at the end of this term. Max and Masie Connor will be moving to Colerne School. Their parents Jim and Debbie have contributed a lot to this school, Jim as a governor and Debbie as a temporary teacher and the whole family will be missed. We wish them all the best in the new community.

Many thanks to parent Joe Gillings for his work as a governor. Joe is stepping down after three years of service. I am grateful to Joe for his hard work and enthusiasm and particularly for developing the concept behind the Milestones Project.

This does leave a vacancy as a parent governor, and if anyone is interested in taking up this important role could they please let us know by 19th November.

New School Council



Congratulations to Ashley, Anna, Jessica, Lorenzo, Harvey, Sophie, Misha and Rowan who have been elected by their classes onto the 2008-9 School Council. I am sure they will make excellent representatives and will be very active in school improvement. Their tasks this year will include completing the school grounds improvement project and contributing to the next four year strategic plan for the school. Reception representatives will be chosen as the year progresses.

Play Leaders



Children in Year Six have been learning how to help younger children to play happily and to resolve disputes. These are useful skills and form part of the Year Six areas of responsibility.

I am delighted to have had some very positive comments from the parents of Reception children about the mentoring skills and pastoral care shown by Year Six pupils to their younger buddies.

Children's Fair

Well done to all the children who thought up great ideas for stalls, and who also ran them. The Fair was designed to develop new ideas for the Christmas fair.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to those families who contributed tins and food for the Harvest Festival. These have gone to Julian House to help those who are without a home. The retiring offering and Ted's Big Day Out Mufti Day raised £140.06 which will go to the RUH Neo-Natal appeal.

Key Dates

Friday 24th October End of term 1
Wednesday 5th November INSET Day
Thursday 6th November Pupils back
Friday 7th November 2.30 p.m. Maths Games Information Session for Parents
Friday 5th December Christmas Fair
Wednesday 17th December Carol Service
Friday 19th December End of term 2

New INSET Dates

Friday 13th February
Mon 23rd February
Fri 12th June
School dates online at
www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

Out and About

Rocks East Woodland



Class Three's Woodland Adventure

Class Three had an exciting visit to the beautiful Rocks East woodland. The children had to follow a sawdust trail and enter a deep dark cave to find a magic potion and save Mr Ted. Many thanks to the great group of parents who accompanied both visits. Special thanks to Richard Waller who flew to the rescue when Thomas slipped down a hillside. Thomas was very brave and fortunately shaken but not damaged.

Bristol Museum Class Four's bust bus!

Class Four had a fascinating morning at Bristol Museum, learning about materials such as rocks, minerals and fossils.

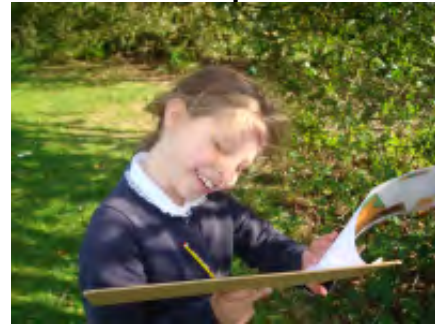
Some highlights:

- Looking through microscopes at the patterns in minerals
- Handling real fossils and seeing things made out of silver
- Finding that the rocks around Bristol and Bath include limestone, conglomerate and sandstone

However in the afternoon the second part of their trip 'turned to dust' due to the coach having engine and traffic problems. The consolation was getting an afternoon playtime when the class returned to school.

Orienteering

Can you find your way around a map?



Class Four have been busy learning how to map read in the school grounds. Sports Coordinator Brendan Rowse has been teaching them basic orienteering skills through 'treasure hunt' activities. It has been great fun!

Sport

New Sport Coaches



Welcome to Football coach Lee Collier. Lee plays for Bath City F.C. and has played for Bristol City. Lee has a Level 2 coaching certificate.



Welcome also to Sports works Tag Rugby coach Matthew Lock. Matthew played Rugby for his county in the Under 16s.

Achieving success

Milestones

This year we are all working hard on the Milestones Project. We are gradually introducing a series of key milestones or learning targets to the children. The children are aiming to achieve age relevant milestones in handwriting, spelling and tables. This project is designed to raise standards and to help everyone in the school community know exactly what we are aiming for, as well as celebrating achievement!

Examples of the handwriting milestones are available online on our school website at www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk in 'The Learning Zone' or in sample booklets available on request.

Celebrating Success

Sport



Congratulations to Charlie Howard on winning the Active8 Vision Sports Academy 2008 most improved player in the 9-10 category.

Well done to Robbie Cashell who won the 'Players Player' trophy for Larkhall Youth Team Under 9s. This team were both league and division winners in the 07-08 season. Alex Pippard was also a member of this strong team.

Music

Congratulations to Lydia Adams, Amelia Disney and Kiera Fitzsimons who have all passed their initial violin examination, with Kiera achieving a distinction.

Senior Ex-Pupil

I was delighted to hear that ex-pupil David Orpen has been appointed Senior Prefect at Beechen Cliff for the 2008-9 academic year. Well done to David who was chosen by the Headmaster and the Head of 6th Form from 22 short-listed pupils!

Parental Help

Your support is crucial in helping your children to succeed. Sharing stories and hearing children read at home on a regular even daily basis will help them to become confident readers themselves and hopefully open the door to the world of reading for pleasure.

The annual skills and talents questionnaire is coming home and all replies are valued! We try hard to match volunteers to a need.

The SMSAs have asked if all parents whose children have sandwiches could ensure that packaged items are capable of being opened by the child. Younger children could have packaged items pre-opened.

School & Community

Old Friends pop by from N.Z.!



It is always good to catch up with old friends and this term the Davis family, who recently emigrated to New Zealand, paid us a visit. The children are all doing well at their new schools, and their return caused some excitement amongst their old friends.

I have been asked to draw your attention to www.savebathamptonmeadows.org.uk concerning the proposed park and ride.

Key reminders

Some Health and Safety notices
We would be grateful if parents would ensure that their children do not climb on the school gates, railings or walls after school, or ride scooters in the grounds. This is potentially hazardous.

Diary Dates

2008-9 Diary Dates

Friday 24th End of Term 1

November

Wednesday 5th INSET Day (School Self-Assessment/ Development)

Thursday 6th Start of Term 2 for pupils

Friday 7th Maths Packs Induction Workshop for parents in 'The Learning Zone' (New building) 2.30 p.m.

Monday 10th Parent/Teacher Interviews this week and next

Rebecca Reid Classes Two and Four 'Yogabugs' Family Assemblies

Friendly Football Match V Swainswick (Home)

Tuesday 11th School Council Meeting

Wednesday 12th Reception Hearing Check

Friday 14th Clothes Collection (Men's, Ladies, Children's clothing, Duvet covers, curtains, bags and shoes)

Tuesday 18th 6-a-side Football Festival (Sulis Club) 1-4 p.m.

Friday 21st Possible Friends AGM/ Ladies Pamper Night @ Village Hall (TBC)

Tuesday 25th Class Four visiting @Bristol (all day)

Wednesday 26th Reception School Nurse visit

December

Monday 1st Class Five to @Bristol (all day)

Friday 5th Christmas Fair 3.15 p.m.

Monday 8th School Families Assemblies

Class Five to Schools' Carol Service in Bath Abbey

Thursday 11th Class 3 visit to @ Bristol - All day

Monday 15th Class Three Party

Tuesday 16th Classes One & Two Parties

Wednesday 17th Carol Service 2pm

Thursday 18th Class Five Party

Friday 19th Class Four Party

End of Term 2

January 2009

Monday 5th Term 3 starts

February

Friday 13th INSET Day 4 Year Strategic Plan

Monday 23rd INSET Day 4 Year Strategic Plan

Tuesday 24th Children Start Term 4

April

Friday 3rd End of Term 4

Monday 20th Start of Term 5

May

Monday 5th Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd End of Term 5

June

Friday 12th or 19th INSET Assessment

Monday 20th Start of Term 5 & Bikeability

Wednesday 6th KwikCricket Tournament

July

Friday 24th End of Term 6