



Term Two Newsletter 2009

Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

A warm welcome to Seth Rice who will be joining Class One in January and to Oscar Pearce-Moore who is joining Class Two. We hope that they and their families will soon feel at home!

We will be saying goodbye to Olivia Wilson and her family at the end of this term. Olivia will be moving to Kingswood. Olivia and her family have only been with us for a short time but will be missed!

We are also saying goodbye to Zoe Beverly at the end of this term. Zoe possibly holds the record for having the most number of separate roles in the school. Initially a cleaner, she is now Crossing Patrol Officer, S.M.S.A., and classroom support and is currently working as a trainee TA while on a NVQ Level 3 course. Zoe is leaving for family reasons and leaves a big gap! We wish her all the best in her new roles.



Laying the Foundations

We are delighted to have received a Seed Challenge grant for £19,000 which will be added to existing capital funds to enable us to extend the Reception classroom. We want to have a larger space with good access to the outside playground to create better play and learning opportunities for the youngest children in the school.

I am grateful to the Friends for offering to fund raise for the project. We are expected to contribute towards the total, and need sufficient funds to create an excellent 'enabling environment' for Foundation Stage children.

All fund-raising ideas and offers of help gratefully received!

The Stair Gallery Opening



MP Don Foster opened our 'Stair Gallery' on Monday 14th December. The first exhibition is by canal based artist Peter Wells and will be on show until the end of January. Don met the School Council and other pupils and answered their questions about life as an MP. He gave helpful and honest answers and who knows maybe a School Council member might want to go on to represent the area in the future!

I would like to exhibit work by a variety of artists; including pupils, staff, parents, and members of the local community so please let me know if you have suitable paintings or artwork!

Breakfast Club

We are starting the Breakfast Club in January with a limited service, and are intending to move to 5 days a week from Term 4. We appreciate that it will take time to build our customer base! Please speak to Mr Falkus for further information.

Key Dates

Monday 4th January Start of term 3

Monday 11th January 'Keeping Children Safe Online training for parents' 7.00 p.m.

School dates online at

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

In School

Class Four Roman's topic



On Friday 4th December Class Four staged a superb Roman assembly, complete with songs, and a dance based on Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar'. This followed their trip to the Roman Baths.



The week before Class Four had shared a delicious 'Roman Feast' together. 'Dormice' were on the menu, naturally. We are grateful to the many parents who helped arrange togas and serve at the feast.

The Greeks



Cleo the Greek from The Holburne Museum of Art visited Class Five and taught the children about Greek life. The children also made very effective Gorgon heads out of clay.

Blue Watch



Class One have been learning about 'People who help us', and one of the highlights of the topic was a visit by Blue Watch. The children were allowed to test out a fire hose. It was very exciting!

Christmas Cakes



The children in Class One made and decorated some delicious mini Christmas cakes. They looked fab-u-lous!

Out and About by Mrs Woods



Hungerford Castle besieged by Class

Three

Class Three had a terrific trip to Farleigh Hungerford Castle thanks partly due to the kind weather and our lovely collection of mums. The day started with a tour around the castle accompanied by our energetic guide Naomi who explained would have happened in the castle 500 years ago. The children then acted out events. So Davide became a brave knight armed with a sword and dressed in chain mail. In the Great Hall Lady Maylor and Lord Messer were served dinner by the cook's servants Harvey and Olivia, while entertained by a highly amusing jester named Dennis. The children also got a chance to handle artefacts found at the castle. In the afternoon the children became historical detectives. All in all it proved to be a very informative and enjoyable day out.

Looking after others

Card for Afghanistan



Well done to Niamh Brady who won a card making competition this term. Her design was used for the front of a giant card which has been used to fund raise for army charities; 'Help for heroes' and 'Combat Stress' The card has been taken around the South West and over 2500 people have now signed the card and donated over £2560.

The card will be transported almost 3500 miles in a Hercules aircraft to Afghanistan where it will be used to remind soldiers at the base that they are not forgotten. Follow the story on...

<http://www.cardforstan.org.uk/>

The event organiser Craig Marshall spoke passionately to the children in an assembly about the value of learning to read and write and what a difference these skills make in your life.

Caring for people across the World



Many thanks to all the families who contributed a Christmas Box for the charity Operation Christmas Child. We collected 43 boxes which is a fantastic total. This means that 43 children, who might otherwise have got nothing, will receive a present this Christmas!

Hey Guys!



This year we started a new school tradition when the Friends suggested the children make 'Guys' and bring them into school. We had a fantastic variety, and selecting three winners was very difficult. Well done to Eleanor, Martha and Laurie and to everyone who took part! Let's do it again next year!

Street Sense



Learning how to keep safe while crossing roads is a key skill and Class Three had a series of training sessions with B&NES instructors. The instructors were very impressed by the children's good behaviour and ability to listen. Well done Class Three!



Milestones

We have once again given out Milestones certificates for handwriting and tables.

Handwriting milestones are given for **consistent** excellence at the appropriate standard. We are changing the handwriting letters that go home to offer greater clarity about how close a child is to achieving the next Milestone.

Performing Arts

Stage Stars

Sophie Baldwin and Molly Griffin are appearing in 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Theatre Royal, Bath and their Class will be going to watch them perform in January.

Sport and Fitness

Football

Our School Team played against St Michael's Junior School in a Cup Game recently. We were 3-1 up at one point but the opposing team showed greater determination and won 5-3. Man of the Match was goalkeeper Robbie Cashel who made some amazing saves.

School & Community

Christmas Fair



Well done and many thanks to all the Friends who organised the Fair, to those who worked behind the scenes arranging stalls and prizes, to those who ran stalls, to those who stayed to clear up, and to everyone who came and parted with their hard earned money. Thanks also to Alison Deane for her work on the School Calendar. The Christmas events raised a grand total of over £1412.33 and the profits will be used for the Foundation Stage extension.

We also appreciate the Friends' provision of mince pies and tea after the Christmas Service on Wednesday 16th December. Thanks also to those members of the school community who read in the Christmas Service.

Film Club



Any parents passionate about film, and willing to give up some time either at a lunch time or after school once a week or fortnight to help me run a film club? Please let me know!
<http://www.filmclub.org/about-filmclub>

'Let's Grow' vouchers

We had a grand total of 1173 and have ordered resources to enable us to grow plants in school.



Laptops & Free School Meals

Parents with children in KS2 (Year 3, 4, 5, 6) who are eligible for free school meals will be able to apply for a Home Access laptop under a new government scheme. There will be a national advertising campaign after Christmas.

Diary Dates Insert

January

Monday 4th Term 3 starts

Monday 11th E-safety Training for Parents 7.00m p.m.

March

Friday 12th Class Four to Steam Museum Swindon

Thursday 18th Concert by Dutch Band

Wednesday 24th /25th ? Dance Umbrella

April

Thursday 22nd Visit by pupils from The Lime Tree School, Ville France

May

Wednesday 5th Class Four to Greatwood (one night)

June

Monday 21st - 23rd Class Five to Ironbridge



We hope that everyone has a chance to recharge their batteries, and that the children come back ready to hit the ground running. It is worth starting the earlier bedtimes **before** the term begins. Happy Christmas and New Year from us all!