



Term Three & Start of Term Four Newsletter 2010

Dear Parents and Friends,

A warm welcome to Ben Vevers-Morley and his family. Ben is starting in Reception this term.

Welcome to Ms Law PGCE Trainee teacher from Bath Spa University, who will be working with children and teachers in Class Two this spring.



On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th February we had an Ofsted inspection team visit. The inspectors were very impressed by the friendliness and politeness of the children, by the high standards of their work, by the opportunities available to them and by the team work shown by the staff in caring for the children and driving higher standards. The report will be available soon and is certainly something to celebrate!

As always there are areas in which we need to improve. We have exciting plans for outdoor play, and would like to invite parents who are interested to chat and possibly join a working party.

A number of parents mentioned a desire to know more about the progress their children are making, and the benefits of sharing children's targets with them more effectively. We will share some recent ideas with you later, and will be reflecting on other ideas for sharing your children's progress.

We are also keen to develop better community links with schools in the UK, and our new Extended Schools Coordinator will be a real help in this development.

A number of parents mentioned playground behaviour and we have since reinforced the message about our complete ban on rough play, and especially 'play fighting!'.

Film Making



As well as our regular plasticine animation club run by Mary Longford classes are beginning to make mini films as part of their curriculum.

As Bathampton is the 'home of plasticine' it is totally appropriate that we should be emphasising this on the curriculum!

New Club starts this spring



Mrs Sorlini and I are starting the School Film Club this spring. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be invited to join the club. There are 20 places available. We will watch films and then chat about the issues and feelings evoked by the acting, screenplay and stories. We are hoping to invite at least one other adult to join the team so that we can have more frequent shows. The club members will be able to log onto the Film Club website and write reviews and request specific films.

So far we have four dates booked.

Key Dates

Wednesday 31st March Easter Service

Monday 7th June New INSET Day (Final one)

School dates online at

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar



Chinese New Year



Class One children really enjoyed learning about the Chinese New Year. The children created a dragon dance, made fortune cookies, and had a noodle tasting session using chopsticks, which they handled remarkable well. The children enjoyed their topic so much they asked if they could show the rest of the school, and did a spur-of-the-moment assembly.



Caring for Others

Hats for Haiti



The staff and children had a end of term Mufti Day with hats to help raise money for those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. We raised over £170. Paul Burden gave one of his dramatic and amusing assemblies. We are very lucky to have a vicar who can communicate so effectively with children!

Card for Afghanistan

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

The total raised so far by Niamh's card is an amazing £2752.

Anglo Saxon Warrior



Class Three did some time travelling and met a 'real' Anglo Saxon Warrior, parent Mike McGuiness. Mike brought in some spectacular artifacts modeled on finds from a Saxon burial. The children were able to try on the helmet and carry a shield and touch lots of artifacts. We are very keen that where possible children get 'real experiences' and find learning fascinating. It is always interesting to see the quality of writing that emerges from opportunities like this, as it is often of a very high standard indeed.



Getting smarter!



B&NES IT expert Spencer Cartwright gave useful staff training on the latest 'Smartboard' software. Teachers and TAs are enjoying using some of the latest tools for making lessons even more exciting.

Reception Extension Consultations



Mrs Evans showed the School Council our current plans and we were able to take their ideas on board. (One is to have a Reception Class pet.) We have been looking at current research and holding a series of consultation meetings to develop ideas for the new extension.

Mrs Fenna suggested breaking through the playground wall into the 'Wild Area' so the reception children have their own garden. This would be a significant move towards increasing outdoor learning, and possibly a great home for a class pet!

Although we have sufficient funds for the building work all extras require fund raising and we want to offer the best possible environment for those children starting school. All fund-raising ideas and offers of help gratefully received!

Snow

This has been an extraordinary winter, and has forced a rethink in how we manage severe weather conditions. We now intend to open the school as long as it possible to make the site accessible and an adequate number of staff are able to reach the school and will leave decisions concerning safe travel to parents.

Pedestrian access via the Canal Bridge and Tynning Road where pedestrians and traffic mix, combined with awkward geography and road layouts, make access to the school potentially dangerous and we ask that parents and children take extreme care at these points.

I have asked the Highways Department if they can prioritise our school and they have promised to review our requirements in their annual review.

Breakfast Club Goes Full Time!

As announced in the end of term letter the Breakfast Club is now a full service running each weekday during term time, except INSET days.

School & Community



New Role

I am pleased to say that we have appointed Aisling Gormley to a second position in the school, and that she is now our 'Extended Schools Coordinator'. Aisling will be making links with local organisations as well as seeking to enrich the curriculum in a variety of ways. Please contact her if your organisation could benefit from additional links to the school.

Canal Bicentennial

Parent Sue Christley and a team of local people are making plans for a local celebration this summer. It is 200 years since the canal was opened, and as a canal based school we are keen to be involved. Watch this space but I am sure that Sue would be glad of your help and suggestions. Sue has said that some of the profits will go towards the Reception Extension Project so this would be a fantastic legacy from the anniversary!

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.



Fish Keeper Needed from September

Our wonderful fish carers, the Pippard family, are leaving this summer and we are hoping that another family might take on this role. If you might be interested please chat to Sandra!

Diary Dates Insert

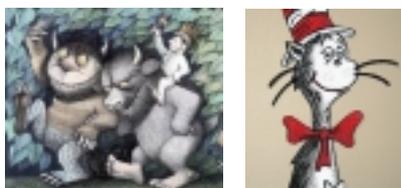
February

Monday 22nd Start of Term 4 Year Three & Four go Swimming

March

Monday 1st Book Week & Parent Teacher Fortnight

& Books to buy & £1 Book Token



Friday 5th Book Day (Dress as a Book Character) & **Usborne Book Sale** with Tea and Cakes (The children can use their £1 Book Token)

Tuesday 9th School Council Meeting

Thursday 11th Football v Swainswick 3.45- 4.45 p.m.

Friday 12th Class Four to Steam Museum Swindon

Tuesday 16th Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival @ Stothert & Pitt Ground

& Football Match v Bathford 3.45- 4.45 p.m.



Thursday 18th Concert by Dutch Band

Saturday 20th Year Three and Four Football Tournament



Wednesday 24th Dance Umbrella @ The Forum

Thursday 25th Last Story Club with Marilyn and Rob

Friday 26th Farewell Assembly for Marilyn and Rob

& Class Four World War Two Event 2.15 – 3.15

Monday 29th Governors Meeting

Tuesday 30th Greatwood Information Session 2.00-3.00

Wednesday 31st Easter Service 9.30 a.m.

April

Friday 2nd End of Term 4

Monday 19th Start of Term 5



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

Friday 23rd French Pen Pal Evening @ KES Pavilion

Wednesday 28th New Intake Evening

May



Wednesday 5th Year Three & Four to Greatwood (one night)

Monday 10th SATs Week

Wednesday 26th Ironbridge Information Evening 6 -7 p.m.



Friday 28th First Bikeability Session

& End of Term 5

Monday 7th INSET Day

Tuesday 8th Term 6 Starts

June

Wednesday 16th Whole School Photograph



Monday 21st – 23rd Class Five to Ironbridge

July

Friday 23rd End of Term 6