



Term Five Newsletter 2010

Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

We are saying goodbye this term to Jack and Harry Waller, and their parents Richard and Jane. The family are moving to Cheltenham, and will be greatly missed.

A warm welcome to Max Howells-Knight, and his parents Stuart and Pip. Max is in Year Three and will be starting in Class Three.

Advance notice that in September Ms Johnson is reducing her timetabled hours from five days to four. This change is fully supported by the governors and will enable Ms Johnson to maintain her usual high standards while enjoying some freer weekends. Mrs Flint will be the class teacher on Fridays and will also take on subject leadership in Geography.

Sally Fenna will be finishing her role with the school in July, in order to devote more time to the family Classic Car business.

In September the classes will be as follows,

Class One: Mrs Evans. (Reception)

Class Two: Mrs Lake and Mr Falkus (Year One and Two)

Class Three: Ms Ovigne and Mrs Wood. (Year Two and Three)

Class Four: Ms Johnson and Mrs Flint. (Year Three and Four)

Class Five: Mrs Edmund. (Year Five and Six)

Key Dates

Monday 7th June INSET Day

Tuesday 8th June School Restarts

Wednesday 16th June Whole school Photograph

Friday 18th June Main Open Day 9.15

Friday 16th & Saturday 17th July Canal Bicentennial History Celebration & Art Exhibition



On Thursday 22nd April we were visited by pupils, parents and staff from The Lime Tree School, Ville France. It was very exciting for the children to meet the penpals that they had been writing to for some time.



The children from both schools gave a presentation about their school and surrounding area. There was a Tag Rugby session with a Bath Rugby coach. A picnic lunch in the school field gave the penpals an opportunity to chat. In the afternoon some of our pupils took the French visitors on a tour of the village.



On Friday 23rd April in the late afternoon the children played games on the King Edwards' playing fields while the adults chatted and enjoyed an outdoor disco. A fish and chip supper was followed by a visit to The George. On the Saturday some families joined the visitors at Longleat. Overall it was a really special time that will be remembered for years to come. We are really grateful to Sarah Buchanan, Samia Gibbins, Ms Ovigne and the amazing team who organised the event.

Out and About Greatwood 2010

Once again our Year Three and Four residential at Greatwood proved to be a very enjoyable and memorable trip. The weather was better than anticipated and this made it all the more delightful and picturesque, as one child described it, a 'woodland paradise.'

We arrived at Greatwood in glorious sunshine. The children were impressed with their cabins and soon settled in. Initial inspections revealed a glorious arrangement of clothes, bedding and teddies distributed widely about the place.



The children were kept busy from the moment they arrived, after a quick orienteering task to get their bearings, collecting firewood for the evening bonfire, followed by lunch, the children started on the main activities of the day: dam building, duck racing, den building and low ropes.



The low rope activity was surprisingly challenging when the children realised some of it would be completed blindfold! This was then followed by encouraging them to work as a team by ensuring everyone completed the course successfully as well as organising themselves in order of shoe size without speaking.



Dam-building and duck-racing provided a wonderful opportunity to work together as well as getting wet whilst shouting very loudly at a plastic duck.



Finally the den building proved once again that it is not just girls who like a tidy shelter and that strong structures need careful planning.

The day was concluded around a camp fire with a talent show including a very impressive magic trick and a good sing-a-long.

It was a rather damp start to our second day, but unperturbed and after a hearty breakfast the children undertook the tracking and trailing activity. Children decided which clues to follow to a hiding place and then found their friends. Finally it was back to base, lunch and then the trip home.

The trip was a real success because the children behaved so wonderfully and in many cases quite bravely, in facing their challenges, supporting their friends and having fun.



Outdoor Learning

We are now busy looking for opportunities to have lessons outdoors. This is one of the key parts of our 2009-13 Strategic Development Plan and one of our Ofsted targets.



There is no reason why maths lessons can't take place outdoors. There is something about being outdoors that helps make learning stick.



When learning is connected with a story it becomes more memorable.

Class One children were exploring the woods and discovered a 'castle'. Having recently heard the story of Jack and the Beanstalk they anticipated the prospect of the giant returning with excitement and trepidation. The drama of the anticipation sparked some fascinating discussions at the time and some great artwork afterwards.

A number of classes have been having lessons based around the canal. This is partly due to the Kennet and Avon Bicentennial. Some of the children's artwork will be exhibited in an exhibition taking place in July.



Outdoor sketching requires concentrated looking, and really forces us to be aware of our surroundings. In our case we are fortunate to be surrounded by outstanding countryside, and a beautiful village.



Class Four recently went on a canal art walk inspired by the work of British artist Robert Long. They made a series of art pieces based on found natural materials.



Class Three visited Victoria Art Gallery and returned by boat!

Outdoor Topic Work



Class Two visited the Bathampton allotments to support their study of plant growth. They learnt about the plants that might be expected to grow in England, and those that were more likely to be imported. One surprising plant growing in Iann Robertson's allotment was a 'Chocolate Tree'! Although some children were slightly sceptical about this they were happy to harvest the chocolate.

Outdoor Play

Climbing trees



This term children were able to use the woods during playtimes and lessons for the first time. Parent Tony Brown did some skilful tree surgery to make the area safe. The children have loved being able to explore, climb trees and make dens.



Many thanks to the Friends who donated the money raised by the recent Quiz Night to the cost of preparing the woods for use by children.

Tania Orgill has kindly donated a collection of material to enable children to make play tents. We would also love to have more logs and branches that could be used for den making.

We strongly believe that having the freedom to play in setting such as the woods can be an important part of childhood, and we are grateful for the privilege of having such amazing grounds. We want to be an inclusive school and to share our 'good fortune'. Swainswick School currently use our grounds on Friday afternoons and we have also invited Mulberry Kidz and The Bathampton Playgroup to use the grounds when appropriate as well.

Prize Winners



Congratulations to Jacob, Thomas and Juliette for winning a B&NES competition designed to promote positive relationships. Kate Murphy awarded the 'Being a Good friend' certificates and prizes in school.



KwikCricket

On Tuesday 25th May the school cricket team took part in the interschool Kwikcricket tournament which took place at The Sulis Club. The team played really well, and there were lots of close and exciting games. We played four games; winning two and losing two. Our fielding was strong and we hit quite a few fours and sixes.

Drinks

As the days are getting hotter, we are keen that all children stay well hydrated. Please remember to send your child with a drink every day. In the classroom, all bottles should be filled with water only, to avoid sticky spillages and for the good of the childrens' teeth.

If your child brings sandwiches for lunch, please also send a separate drink in your child's lunchbox. The children often eat outside in the warm weather and currently have no access to other drinks.

Diary Dates

May.

Friday 28th End of Term 5

June

Monday 7th INSET Day

Tuesday 8th Term 6 Starts

Thursday 10th First Bikeability Session (Rearranged)

Monday 14th Film Club

Wednesday 16th Whole School Photograph

Friday 18th Main Open Day for 2011 Intake

Saturday 19th Girls' Tag Rugby Festival at Lambridge 10.00-12.00 a.m.

Monday 21st -23rd Class Five to Ironbridge

Tuesday 22nd School Kidz Sports day here

Thursday 24th Class Three Science Trip

Tuesday 29th Schools'Parliament at Bath Spa University

& Handwriting Audit

July

Thursday 1st Induction Day & Secondary School Invasion Day

Friday 2nd The Friends are now supporting the Canal Bicentennial Event on Saturday 17th July (instead of the Summer Fair) and all proceeds from this event will go towards the school's Reception Project.

Monday 5th Creative and Technical Milestones Writing Audit

& Film Club

Tuesday 6th Class Four to Westonbirt Arboretum

Wednesday 7th Canal Musicians to Class Four

& After School Concert by The School Orchestra and Wind Band

Thursday 8th Class Three to Folly Farm

& Class Five KES Summer Workshop

Friday 9th Leavers' Disco (TBC)

Monday 12th Sports Day Option One

Wednesday 14th Sports Day Option Two

Friday 16th Y3 & 4 Tagtails Tournament here

& Canal Bicentennial History Evening & Art Exhibition

(This should be very interesting, do come!)

Saturday 17th Canal Bicentennial Celebration (supported by the Friends). All proceeds from this event will go to the school's Reception Project so please come, have a great time and give generously!

Monday 19th Parent / teacher interviews this week if required

Friday 23rd Leavers' Service 9.30

End of Term 6

School dates online at

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar