



Term Six Newsletter 2010

Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes



We are rapidly approaching the end of the academic year, and the end of a busy and exceptionally interesting term. We are saying goodbye to a superb group of Year Six pupils and in some cases to families who have been with us for many years and made significant contributions to the community. The children did very well in their Year 6 SATs, and have been fantastic buddies to the younger children this year.

We are saying farewell to Jago Deane who is moving to Calder House. Alison Deane will continue as a governor and hopefully continue to take on many of the many other roles that she has in school. We are also saying goodbye to Lily Robertson who is moving to King Edward's School, and to Darcey Bradbury and her parents Adam and Teresa, (as well as Sam who would have started in September) Benji Verers-Morley and his parents Bernie and Kerry are also moving. We wish them and all those moving on every happiness!

As I have previously mentioned we are saying goodbye to Sally Fenna who has been a valuable member of staff for seven years. We hope to maintain links informally and were delighted to hear that Sally is intending to continue with her Cookery Club which has been a real treat for the older children. Children have enjoyed magical moments visiting the Fenna's farm for years and we hope that these visits will still be possible! We wish her all the best with the start up of the family's classic car hire business!

Read all about the Kennet & Avon Bicentennial Celebrations inside!

Great Get Away Day



All the children had an early holiday this year as they travelled to various destinations around the globe during our Great Get Away Day on Tuesday 20th July. The day started off in the hall where the children got a glimpse of some of the countries they would visit. Following this with the help of some sound effects they flew off to the departure lounge where they were guided through passport control to their holiday destinations.

In each class there was a glorious array of activities. Pizzas, Australian kebabs, guacamole and camp fire food were made, while in South Africa a range of culinary delights were tasted. Children played bocce, trailed wild American animals' footprints, had a musical surfing lesson, tried out gumboot dancing, African drumming and learnt some salsa steps. A number of art and craft activities also took place with children making boomerangs, African shields, Mexican 'eyes' and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.



A huge well done to Mrs Wood for organising it, to all the children for joining in and working really well in their 'family groups,' and also a huge thank you to all the parents who helped throughout the day enabling children to sample some activities and food that just wouldn't have been possible without them.

Bicentennial Celebration



This year sees the 200th anniversary of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the school has fully participated in events to celebrate this anniversary. There are therefore many items related to this, and it has been a great opportunity for us to make the most of our amazing setting!

Village Celebration

The sun shines for a unique event!



Many thanks to Sue Christley, Kev Humphries and the team who had the vision for, organised, prepared and ran the Bathampton Village Celebration on Saturday 17th July. It was a truly amazing event, and was quite unique in that it brought together so many different groups from the village. Sue and Kev had planned the event with incredible care and created a genuinely inclusive event that really did have something for everyone! The event was so popular that the only issue related to queuing for entry!



Trip on 'The Jubilee' up the K & A Canal



On Friday 16th July every child present in the school had the opportunity to travel on a narrow boat. 'The Jubilee' took groups on a short trip.

One of the highlights was listening to Mike, the skipper, telling stories about the canal. The children really enjoyed the experience and a large number hadn't been on the canal before so it was especially worthwhile.

I am very grateful indeed to Craig Marshall who had the idea in the first place and also organised the sponsorship. Many thanks to Craig Marshall of DS4A Limited, Peter Brown of Bath Canal Boat Company and AngloWelsh Waterway Holidays for their financial support. Thanks also to the Jubilee volunteers for their time and kindness!

Kennet & Avon History



Lecture by Bath Author

Over 70 local people attended the lecture by historian Kirsten Elliot hosted by the school on the Kennet and Avon Canal. The talk was illustrated by slides and was very well received. Did you know that horse drawn narrow boats were able to reach speed of up to 20 miles an hour before the 4 MPH speed limit was introduced, or that the canal was a key line of defence against a potential invasion by Hitler's army during World War Two? Many thanks to Hannah Isaac for organising the event which was part of the bicentennial celebrations.

Ironbridge

Residential

Class Five had a superb residential visit to Ironbridge. Highlights included a visit to the Jackfield Tile Museum, and to Blists Hill open air museum.



The Jackfield Tile Museum has superb examples of Victorian and later tile artwork. "It was an amazing experience and changed the way I look at tiles for ever" Grace wrote afterwards.



Some of the artwork was very inspiring and it was great to see the children becoming absorbed in the experience.



We also tried creating our own artworks. The staff enjoyed participating in the creative activities and found the children very supportive and encouraging!



The children created a tile mural masterpiece in honour of the Kennet & Avon bicentenary which will be framed and mounted in the school.



Blists Hill museum attempts to recreate the sights, sounds and smells of a Victorian Shropshire town in the late 19th century and early 20th century. "Blists Hill was great because I really enjoyed making bricks," wrote Kate.



Actors recreate Victorian life, and here George and an actor hammed up for the camera, demonstrate the treatment meted out to school boys in those days. George joked that he would have a Victorian police record! "I loved Ironbridge because you felt so independent," Sophie wrote afterwards. This is a key element to a school residential, along with living with your friends, and it is fantastic to see the children grow in confidence and independence.



Class Three had a wonderful trip to Folly Farm which developed their understanding of habitats. Initially the children were told that they had to work out what they were; either an animal or a plant. They were given clues that told them what they ate, where they lived and what their jobs were. Names included: 'nocturnal fly guzzler', 'tall acorn giver', 'underground soil decomposer.' Next the class visited three sites that they could choose to live in, a swamp, a woodland or a meadow.

During the walk children were encouraged to ask questions to help them work out their identity. Arriving at the last site each child received some 'post' which included a picture and some information about them. Once their identity was confirmed children decided where to live. Unfortunately, the swamp dwellers home had dried up so they had to negotiate with the meadow and forest folk for a new home. Some animals were kindly received, while others were turned away to the 'morgue.' A fate we were told that was part of the whole process of the food chain.

In the afternoon children became woodland safari experts, mapping out finds of interest and describing them to visitors. All in all it was a very interesting, engaging and busy day. It certainly made the children consider what life would be like to be a woodland dweller and how interdependent all plants and animals are.

Why not make a Holiday Book this summer!
Head's Awards for these!

Class Five & Royal High Team Canal Fieldwork



Uses for the Canal by Anna Green

Class Five had an excellent session with a team from the Royal High School, led by geography teacher and Bathampton parent Caroline Cook. The children learnt about the Kenet and Avon Canal and got very engaged in discussions about how the canal could best be used. The Royal High girls were very helpful, and our children greatly enjoyed the session. I was told afterwards that the girls thoroughly enjoyed working with the Year 5 & 6 children, especially because they all got stuck into the fieldwork, and then became so involved in the debate. The links with other Bath schools are very helpful for all concerned.



Class Four enjoyed a very interesting day at Westonbirt Arboretum learning how trees grow and adapt to their environment.

Outdoor Lessons



Outdoor learning happened throughout the summer and we want it to become a characteristic of the school alongside the high academic standards that are equally important.

Extending Challenge

We also want to gradually extend the degree of challenge in activities offered so that they become slightly more adventurous and require a certain element of stamina and determination.

Childrens' Voice

Children's Parliament



Niamh Brady and Jacob Schofield were our two fantastic School Council representatives at this year's School Parliament meeting held at Bath Spa University on 29th June. The members of the School Council had prepared a poster which Jacob and Niamh presented at the Parliament meeting. The poster described the idea of children being elected to join a group of adults and children working together to make decisions about their communities. They called the group the "Children's Community Council". As part of the day, Jacob chaired a discussion group and Niamh spoke in the university auditorium about children sharing with adults in a "Children's Community Council."

King Edwards



On Thursday 8th July Class Five attended the KES Summer Workshop. Three of our Year 6 pupils won scholarships to KES so it was particularly helpful for them to visit their new school. Class Five pupils were invited to King Edward's School to take part in either a Geography or Chemistry workshop. In the Geography workshop they constructed a 3D map of the world to show the richest and poorest countries. The children were extremely excited to be able to use Bunsen burners in the Chemistry workshop. Everyone really enjoyed themselves; the children's enthusiasm was fantastic as they asked lots of interesting questions and shared their ideas confidently

Local Skills



Class Four really enjoyed learning how to make boat fenders during a visit from a team from the canal. We are in a special setting and it is good to learn more about the features that are local to the school.

Bikeability

On your bike!



Well done to the children who took part in the Bikeability training this term. This course is designed to teach road safety and relies on children having had plenty of experience riding bikes previously. We recommend that parents take their children cycling frequently before joining the course so they are able to handle cycling on a road.

Rave on!

KS2 Disco fever



On Friday 9th July the older children enjoyed one of Stuart's great discos. Some great dancers!

Music in School

Orchestra



On Wednesday 8th July the School Orchestra and Windband gave a skilful and enjoyable concert

The summer String Day run by B&NES is an annual event for those in Year Three and above who are learning a stringed instrument and have reached a good level of competence. It was interesting to learn that of the 45 young people attending the day 10 were from Bathampton Primary. It highlights the passion for music that Ms Johnson has engendered and the high standards expected of musicians at the school!

Windband

We have recently learnt that Dave Wood, our peripatetic woodwind teacher, is moving. His replacement James Watts will be starting in September and we look forward to working with him.

Musicians



It was a real treat to have some special visitors to Class Four recently. The majority were canal based and the children loved hearing their songs. It is worth noting that the visitors greatly enjoyed the event because of the children's enthusiasm and willingness to participate.

The musician also gave a concert for the whole school on Thursday 22nd July.



Our new logo gets an outing!

Art in School

Canal Art Exhibition



Every child in the school created a drawing, painting or collage inspired by the canal and these were professionally exhibited.



It is a real encouragement for every artist to see the sticky label on your art work indicating that someone has considered it worth buying! Special thanks to parent Pari Dewey who ran a fantastic art club and enabled the children to produce some superb pictures and sculptures!

Stair Gallery Curators



Following a suggestion from artist Peter Dickenson who is exhibiting his work in the school in September we have appointed a team to curate our own school art gallery. Molly Griffin, Sophie Baldwin and Melissa Sooudi have taken on the management of the gallery and will be deciding on themes, and contacting artists themselves, with support where needed.

Sport and Fitness

Sport Days



Many children love competitive sport and this photograph, taken during a distance race, illustrates the effort involved. One new feature of this year's KS2 sports was that the children organised many of the events themselves, and we were not surprised to find that their ideas were really creative and resulted in the best sports morning we could remember!

Testing yourself



The younger children really enjoyed their sports session, and even the pre-schoolers had a go at racing!

Competition

This year has been an exceptional one for competitive games, with all children from Year One onwards taking part in PE events with other schools. Class Two went to the University of Bath for Multisports, Class Three to St Marks also for Multisports. Class Four had a Tagtails tournament, and Class Five went to St Marks for Triball. There were also rugby and football games with other schools. I am grateful to Sports Co-ordinator Brendan Rouse for organising the events, and to Mrs Lake who liaises with him and manages sporting fixtures from school.

Swimming

It is worth noting that as the school grows in size we have had to change our swimming arrangements and this is now for children from Year Four upwards, and will take place in Terms 2&3 for Year Four, and 5&6 for Year Five and Six.

Tag Tails Tournament



We hosted a Cluster Tag Tails tournament on Friday 16th July. Our Y3s and Y4s played in separate teams and greatly enjoyed their games.

Achievements

Netball

Congratulations to Rosie Davies who is joining the Avon County Under 14 County Netball Squad in September. She was recommended by two coaches. Not bad for a 10 year old!

Gymnastics

Congratulations to Elise Maylor who has been invited to join the elite group at The Portishead Gym Academy. This coaching team are working with young people who attain a very high standard indeed, with some going on to represent their country. This entails substantial time commitment and is on a trial basis to see if it is manageable.

Gifted and Talented

Congratulations to Charlie Howard and Laurie Maylor who have progressed a long way in the B&NES Gifted and Talented sports programme. They are taking part in coaching sessions at Bath University Sports Village.

Dance

Congratulations to Molly Griffin who has been invited to become a Junior Associate of The Royal Ballet School following a very competitive set of auditions. She will have fortnightly classes in classical ballet, and enjoy opportunities to go behind the scenes at the Royal Ballet performances.

Branches needed!



The children have enjoyed den making but we are still short of material. Sam May kindly donated some willow and the children would be very grateful for more den making material! It is worth flagging up that the children are likely to need wellington boots and waterproof clothing in the winter!

Petite Fleur'...canal adventures a possibility?



We are always keen to increase the opportunities offered to the children at the school, and to include adventurous activities, and I have often dreamt of offering a canal based club. The parent of an ex-pupil has very kindly offered us a second hand boat. 'Petite Fleur' needs some mechanical work and some TLC generally. We would definitely need sponsorship for ongoing costs such as mooring, and licence fees to make it viable. We would also need significant adult help. If you would be interested in helping with this project financially or in anyway please email Mr Falkus via bathampton_pri@bathnes.gov.uk or chat to him or Kev Humphries.

Thanks for the vouchers

Many thanks to all those people who donated vouchers from newspapers cereal boxes and supermarkets this year. Our biggest collection was over 8000 Sainbury's vouchers, and we look forward to the deliveries of lunchtime games, PE equipment, books and ICT equipment in the new academic year. From Mrs Lake



Tuck Shop

We have a superb team of children who run the school Tuck Shop on a weekly basis, but do need an adult helper to organise the purchase of food, and arrange for the sale of the vouchers. Please consider volunteering for this important role! We are very grateful to Jane Howard who pioneered this shop, and who is now stepping down!

We are also keen to recruit a parent who is willing to water the plants in the corridor. Alison Deane has been doing this for some years, and it makes a real difference if the plants are green and thriving! We are very grateful to Alison for the TLC she has given our plants!

Head Girl

Congratulations to ex-pupil Helena McPhee who has been made one of the two Senior Students at Ralph Allen!

Diary Dates

2010/2011 INSET Days

Wednesday 1st September

Thursday 2nd September

Friday 3rd September

Friday 19th November

Tuesday 4th January

Monday 6th June

The children return on Monday 6th September. All term dates available online www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar



Have a great summer holiday!