



Dear Parents and Friends,

Congratulations to Chloe Yandell and Matthew Hart on the safe arrival of their daughter Isla, a sister for Erin and Mia, who was born on 13<sup>th</sup> February. We wish the family all the best!

A warm welcome to Heidi White and her family. Heidi started in Class Five this term. We are also looking forward to welcoming Inigo Sweetingham and his family after the holiday. Inigo is starting in Class Two.

We have said goodbye to Mr Veck PGCE Trainee teacher from Bath Spa University, who has been working with children and teachers in Class Four this term. He has had a very successful experience and we wish him all the best in his future career.

### International Visitors



We have enjoyed a visit from Julita Medialdea, Pilar Vodal, Estefania de Sancha and Susanna Mas from the University of Vic in Catalonia, Spain. They are preparing to teach English in Primary Schools in Catalonia. They have been with us for three weeks finishing on 17<sup>th</sup> February. They have been very interested in the English education system and have worked very enthusiastically in Class Two and Three.



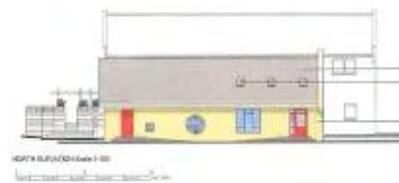
A warm welcome to Abigail Miller from St Michael's College, Vermont, USA. Ms Miller will be with us most Tuesdays from 8<sup>th</sup> February until 10<sup>th</sup> May. Saint Michael's is a Catholic college located minutes from the college town of Burlington, Vermont. She is on

the Advanced Studies in England course which is based in Bath.



After the holiday we will have two short exchange visits from children at the Lime Tree School in Ville France. Martin will be joining us immediately after the holiday, and Orane in early March.

### New Classroom



Good news! We have planning permission for our new building! The formal process for moving from four to five classes has been taking place and should be completed early in March. B&NES Cabinet member Chris Watts has agreed the expansion and the final consultation is taking place. It was good to see the school described as a 'valued local school which has a positive effect on its pupils'.

In the meantime fund raising for the 'The Learning Zone' is going on enthusiastically with an exciting Auction of Promises on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Put the date in your diary!



The temporary building is due to be lifted in section by crane on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February so that contractors can check the ground prior to providing a tender. There will only be a small amount of asphalt remaining available for playtimes.

If children bring wellies to school they can play freely in the field and woods. This is going to be even more important in May when there will be no asphalt to play on. Wellies can

be used in school Monday to Friday and go home for weekends.

## Caring for Others

Bathampton Disability Day Report by Mrs Wood

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January we all took part in the schools Disability Day. The aim of the day was to raise awareness about disability and begin to have an inkling of what being disabled is like.



For some the day started with trying a variety of wheelchairs where they learnt how to steer them around corners, slow down, keep them in a straight line when going along a slope. They also discovered how difficult it is to open doors. Other Classes tried out guiding in pairs, where one child was blindfolded and given a guiding stick and helped on their way around the playground by their guide.



Some of the younger children were developing their bandaging skills, by bandaging their teddies and then fitting them with mini wheelchairs, while the older children tried out various gadgets and games used by blind and partially sighted people. These included colour sensors to check what colours you are wearing, water sensors to tell you when your cup is full and games adapted so that you had to feel what to do rather than rely on your sight.

Later on in the day classes tried out blind eating, where children discovered the

importance of remembering where you put things down and foot painting which turned out to be extremely difficult and demanding on their leg muscles.



The day was finished off by a visit from the Guide Dogs for the Blind. All in all it was a really surprising and fun packed day. We are grateful to Mrs Wood for planning the day, and to Petra for supplying an extraordinary range of items and organising an inspiring and unforgettable day.

*Imagine if you received letter like this! Class Two did!*

Dear Headteacher,

I do not wish to alarm you but we have an emergency on our hands that we hope you can help us with. Here in Dragonsville we have lots of dragons carefully looking after their eggs until they hatch. One of our expectant dragons took her egg out for a flying trip this weekend but has returned to Dragonsville without it. On her flight she remembered going over a canal near a school, a church and a pub. I wonder if you would be kind enough to ask your pupils to keep an eye out for the missing dragon egg. Dragon's eggs need to be kept in a soft, warm and quiet place for the dragon to hatch. Please let us know if you find anything that you think may be a dragon's egg. (They are much bigger and rougher than eggs you may have for breakfast.)

Best Wishes

D. Scaleback



The class hunted throughout the school and the grounds and eventually found a exceptionally large blue egg near the school house garden. They nurtured this for some days, identifying cracks in the surface until one morning they arrived in school to find the egg cracked open and unusual marks on the

carpet. As for what happened next ask someone in the class!

### Bird Watching Hit Bathampton



On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February we celebrated the official opening of the Bathampton Primary School Bird Hide. The ribbon was cut by ex-pupil Shane Bowditch, currently at King Edwards School. The Bird Hide was Shane's idea, and it has taken three years to arrive at the point of opening the hide. The opening also marked the official start of the school Bird Watching Club.

The bird hide is located at the bottom of the school field and is large enough to accommodate groups of six children. One member of each group will be a designated group leader. The senior members will be responsible for locking and unlocking the bird hide, checking equipment is safely stored and giving helpful guidance to other children in their group.

The Leaders have applied for the position in writing. One child noted in his application 'I cannot birdwatch at home as we have two cats and it is not fair to feed the birds in our garden. It will be fun to do it at school'.



As part of the bird-watching initiative Class Four have made six high quality bird boxes. The children worked in teams with Vic Ross, an experienced ornithologist and grandparent and also parent Tony Berry who is a carpenter.

The children really enjoyed the experience. Each bird box has an entrance designed to attract a particular bird. The bird boxes will be put up in the school woods. The class later forensically examined owl pellets to learn about the bird's eating habits.

The school already has a bird box with a camera in it that enables children to watch birds feeding their young during the spring on a dining hall TV screen.

### Bird Watching Fortnight

Ms. Johnson, a newly enthusiastic ornithologist, has been taking her class out into the woods during this fortnight. Trainee teacher Mr Veck also created an ingenious computer game which encourages children to identify bird song.

*Wessex Water Report by Will Abel, Alex Fitzsimons and Lorenzo*

Montani



On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February Wessex Water came into Class Five to run a water workshop. They discussed where the Water companies come in to the Water Cycle. There were a lot of things that Class Five learnt like what SWT (Sewage Treatment Works) stands for and WTW (Water Treatment Works). They also learnt how Sewage Treatment Works worked. Finally there was a play to act out about Cholera.

Overall it was a very informative and fun day.

### Class 4 Indian Topic



On Class Four went to visit a Hindu Temple in Bristol on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. They found it very interesting and enjoyed talking to the priest. He was amazed when they were able to sing an Indian song to him!

### Class 4 Indian Topic Music Report by James Nankivell and Elias

Marton-Browne



On the sixth of January 2011, Class Four had a visit from Mr. Watts. There was the beautiful sound of music echoing round the class as Mr. Veck played the drum whilst Mr. Watts was playing the harmonium. The class sang two Indian songs; *Gopala* and *Hare Krishna*. They were both amazing songs and will stick with us for the rest of our lives. We owe a huge thanks to Mr. Veck who organised this event.



### Bathampton Guinea Pig Club

This term we started a Guinea Pig Club at school which now has 30 members. The aim of the club is to enable children of all ages to get to know our lovely school pets Ruby, Rosie and Poppy and learn about how to take care of them. Children have the opportunity to stroke the Guinea Pigs, help to feed them and keep their hutch clean and tidy. The club is run by Emily Hoskin (Harry's mum) during morning break every Monday, with opportunities to feed the guinea pigs at morning breaks. The children will be in a team who will care for the pets for a three week period.

ESCAPE – report by Mari Madigan, Bella Bird and Zoe Messer



On the 9<sup>th</sup> February, Classes Three, Four and Five had the opportunity to watch a fabulous drama production. It was brought to life by the enthusiasm of the wonderful actors. This show was based on being safe on the internet and it taught the children lots about how to be safe. Sadly the fantastic play was brought to an end after a stunning hour of fun.

After the show, Class Five had a workshop with the actors asking questions about things that they should do when they have a problem on the internet and don't know what to do.

This day inspired the children about how to be



All BPS children are members of this award winning online resource.

User name bat0219

Password ba26tq

@ [www.gridclub.com](http://www.gridclub.com)

safer when using the internet and taught them that the internet can be more dangerous than they thought.

### Class two Farleigh Hungerford Castle Visit



Class Two had an amazing visit to Farleigh Hungerford Castle on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February. They explored the castle which was first built in 1370, climbed on the ancient walls; saw the rare medieval wall paintings in the chapel and dressed up in period costumes. It certainly helped bring their topic on castles to life!

## Sport and Fitness

### Tag Rugby at the Rec



On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January Bathampton Tag Rugby team had the thrilling experience of playing on The Rec in front of a large crowd. The team was part of the Guard of Honour and then played at half time against Chew Stoke.

### Football



The football team played a really exciting District Cup game against WASPs at home. Mike Cottell scored one goal, but in a close game the opposition scored two! Mike and William were joint 'Men of the Match'.

## School & Community



Email from the Romer family in Portugal: 'Millie and Jake are in school, both in the same pre-school class, and learning the language fast... There are frosty mornings but warm sun at midday, and flowers already in bud. It's lovely and we have been really getting on with clearing the land and preparing for the tipi holidays'.

### Tesco & Sainsbury's School Vouchers



Families have kindly donated these vouchers in the past and both companies are running them again this year, with Tesco's campaign starting on 28<sup>th</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> May.



### The difference you make!

Research shows that having a parent hearing them read (frequently!) is key in a child's

education. Without this help children are likely to struggle at school! We ask parents to make a comment in the reading record, and to be as consistent as possible. Contrary to what some children might say it's still very important in KS2 when discussing motives and character become key skills!

**We are having a real focus on punctuality after the holidays and will be trying to ensure that no child is consistently late!  
Lateness disrupts classes and is strongly linked to children underachieving.**



The Kings Foundation

We understand that there are subsidised places for these camps. Please chat if interested!

*Boat Under Offer!*



The school's donated boat is currently under offer. Profit from the sale will go towards the New Building project.

## Diary Dates Insert

### February

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 3

& Football v Bathwick St Mary

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Crane in use

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 4

& Main Parent/ teacher interview fortnight

### March

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup>** Action Aid talk for Class Four

& Mrs Edmund's Maternity leave begins

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** Mr Milne starts with Class Five

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to Warleigh Farm Maths Day

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Class Four Indian Meal

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** Auction of Promises @ Village Hall 7.00 p.m.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** Outreach Event @ Hayesfield

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** Football V Newbridge @ Home 3.40 p.m.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** School Council Meeting

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** Dance Umbrella @ Forum

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** Y3 /4 Football Tournament @ Monkton 9-12

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>** Rugby Tournament @ Stothert & Pitt

### April

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 4

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 5

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>** Royal Wedding Bank Holiday

### May

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** May Day Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Bath Spa PGCE teacher to Class Two

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Evening Meeting Parents of 2011 Reception

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** Friends' Quiz Night

**Please could all Y6 children avoid sleepovers this weekend!**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>** Year Six SATs Week

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Class One to Warleigh Lodge Farm

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>** Hayesfield Evening Event

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 5

### June

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 6

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** Pedestrian Training Class Three

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** Open Morning for Reception 2012

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Bathampton School Choir @ The Forum

### July

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** Class Five to Life Skills Centre p.m.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Summer Fair

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>** Induction/ Shunt Afternoon

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>** Sports Day Option One

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** Cluster Tagtails Tournament

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>** Sports Day Option Two

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** Leaver's Service

End of Term 6

Bathampton School and Bathampton  
Playgroup

**AUCTION OF PROMISES**

Bathampton Village Hall

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March Doors Open  
7.00pm Auction begins 7.30pm

Tickets £3 to include a complimentary  
glass of wine

If you want to bid on a lot but can't  
come on the night, print out and send  
in a postal bid.

A sample collection of many amazing  
lots!

Portrait sketches of a family member, an  
evening's babysitting up to 12.30,  
professional advice from the English  
Cricket Board's Head of Strength and  
Conditioning Mark Spivey, a week's worth  
of ironing for a family of 4, to carry out and  
give a full building report on a house up to  
£500,000 value (normally £750) or 2  
saxophone lessons at Blowout Sax...

