



Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

On Monday 21st January Ms Johnson will leave for New Zealand for a sabbatical. During her absence her Class Four teaching partner Mrs Flint will move to full time. Mrs Evans and Mrs Lake will share the role of acting Deputy Head. We will look forward to Ms Johnson's return on Tuesday 12th March and hearing about her adventures.

2012 KS2 SATs

We were very pleased to get a personal letter from David Laws, the Minister for State for schools, congratulating the staff, governors and children on the excellent performance of our pupils in the 2012 national KS2 SAT tests. Our results place us amongst the top performing primary school in 2012. I would like to pass on my thanks to the parents and volunteer helpers as it is very much a team effort! Well done on all concerned.

Green Apple Award



Architect Jonathan Hook visited the school on Tuesday 20th November to tell the children about the Green Apple Award he and the team won for the Reception classroom. He was joined by Dine Romero Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Young People; Fiona Randall B&NES Asset Manager; Bob Hotham and Mike Philpott from the building team. Jonathan accepted the award at the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday 14th November. The award means that the classroom is acknowledged as a model of environmentally friendly design.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Cara and Barrett Petersen on the safe arrival of Logan, a brother for Ethan. He was born on 17th December and weighed 9.14.

Playground Improvements



The children have greatly enjoyed using the two new play areas. I am very grateful to Emma Naysmith and Alison Deane who have managed this project so effectively.



Emma has successfully applied for a Grants4All award of £10,000 to continue developing the play facilities at school. Both Emma and Alison are school governors and we are very fortunate to have such a hardworking and committed group of governors.

Class Three Assembly



Class Three gave an amusing assembly based on a story walk. Mrs Wood had led the children through our village narrating a story as they walked, with key events happening under the bridge, in Dark Lane, in Dry Arch and so on. This brought the story to life and the writing the children did on their return was very vivid!

There were some talented actors and singers in the group, and everyone enjoyed the assembly.

Class One hard at work



Class One have settled in so well it is hard to remember that they are only a third of the way through their first year of schooling. We have been delighted by their independence and curiosity. They learn and play together very well indeed!

Class One Felt the Magic



Class One had a special visit from Nicola Sugg (Katie's mum) on Monday 3rd December. She came to show the class how to make felt using colourful fibres. The children were fully involved in pulling the fibres and laying them down in alternating directions on the special bamboo mat. The children then added soapy water, covered it up and rubbed and mixed the fibres - Wow! An amazing process with a beautiful piece of felt at the end. Class One are busy using the felt to make some Christmas items so the magic will continue.
Report by Mrs Kirby

Class Two make a Fruit Salad



This may look like a cookery lesson but is actually literacy, in response to the story book 'Oliver's Fruit Salad'. Class Two were learning about instructional writing by following a recipe. They learnt about the 'bossy words' at the start of each instructional sentence which tell you what to do. Learning by doing is fun, and you retain more of the learning afterwards!

Class Two Frost Art



The artist Richard Long creates art by marking the landscape in various ways. One cold morning Class Two followed his example by creating patterns in the frost.

Dry Arch Adventure

On Tuesday 13th November Class Four went to The Dry Arch project to learn about local foods. Our first job was leek digging. The leek that I was digging out was stubborn so it would not come out of the ground'. *Rebecca Sheppard*



'When we picked leeks, we got our hands dirty. Tom and I picked the biggest leek. Roan found a worm and named it Trevor. It was a great day!' *Ben Naysmith*

'I enjoyed baking the bread. We mixed flour and water then added oil and salt, stirring these together to make dough. We then shaped this into small balls before placing them in the clay oven'. *Eleanor Evetts*



'Soon it was time to go back to school - I was disappointed to leave - I definitely want to go back to The Dry Arch Project again!' *William Nicholson*

Class Four Roman topic



Class Four visited the World Heritage site, the Roman Baths on the 18th November 2012. During our trip we learnt a lot about Roman leisure time and why the Romans visited the Baths. We explored the apodyterium, tepidarium, caldarium and frigidarium and even met a Roman soldier who told us a lot about his lifestyle. We took part in a workshop where we bought and sold Roman bathing equipment with Roman currency. A fun time was had by all.

Class Four Roman Feast



Lunchtime Luxury – Roman Style

Class Four recently enjoyed a luxurious Roman Banquet. Sheets which were brought in were turned into togas and brooches and bangles that had been designed in Art lessons were also worn.

A number of parents came in to set up the meal which consisted of stuffed dormice, roasted vegetables, bread rolls and salad. This was followed by fresh fruit and honey oat biscuits. Roman style cakes and grape juice were brought in by Jules to celebrate Freya's 9th birthday. A merry time was had by all.

Laurie said "This is the best day of my life; the stuffed dormouse tasted better than I expected." Ben added "I've never had a better feast in my life!"

Class Four Assembly

Class Four recently performed a Roman assembly in which we spoke some Latin words; the language is really hard to practise. We sang Roman songs and performed some dances too. I learnt a lot of things about the Romans. One parent said that the assembly was amazing!

Report by Sash Marton- Browne

Class Five @ Bristol

On the 16th of November Class Five went to @Bristol. Next we went to the planetarium. Hugh (the guide) talked to us about stars and what the earth looked like from all the other planets in our solar system. In our workshop one of the guides taught us about the Earth, Sun and Moon. We saw what would happen if a human went into space without a spacesuit. He showed us by making a marshmallow man and putting him into the same type of atmosphere as in space. It made the marshmallow man expand. When he changed the atmosphere the marshmallow man shrunk. It was the best school trip ever!

Report by Enya Maylor and Hannah Benjelloun



Hannah King in Kenya

In January 2013 Hannah King, a past Dance Teacher at our school, is doing some life changing work in Kilifi Kenya for 3 months. She will be working alongside the Ministry of Youth and will be focusing on the right for disabled children to be included in the national education system. Through sustainable development (for example training teachers) she will be working with the community to raise awareness and change the lives of these children. ICS cover all costs such as flights and immunisation so all money donated will go directly to VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) and the charity directly. If you would like to keep track of Hannah's progress and help further her JustGiving Page is:

www.justgiving.com/hannahkingvso

The Arts



Class Three had a wonderful time making lanterns with Louise Campion and Laura Jones from the Holburne Art Team this term. One of these amazing creations will soon be hanging in Class Three for all to enjoy. However, on a rather wild and wet night on Thursday 22nd November some intrepid members of Class Three held their lanterns aloft in the Bath Lantern Procession to celebrate the opening of the Christmas Market. Invigorated by the rhythmic drumming the children paraded their lanterns from the Holburne to Parade Gardens. It was a truly amazing sight. All the children did a marvellous job and so too did their parents who prevented the lanterns blowing away in the strong gales. A huge well done to everyone!

Bathampton @ Bath Abbey



It was a delight to hear our Orchestra and Wind Band play during the schools Carol Service at Bath Abbey. Hearing the children play 'Walking in the Air', and 'We Three Kings' so beautifully in the glorious setting of the Abbey was an unforgettable experience. Thanks to Ms Johnson and the amazing peripatetic teachers who prepare the children so effectively. Congratulations to everyone who took part!

Winter Warmers

Musical volunteers from Class Five visited Bathampton Manor to entertain residents on

Tuesday Dec 11th. They sang and played carols to an appreciative audience.



Caring for others

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 forty boxes. This means that forty children, who might otherwise have got nothing, will receive a present this Christmas!

Good Samaritans

Well done to Inigo and Miles Sweetingham, Oliver Symonds and Cameron Skipp. They were walking home from school recently and came across an elderly local resident who had slipped and fallen. Marilyn White had broken her ankle and had been lying on the pathway for fifteen minutes calling for help. She was becoming increasingly cold and concerned.

The children 'shot off like lightning' for adult help and then stayed to keep her company. Marilyn later phoned the school to praise the children for their kindness, swift response and attempts to keep her amused while she waited. Marilyn listens to readers in Class Four each week, so it is lovely that some of our children were able to repay her kindness.

Cyclists for Children in Need



On the 25th of November Misha Dewey and Eliana Robinson of Class Five did an eleven mile sponsored bike ride along the canal. They have raised about £100 so far for Children in Need. 'We got very muddy but it was really good fun' said the girls. Please add to their total if you can! Too late for a picture but the children in Class One organised a 'Pyjama Day' on the last day of term to raise yet more money for Children in Need. What a great bunch!

Sport and Fitness



Congratulations to Brendan Rouse, our School Sports Coordinator. He was awarded a well-deserved gold medal by the Bath Chronicle for his work in developing sport in the area.

Football



Please note our beautiful new kit. This was kindly bought together with some useful equipment by Henni Howard following fundraising. Henni asked her Café Raft customers to contribute and they gave generously! Our team took part in the Bath and Keynsham Y5/6 Tournament on November at the Glasshouse Fields and played very well and were the Small Schools Winner.

Carol Service

We hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed the Christmas Service. Well done to the instrumentalists who started the service off. Well done to all the actors in Class One, narrators and all the children who sang so beautifully. Ms Johnson did an excellent job preparing the music and conducting the songs. We will miss Ms Johnson during her sabbatical in the New Year!

Performing Arts

Stage Stars



Well done to Matty and Lizzie Wylie and to Edward Cook who star in Wessex Water's Christmas rap with some other young people from the Curtain Up school. It's a fun message encouraging us to avoid putting fat down our sinks. It's on YouTube, and has 22 likes so far!

Edward Cook and Sophie Francis are taking part in 'The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe' in January. We wish them all the best!



School Council Grant Application

We were very pleased to hear that the School Council's application for £100 for a Good Ideas Grant about Anti-Bullying has been successful.

The grant was awarded by the B&NES Anti-Bullying Strategy Group for an idea which involved each class having a treasure chest, and gems being added to the chest for an especially kind action by a class member, with skull and crossbones for less positive actions. Each class now has £20 with which to create their treasure chest.

School & Community

Friends of Bathampton

Winter Warmers



On the first day of this term the Friends organised a friendly 'get-together' event. There were hot dogs and hot chocolate and a Guy competition.



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 Sally Hedges for her work on the School Calendar. The Christmas events raised a grand total of over £1000

Discos



The Friends also put on two discos one for the younger, and one for the older children. DJ Stuart was impressed by the children's energy and moves!

We also appreciated the Friends' provision of mince pies and tea after the Christmas Service on Wednesday 19th December.

Thanks to the Friends for all they do for the school. They are amazing!

What's for Tea? Cookery competition



I am very pleased to announce that the Noble Family has been picked as one of the winning families in the 'What's For Tea' prize draw, winning £100 worth of shopping vouchers. Lots of families took part and it is a real pleasure to see the photos on display. Some great cooks of the future!

Diary Dates

Friday 21st December End of Term 2

Monday 7th January Start of Term 3

Monday 3rd June INSET Day 4

July

Friday 19th End of Term 6 for children

Monday 22nd INSET Day 5

All term dates available online

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

We hope that everyone has a chance to recharge their batteries this holiday!

It would be appreciated if children started their earlier bedtimes **before** the term begins so that the children come back ready to hit the ground running ready for the spring term.

For Sale: Tag-a-long "Trail-A-Bike" for sale. £80 with 20% proceeds going to the Friends of Bathampton. Bought in 2008 but never used so it is like brand new (with manual) but not in box. If interested please contact Suzy Lovegrove on 07908 008672.

Happy Christmas and New Year from all the staff

