

Bathampton Primary School
Together on a learning adventure



Start of Term letter
Term One 2013

Dear Parents

I hope you have enjoyed the lovely sunny summer!

A special welcome to the new families starting this term. This year has been a special one with families joining us from across the world, giving the school a more international flavour. We hope that the new families will feel welcome and enjoy being part of our school community.

The children seem to be settling very well! Please let your child's class teacher or teaching assistant know if your child has any problems; most can be sorted out quickly.

We welcome Shelby Knudson from Skidmore College in the USA who is studying with Advanced Studies in England and who will be with Class Four every Tuesday until November 27th.

We also welcome Stefani Räbsamen and Manuela Schumacher who are German trainee teachers, based in Switzerland, who will be with us for three weeks.

Last summer parent Hayley Symonds finished as a lunchtime supervisor. She was a warm and friendly member of the staff team and will be missed. We are now recruiting for another SMSA to cover each lunchtime: the advert is online.

Induction Meetings Coming up!

Class teachers are keen to give parents an opportunity to find out details about class routines and learning goals. We hope that you will be able to attend one of the two sessions which have been organised for each class. The times and dates have been sent home. If you have not received a letter please ask at the office.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will be at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 7th October at St Nicholas Church. We encourage children to bring in non-perishable food items for Julian House. All families are welcome to attend!

Improvements

During the holiday Site Manager Mike Ball has done an excellent job of refurbishing Class Three, and made many other changes around the school.

The Discovery Room (formerly the IT Suite) is slowly being transformed into an interesting space in which to learn and find out about our amazing world. The School Council will be working with Helen Sheppard to develop ideas for the room. Incidentally, if anyone is able to source a nearly new set of encyclopaedias please let us know. The newer the better, but they would have to be less than five years old.

The Reception class has a new wooden fence that both enhances and encloses their outdoor play space. Many thanks to Emma Naysmith for her work in gaining funding and planning this improvement.

If you have gardening and design skills, or are willing to push a wheelbarrow we are keen to develop 'The Quiet Garden' in the field. We want to create a peaceful space where children can relax, reflect and engage in imaginative play. Details soon to follow!

Governing Body

We currently have a place available for another parent governor. If you are interested in serving in this role please ask at the School Office for the relevant papers. It is a role for a parent who is established in the school, and ready to serve the wider school community.

Key dates for the Autumn Terms

Please note class induction sessions for parents in the diary dates

Friday 11th October INSET Day 3

Friday 25th October End of Term 1

Monday 4th November Start of Term 2 for children

Marathon cycle ride



This summer Florian Madigan cycled nearly 200 miles to Brighton in just 5 days. Accompanied by his father, Brian Madigan, Florian chose this year to raise funds for the Bath Cats and Dogs home at Claverton Down. The pair hope to beat their target of £500 for the Cats & Dogs home and invite anyone who would like to make a donation to do so via the [web](http://www.justgiving.com/FlorianMadigan) at: <http://www.justgiving.com/FlorianMadigan>

Holiday Diaries

Thanks to all the families who have brought in a holiday diary. This year has brought a bumper crop of diaries. It has been a real pleasure to see these and to share some very happy times. I suspect that many will be treasured for years to come!

Usual reminders

Uniform

We would be grateful if all parents could ensure that their child is dressed in the correct uniform. We enclose a uniform letter as a reminder.

Children need coats, as well as their wellies and trainers in school **every day** for playtime and outdoor lessons. P.E kit is also needed every school day.

Naming items

By the very nature of school uniform, one sweatshirt looks very much like another. Name tags **are essential** for these and other uniform items. It is helpful if lunchboxes, water bottles and book bags are also clearly named.

Being in sight

Could the parents of the Reception children in particular ensure that they are close to the gate at end of school times, to be clearly visible for handover

Time keeping

As usual it is worth emphasising that the school doors open at **8.40 a.m.**

All children need to arrive by 8.45 a.m. to give them time to hang up coats and get organised **before** 8.50 a.m. when registers are taken.

Snacks

We strongly promote healthy snacks such as fruit. Chocolate and sweets are not allowed, and I ask for your co-operation regarding this. Reception and KS1 children will continue to receive their free fruit and vegetables at morning break and we are keen for KS2 children to set a good example and continue this habit. We are also asking that children having birthdays or returning from holidays do not bring in sweets as a gift to the class as this conflicts with our Healthy Schools Plus status.

Keep drinking water

Drinking sufficient water helps children to learn and it helps them to stay happy. Replacement bottles are available from the school shop at the bargain cost of £1.50 per bottle. The bottles should be taken home each day, re-filled with fresh water, and brought in the next day. Please note that squash or juice is not to be brought in.

Car Parking

We encourage children to walk to school wherever possible. If it is not possible to walk the full journey, please use the car park at The George and walk from there, to reduce congestion outside the school.

Listening to your children read

Children who do really well at school almost always have parents who **listen to them read** and who **read to them** daily or near daily! This makes a really significant difference to their academic achievements, and outcomes. It is much harder for children to succeed if this is not happening at home regularly.

We are establishing the reading routines as quickly as possible and would be grateful for your patience while we do so. Volunteers to help listen to children read in school are always very welcome!

Friends Dates

Please watch out for Friends' dates. The first meeting is on Friday 20th September in The Learning Zone at 9.00a.m. Everyone welcome!

Kenyan Schools

Last Easter I travelled to see my son in Kenya and visited some local schools. A friend of mine is hoping to collect books for some of the less well-resourced schools. She asks if we could:

- Donate any children's books we have – either old ones or people could even buy new ones. Places like 'The Book People' do amazing offers. There are also places like The Book Barn that have loads of cheap second hand books or you may just have books at home that you no longer need. You can put them in a box in school. Mid October is the deadline.
- We need to raise £750 to ship the books. If anyone would like to donate some money, raise some money or suggest some ways that we could raise some money in such a short amount of time, we'd be very grateful.

Message from Ms Johnson

Thanks to the children, staff, parents and governors for contributing in so many ways to my memorable farewell events. Our living room has resembled a shrine with bunting, cards and letters, memory books and photos taking pride of place. Brian's song has also been played on occasions when friends and family members have gathered here at our home.

I have been very touched by the kind comments in cards and the memory book and I am most grateful for the sizeable cheque which was presented to me at the end-of-term assembly. It has gone a long way towards enabling me to buy a Swarovski angled telescope (top of the range – after all this is a gift for life!). The 'scope has already proved invaluable during recent visits to nature reserves: the powerful magnification enables viewing of birds which would barely be visible to the naked eye. I am hoping also

to develop more insight into the wonders of the Night Sky by using the 'scope here at home.

Life has been very busy since the end of last term; the diary is filling up fast! I look forward to seeing you occasionally in school in between my trips away, both here and abroad.

May this academic year be a good one for you all.

Kind regards

Ms Johnson

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Diary Dates

September

Monday 16th Brendan Rouse: daily physical activity training

& Class Six Induction Session for Parents 9.00 a.m.

Tuesday 17th School Council changeover

Violin lessons and Orchestra starts

Class Four and Five Induction Session for Parents 2.30-3.00 p.m.

Wednesday 18th Cello, Clarinet, Flute & Recorder lessons start

Bath Rugby sessions

Class Two, Three, Four and Six Induction Session for Parents 2.30 - 3.00 p.m.

Thursday 19th Classes Two, Three, and Five Induction Sessions for Parents 9.00 a.m.

Celt Forest School session for Class Four

Friday 20th Friends Meeting in Learning Zone 9.00 a.m.

Monday 23rd All Reception children in morning only until 12.05

First New School Council Meeting

Tuesday 24th Library 'Creepy House' Certificates to be shared in assembly

Wednesday 25th Classes Five and Six to Admiral Arthur Phillips Service @ St Nicholas

Friday 27th Class Four to Solsbury Hill (Meet Alice Park 9.15 a.m.)

Monday 30th Reception children stay to lunch

September Swimming starts for Year 6

Forest School for Year 5

October

Tuesday 1st School Photographer: individual portraits/families

Friday 4th Open Morning for prospective parents 9.15 for 9.30 start

Monday 7th Harvest Festival 9.30 @ St Nicholas

& Reception Optional full week

Friday 11th INSET Day 3

Monday 14th Parent / teacher interview sign up lists up

Tuesday 15th French Visit (not Limetree school)

Governors' Meeting 7.15- 9.00pm

Class One Induction Sessions for Parents 2.30-3.00 p.m.

Wednesday 16th Year Two Football Festival @ St Marks

Thursday 17th Class One Induction Sessions for

Parents 2.10-3.00 p.m.

Friday 18th Ted's Big Day Out (Wigs)

Tuesday 22nd Year 5 & 6 Football Tournament @ St Marks 3.13 p.m.

Friday 25th End of Term 1

November

Monday 4th Start of Term 2

& Parent/ Teacher interview fortnight.

Wednesday 6th 'Fairytale & Fables' Workshops for Classes One, Two and Three

Thursday 28th Class Six to Ashmolean Museum Oxford

December

Wednesday 11th KS1 Christmas Service (Classes One, Two and Three) time TBC

Governors' Meeting 7.15 p.m.

Friday 13th Class Two Party

Monday 16th Class Four Party

Tuesday 17th Class One Party

Wednesday 18th KS2 Christmas service (Classes Four, Five & Six) time TBC

Thursday 19th Class Three, Five & Six Party

Friday 20th End of Term 2

Other term dates to be updated from last year

January 2013

Monday 6th Start of Term 3

Friday 31st INSET Day 4

February

Friday 14th End of Term 3

Monday 24th Start of Term 4

April

Friday 4th End of Term 4

Tuesday 22nd Start of Term 5

May

Monday 5th May Day

Friday 23rd End of Term 5

June

Monday 2nd INSET Day 5

Tuesday 3rd Children start Term 6

Monday 9th Ironbridge Residential (Years 5 & 6) back Wed. 11th

July

Tuesday 22nd End of Term 6 for children

All term dates available online

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

