



Christmas Fair



Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

There will be a few families joining us after the holiday, and we will look forward to welcoming some new children to the school.

We are saying goodbye to Matty Wylie this term. We will be sad to see him go and we wish him every success at Kingswood School.

2013 KS2 SATs

We are delighted to see that the school is so well placed in the 2013 B&NES league tables where we were first for Level 4+, as well as appearing in the top 100 Primary Schools in the country. As you know we aim for children to enjoy their learning adventure and to be challenged academically so it is very encouraging when they are happy in school and academically successful.

Every Lesson Counts

Keeping standards high is something that takes effort on every front and we know that we need to improve our attendance. The law only allows head teachers to give permission for term time holidays *in exceptional circumstances*.

There is a strong link between attendance and how well children do at school especially when a holiday is taken at the start of the year or of a term and we want all children to succeed at school.

In the New Year the Governors' Teaching, Learning and Standards committee will be deliberating on exactly what constitutes an exceptional circumstance, but are clear that although we all love cheaper flights, they are not an adequate reason for a child to miss key lessons.

We would also encourage all families to be committed and consistent in reading together with children as this is **the** key passport to success in school.

Well done and many thanks to the amazing Friends team who organised the Fair; to those helpful people who worked behind the scenes arranging stalls and prizes; to those who ran stalls; to those who stayed to clear up and not least to everyone who came and supported the event by parting with their money.



Thanks to Father Christmas for taking the time to visit us in Bathampton. This photo also puts paid to the long standing rumour that Mr Falkus IS Father Christmas.

Carol Service



We hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed the two Christmas Services. This was the first time that we have had two services and it enabled us to have a delightful KS1 nativity called 'The Breakfast' and a dramatic KS2 production' called 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw'.

The youngest children coped really well with their new responsibilities and everyone had a moment to shine. Well done also to the musicians who started the KS2 service off. Well done to all the actors, narrators and all the children who sang so beautifully.

Many thanks to the wonderful Friends team

If you go down to the woods today you may
well find.... Class One

Class One have done lots of outdoor learning
in their Woodland topic.



The children have made natural art in the
style of Andy Goldsworthy and learnt about
collecting data as we searched for all the
things Scaredy Squirrel is frightened of.

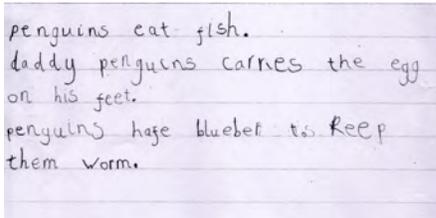


Class One also made Christmas biscuits and
found them hanging on the trees.



Class Two & Frozen Lands

Class Two have been learning about the
Frozen Lands. They have been investigating
which solids freeze when put in the freezer.
They have also learnt about penguins. Here
are some things Afon Edwards would like you
to know about them.



You can see that he is making a superb effort
to get his letters the right size and keep the
letters on the line. Once this has been
achieved children are awarded Handwriting
Milestone Two.

In the recent handwriting audit Mrs Clarke
and I were able to award some 'Gold
Standard' Awards. This involves putting a
gold Head teacher's award on the front of a
book, and means that there is consistently
excellent presentation throughout the book.
We are encouraging all children to aim
towards this eventually, but recognise that it

Pens

We have noticed the difference a good pen
makes and one that has helped quite a few
children improve their handwriting is the Pilot
Frixion pen. This also allows them to make
corrections easily. We are now giving this as
the award for achieving Milestone Three but it
is available in town and online

Class Three's Friendship Ingredients



Class Three have been thinking about the
ingredients that are required to create a
friendship.

Theo's recipe included;

'Whisking in humongous dollops of laughter
Stirring in a spoonful of helpfulness'
And finally mixing in a 'small spoon of love
and then bringing it to the boil very slowly'.

Class Three at Dry Arch



At the end of last term Class Three went on a
trip to the Dry Arch. Children enjoyed
harvesting pumpkins and squash, apple
picking and feeding the pigs. They also baked
some delicious flat bread in the traditional
stone oven.



We are so lucky to have this amazing space to
explore and to learn about growing food.
Thanks to all the hard working volunteers

Class Four Assembly



Class Four gave a superb Celts and Romans assembly on 29th November. It gave a really helpful overview of the historical period and the children clearly enjoyed re-enacting some of the battles between the Celts and the Romans.

Class Four Poems about Boudicca

Class Four have been inspired by Boudicca, queen of the Iceni tribe who led an uprising against the Romans. They wrote some excellent poems and here are some lines from two..

Olivia

'Boudicca was like a clap of thunder racing towards her enemies,
Boudicca was like a scream coming from the sky,
She was a wolf howling for her enemies.'

Isabelle

'She was like spring waking the hibernating earth,
A metal torch shining and rattling in the wind'

These capture the warlike spirit of the queen very effectively!

Class Five at Bristol Zoo



Last month Class Five visited Bristol Zoo as part of their Topic work on Creepy Crawlies.

Children worked in groups exploring the Bug Hut and the Reptile Zone and enjoyed seeing plenty of the creepy crawlies they have been

favourite bugs and made notes which inspired them to give some superb presentations when they returned to school.

As part of the trip Class Five visited the Education Centre and had a fascinating talk from one of the zoo representatives; those who wanted to were able to hold a hissing cockroach and study various leaf insects up close.

Class Five had an excellent day applying what they have been learning about in the classroom and seeing some furry friends in action

Class Six go to Oxford



'Recently Class Six went on to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to take part in a collection of workshops based on the agora. After a tiresome coach journey they dived into a wondrous lesson about Greek currency. Laurie was amazed that they used animals as currency as well as coins. They also learned about Greek household items where they were able to hold real objects.'



After lunch they were allowed to roam the museum freely, although their main topic was the Ancient Greeks they also saw lots of other attractions such as a suit of Samurai armour along with some scary weapons. There were also many musical instruments as well as a massive collection of china from around the world'.

Bathampton @ Bath Abbey



It was a delight to participate in the schools Carol Service at Bath Abbey. It always marks the start of Christmas for those of us who are lucky enough to be able to attend. Well done to the children in Years Five and Six who sang really well. The Abbey is an inspiring space in which to spend time and sing.

Stage Stars



On 8th November Shean Bowers Assistant Director of Music and Choral Director for Schools from Bath Abbey came and auditioned our Year Four and Five boys for the Bath Abbey choir. It was a little bit like X Factor with six boys identified as potentially having the right sort of voice for choral singing. Edward, Noah, Ben Nicholson, Beaujan and Laurie were invited for a further audition at the Abbey.



The Arts

Whole school art morning



On Thursday 12th December Mrs Hoskins encouraged the whole school to produce Christmas decorations. KS2 had a go at making free standing Christmas trees out of card and paper. KS1 children made hanging decorations. She wanted the children to see what they can achieve using mainly recycled

Film makers come to Bathampton Primary



On the 29th of November Film Director Otto Bathurst came into Class Six to talk to the children about how he makes films and television shows and what is needed. The children found out lots of interesting facts about how they perform film stunts and all the costumes that are made in order to make a film.

Otto's recent work included the popular and acclaimed series 'Peaky Blinders'.

A couple of weeks later, on the 9th December, Trevelyan Oliver, who is a professional film camera man, came to talk about filming. Again Class Six found it very fascinating as they will be doing their own stop animations in class next term. Trevelyan has worked on programmes such as 'Outnumbered', 'Holby City' and 'Jonathan Creek'.

They really enjoyed having this opportunity to talk to film makers and loved watching small clips of stunts.

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 thirty one boxes which have been sent abroad to children in need. It's hard for us in the UK to imagine what these boxes must mean to those who receive them, but we hope they know that families across the world have

Sport and Fitness

Football



On 14th October our Y5/6 team took part in the Bath and Keynsham School Sport Association 7-a-side Tournament at The Sulis Club and played very well in five games emerging as the Small Schools Winner.

The Men of the Match were Jamie Bowditch for his determined defence and goal keeper Florian Madigan who made some outstanding saves.



On 26th October we played Batheaston Primary School away. This was their first game for some years and we look forward to many more games. We were impressed not just by their team, but by their supporters who were willing to clap Bathampton achievements. We hope to be equally sporting.

Well done to all of the team and especially to Tom who scored two goals and to Oliver who was on fire and scored four.



On Tuesday 12th December our Year 3/4 team also played away against Batheaston. Surprising there was an identical score with Rowan and Beaujan both scoring two goals and Cameron and Joe one each. There are some very strong players in this team and we

What's For Tea Cookery competition



Lots of families took part in the 'What's for Tea' competition and it is a real pleasure to see the photos on display. Cooking together is a great way to create memories as well as meals. It is also superb for incidental learning about instructional writing (recipes), science (the way ingredients change when mixed and at certain temperatures) for the practical maths involved!

Stars of the Stage

Well done to Evie Humphries and Harriet Naysmith who recently took part in a 'Curtain Up' production of 'Anna and the Red Trainers'.

Noah Richardson is taking part in 'Peter Pan' at The Theatre Royal in Bath. Well done Noah!

Ursula Franks, Edward Cook, Lizzie and Matty Wylie are all taking part a 'Curtain Up' production of 'The Little Mermaid' at the Mission Theatre during the February holiday.

Discovery additions



We recently benefitted from a very generous gift of £50 in Waterstones vouchers from Mogers Solicitors! Mogers support Ted's Big Day Out, and ran a competition linked to this. A lot of our children took part and as a reward we got the gift token. The children enjoyed taking part anyway so this was a real bonus. We are currently turning our I.C.T Suite into 'The Discovery Room' which is a resource room that encourages children to find out about our amazing world; and with the vouchers we were able to get two superb encyclopaedias for the room.

I am also really grateful to Katie Sugg's parents, James and Nicola, who have

Books for Kenya

Thanks to everyone who gave books for Kenya. The team who organised this were able to send sixty eight boxes of books to Turi in Kenya. £1,200 had been raised for books and their transportation. A superb result for the schools who will be receiving a great collection of books for their libraries.

Ex Pupil



Here is ex-pupil Charlie Howard in his Millfield kit. His team were runners up in a big tournament in Lilles, France and he is holding the trophy they received. Charlie is always held up as an example of determination and I am sure that this is one reason why scouts from Bristol Rugby Club have recently expressed an interest in him.

Diary Dates

December

Friday 20th End of Term 2

January 2013

Monday 6th Start of Term 3

Friday 17th New Parents Coffee Morning 9.00 a.m.

Monday 20th 3 Trainee teachers from Catalonia start 3 week visit

Friday 31st INSET Day 4

February

Friday 14th Friend's Valentine Cake Sale 3.15 p.m.

& End of Term 3

Monday 24th Start of Term 4

Friday 28th Friends' Quiz Night

March

April

Friday 4th End of Term 4

Tuesday 22nd Start of Term 5

May

Monday 5th May Day

Monday 12th KS2 SATs Week. Children must be in school

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

N.B. Our website is having a make-over so currently off line! Watch this space!

Finally a festive touch with some children in Class Four making Christmas Shortbread.



Happy Christmas and New Year from all the staff!



