



Term One Newsletter 2015
Together on a learning adventure

Dear Parents and Friends,
I hope that you are enjoying the variable October weather.

Congratulations to Clare and Neil Turner on the safe arrival of Mack, a brother for Noah and Beth.

Changes

A warm welcome to Cathryn MacDougall who has been appointed as our new Finance Officer. Cathryn will be starting on 4th November. Cathryn is an experienced Finance Officer who has been working at Churchfields, The Village School, in Melksham.

New Governors

We are also pleased to welcome the new parents onto the governing body. The new governors are James Nash, Cheryl Cook and Mark Nicholson. Liz Owen and Jenny Franks will be joining us as associate governors on the Committee for Teaching, Learning and Standards and Premises respectively. It's always good to get a broad range of people to bring new skills and insights, to highlight issues and to help the school improve. Thanks to everyone who voted in the election.

Our First Term



It's been a real pleasure to see how well the new Reception children have settled into the school and how proud we are of them. They are getting on really well with their Year Six buddies so a special thank you to the buddies as they have been brilliant! Some parents have commented on how perfectly the reception class children have been

matched up with the Year 6's - getting their characters or lifestyles or needs matched up.

New School Council



Our newly elected School Council made an enthusiastic start as they gathered for their first meeting on Tuesday 22nd September.

New Rooms

The staff and children are enjoying the new 'breakout' or additional small group teaching spaces that were created over the summer. Here are some photos of the rooms in use.



This new room is in the upper School House and is mainly used by Class Five and Six.

It has a superb view of the bridge and Bathampton Down but the children are usually too busy to notice.



This new room is in what was the Discovery Room and is mainly used by Class One and Two.



Since the summer changes the whole school are able to enjoy assemblies together again. This assembly was taken by Jonty Frith supported by the youth worker Dan Mak.

Reception



Reception have been enjoying using the parachute in the playground. It's a great way to learn to co-operate and we have been so impressed by the sensible and mature approach of the new children.



It's great to see the new children getting to know each other.

Class One's Traffic Survey



As part of their Going Places topic, Class One have been learning how to cross the road safely,

reading and writing instructions with 'bossy' words. Here they are putting the advice into practice, looking and listening as they cross the road outside school.



The children then recorded the number of vehicles passing through Bathampton by completing a traffic survey. It was interesting to consider where all the cars were heading whilst we are usually in school!

Class Two

This term in Class Two our topic has been 'Heroes and Superheroes'!



We have enjoyed researching Florence Nightingale and have found out some amazing things about her life.

Josh "Florence Nightingale was known as the Lady of the lamp because she walked four miles every night in the hospital with a lamp and sat down with the soldiers and held their hands"

Mathilda "Florence Nightingale saved lives and was a real life super hero."

Emmanuel "Florence Nightingale didn't give up, she wanted to do something and she never let it go".

Jake "Florence Nightingale set up a nurses training hospital."

Interviewing our School Nurse

We also had a visit from a real life nurse. Clare Squires is our School Nurse and she often comes in to teach lessons.



Noah "We learnt that medicine needs to be kept higher than us. If you see a pin on the ground do not pick it up"

Tilly "We did some acting and people came up to the front and pretended to be a nurse, it was funny"

It is worth mentioning that Clare Squires is a very experienced and capable School Nurse who is always willing to meet with parents to discuss any medical or personal issues that arise in family life. Her advice is always worth hearing!

Class Three



Class Three have been busy writing stories about a canal walk.

'With the magic stone safely tucked in her pocket Martha crossed the stone bridge and started to walk up Dark Lane. It was dark and gloomy and she could hear the wind howling behind her.' (Alice and Ursula)

'Alex was a minute away from those scrumptious apples. Soon enough the minute passed and Alex walked into the Orchard and met the farmer. The farmer asked "What have you got in that bag?" "Some chocolate," said Alex. "Can I have some chocolate if you don't mind, I'm actually feeling a bit peckish and in return you can pick some apples" (Jack)

We have also been trying to use some fabulous adjectives...

'Inside there were comfy beds and stunning kitchens with all sorts of gleaming cups and plates' Daragh

Peter ran and picked up the tastiest crunchiest apple he had ever seen.' Noah Marton

In the hedge she saw delicious blue blackberries, huge dark green stinging nettles and tall oak trees above his head (Grace)

We have also been using powerful verbs, adverbs and similes.

Peter rushed along the canal like a bullet. (Wilf)

Peter stared at granny's cottage like it was an ancient temple (Oliver)

Peter calmly walked along the canal like a camel (Saul)

Making fossils



We have also been learning about how fossils are created. To help us understand the process we made our own!



Class Three have also had some terrific hockey coaching from Wilf's mum. So Mrs Wood would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of Class Three.

Class Four on their new laptops

Class Four have written the articles below using the new school laptops. Some of these refer to the Saxon theme that the children are studying in History.



On Friday afternoon something exciting takes place in Class Four... We get to go on the cool new laptops.

We usually go on 'web learner' where we get to make an awesome website each. You can make links to your website, make the letters coloured and add detailed pictures to your website. It's very exciting going on the laptops.

By Mateo and George

Forest School



First, all of the class sang a song as sweet as a bird song. The song was called 'When Mary goes walking.' After the song, we all went to pick up lots and lots of litter. Next Lara unexpectedly found a cute dying bat under a rock. The whole class wanted to see the bat. After that, they all started chatting and laughing. Next, we weaved the bendy flexible willow sticks. Finally we squished the red juicy grape berries. The Anglo Saxons squished summer berries too.

By Chelsea and Faith

Sutton Hoo



Burial Site

There was a special helmet that made your voice boom, like you are the king of the underworld. This was the only helmet like it, in the world. Also there

was a purse containing thirty seven gold coins that dated back to the Anglo Saxon time. This discovery was by Basil Brown and he also found a boat imprint, and a dead body.

While Basil Brown was excavating he saw one mound was bigger than the rest, so they excavated that one.

Here's a little paragraph Laurence wrote about Sutton Hoo imagining he is an archaeologist.

I've just been hired to do the digging at Sutton Hoo, I'm extremely determined and worried... Confidently, I gave out lots of instructions. All of a sudden, Richard said "I've found something!" I run over as I say, "That's the first find of the day."

By Theo and Laurence

Glockenspiels

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends we now have a complete set of thirty glockenspiels, and these tuned instruments are a very important addition to our music resources. We also use a superb online resource called Charanga which brings music lessons to life with a huge library of musical lessons and a wide range of genres of recorded music from blues to classical.



In music we did Mamma Mia on the Glockenspiels. It was great fun, we did the high and low G as well as singing. In the first lesson we did it in sections. If you play an instrument Charanga helps you with the notes and beat. First learn the song. Next get a Glockenspiel and have a play on the high G, After that, play it with the beat of the song. It goes a bit like this 1...2...3...4 1...2...3...4. We were taught this by Miss Corcoran.

By Katie and Miles

Class Five have been writing poems in class.

Here is one written at home by Bea. It is based on a story she read in the holiday.

Light

In the forest, you will find
A clear heart, and a clear mind.

Thy set a stone, to mark the place
As delicate as lace.

When the sun and moon make friends
When all war and fighting ends.

I will come to you and dream with you
Until thy bond is broken.

Beatrice Richens, August 2015, age 9

Rugby Session



For four weeks Fran, from Bath Rugby visited and coached Class Five. Maria has written about the sessions and also taken time to interview the coach.

On Wednesday's year five and six have been playing Tag Rugby. Our coach is called Fran. The first thing she taught us was a defensive line. On Friday 25th September it really worked for England in the Rugby World Cup.

After most of us saw that, it gave us hope that in our rugby lessons it would work. We have learnt tag rugby, because we are not allowed to do contact rugby. In tag rugby there are two teams like usual, but you have two tags stuck to the side of you. Your opponents have to try and pull the tags off the person with the ball. If they get your tag, you have to pass backwards not forward. We would all encourage you to get off your sofa, turn off the TV and play a sport.

To get answers from a professional I did an interview with Fran and here's what she said:

" I was seven when I started playing rugby. My brother was playing rugby and then I went to watch him and decided that I wanted to do it. When I was younger my favourite rugby player was Jason Robinson. Also my favourite position to play is prop, but when I was younger I played centre. I used to play basketball, netball, rounders and athletics.

My job in rugby is to throw people up and that's why I have to be strong. I work full time in the rugby community. My dad is a boxer, my brother plays rugby, my sister plays basketball and my mum is an occupational therapist.

Anyone can play, even if you've never touched a rugby ball before it doesn't matter."

Now you have an idea about how Fran got inspired and I hope it has inspired you.

Interview by Maria Maylor

Class Six Forest School



In Class Six we have been doing forest school with Tania Orgill. We have learned how to weave and plant willow, we have also been making Viking bread and butter.

It's a brilliant experience to be able to go outdoors and learn with an expert and we all feel lucky to have this amazing opportunity.

The handmade Viking bread we made tasted great, especially with those crunchy sunflower seeds. We also made a cup of tea outside for Mrs Edmund with a Kelly kettle which she enjoyed with the Viking bread.

Before we begin our sessions with Tania we sit around a table with seasonal and topical decorations and sometimes with a song.

The equipment we use is safe in all ways and has cases for sharp tools and an adult is always nearby and on hand.

We are looking forward to our next session with Tania and hoping that it will be as fun the last. By Sophie and Inigo.

Admiral Arthur Phillips



On 12th October the children in Class Five and Six attended the annual service in St Nicholas Church for Admiral Arthur Phillips, the first Governor of New South Wales, effectively the founder of Australia. His Excellency The Honourable Alexander Downer, High Commissioner for Australia, gave a interesting talk about the admiral.

The service is a unique annual event and one of the many things that makes the school the special place it is. We are grateful to Leyanne Provera for a kind gift of a book of photographs. It's called Australia: The Journey and is by Steve Parish.

School Families and School Houses

All children have had the opportunity to meet with their School Family and School House this term. This is a special aspect of school life for children at Bathampton, which helps to foster caring relationships across year groups.

The children are proudly collecting house points for helpful, community minded acts. This is a new system which we hope to develop further in future.

Harvest Festival

We enjoyed our Harvest service on Tuesday 6th October. Every class contributed and in the course of the service we focused on weather.

I am grateful to Pat Heynes of Foodbank who came in and told the children about families who really do need the help of Foodbank to cope during tough times. Thanks to everyone who has given food for this charity.

Healthy Snacks and lunches

Could we ask parents to provide a healthy snack for morning break for KS2 pupils: fresh fruit or vegetables are preferred. Other alternatives such as cream crackers, rice cakes and bread sticks could also be brought in.

We are also keen that children learn to eat a healthy and balanced diet and would encourage parents to carefully consider food in packed lunches. We understand that we will be receiving advice about this soon which we will pass on.

Shoebboxes

As in previous years we are going to be collecting Christmas shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child. These will be sent to children who are less fortunate than we are. Families might like to start collecting small toys, toiletries and stationary during the holiday that could be put into a shoe box. Further details will come after the October break.

The All Stars Clubs

The Late Pick-Up club, our newest addition to the wrap-around care (The All Stars Clubs)

provided by the school, started operation on 12th October. Run by Vicky O'Brien, the club operates Monday to Thursday from 3:15 to 4:15 taking over the one-hour slot that was provided by After School Club.

There are some spaces available at Late Pick-Up Club on Monday and Thursday.

The waiting list for After School Club was extensive – the list has now been drastically reduced. There may even be a few spaces!

Further details (including booking and registration forms and club handbook) are available from the website or from the school office.

Parking Letter from a Parent

I had the following email from a parent and thought it worth repeating.

One concern/observation I have is the amount of parent/carers who park on Church Close, reversing back up it, in the vicars space and even on the corner with the double yellow lines but most of all parking across the crossing/dipped pavements, both opposite the school and church close.

I sometimes walk from the village and sometimes drive, so I get to see both sides. When I drive I have parked in the George car park always....With varying combinations of scenario, starting school, being heavily pregnant pushing a buggy, pushing a buggy one handed whilst holding reins/hand of a toddler, having to wake/transfer a sleeping baby/child, carrying a toddler in mid-tantrum, all whilst watching out for two more, whether it be in the pouring rain or whether I have to rush off to make it in time for a child's swimming lesson, and although difficult at times I have always felt that the safety of our community's children has a far greater importance than any difficult aspect of my families routines and daily issues.

As a head I am very grateful to **every** parent who puts our children's safety first by parking in The George Car Park and walking instead of driving into Tynning Road where families are trying to cross. It's two minutes longer but a great chance to meet other parents and contribute to the school community.

Can you help?

We are very keen to recruit more 'Better Reading Partner' volunteers. This reading programme for individual children has had a dramatic impact on children's confidence and skill at reading. The idea is for an adult to offer consistent support to an individual child for a sustained period of time. The commitment is three times per week for ten weeks if possible but two sessions per week for fifteen weeks would be possible. If you are interested please speak to Mrs Cox or Mrs Kelley. We can arrange another training session after the half-term holiday.

Helpers needed! Could you help with reading or cooking? Even thirty mins a week would be helpful but half a day would be amazing!

Job Opportunities!

We are keen to recruit a S.M.S.A and a Crossing Patrol Officer. Please look online.

Diary Dates

November

Monday 2nd Start of Term 2

& Swimming starts for Class Five

& Start of Parent/ teacher interview fortnight

Wednesday 4th Reception Forest School a.m.

Thursday 5th Class Two to Dry Arch

Friday 6th Guys & Friends Bonfire 3.15 p.m.

& Football Match v Coombe Down @ Home

Monday 9th Football Team to Tournament @ Odd Down 12.00 -3.30 p.m. Parent help appreciated!

Tuesday 10th Class Three Cycling starts

Wednesday 11th Reception and Year Two Gym Coach starts

Thursday 12th Class Three to Dry Arch

Friday 13th Class Six to @Bristol

Monday 16th Road Safety Week

December

Wednesday 9th Christmas Service KS1 2.00 p.m.

& Governors Meeting 7.15 p.m.

Thursday 10th Reception and Class One to Snow Mouse @ The Egg

Friday 11th Friends' Christmas Event 3.15 p.m.

Monday 14th Class Three Party

Tuesday 15th Reception Party

Wednesday 16th Christmas service KS2 1.45 p.m.

& Class One and Class Two Party

Thursday 17th Class Four Party

Friday 18th Class Five & Six Party

& End of Term 2

January

Monday 4th Start of Term 3

All term dates available online

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar

Key Dates

Monday 2nd November Children return

Wednesday 9th December 2.00 p.m.
Christmas Service Reception, Year One & Two

Wednesday 16th December 1.45 p.m.
Christmas Service Years Three, Four, Five and Six

