



Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to you and your families! I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Before the holiday we were encouraging the children to help out at home and to be appreciative and I hope that this was noticeable!

### Christmas Morning



Well done to Rebecca in Class Six who sang in the 'Christmas Eucharist at Bath Abbey' which was broadcast live on BBC 1 on Christmas morning. Rebecca was in the Melody Makers choir run by Shean Bowers and they sang beautifully.

Rebecca said that she found it a bit nerve-racking having cameras swooping around but overall it was a really enjoyable once in a lifetime experience.



**Big Schools'  
Birdwatch**  
4 Jan-12 Feb 2016

Following the success of our bird count for the RSPB Big School's Birdwatch last year Class Four and Five will take part in this year's bird count during this term. Bathampton School grounds offer the perfect habitat for birds and last year 19 different species were recorded. If any parents would be happy to help with this fun, one hour outdoor activity then please get in touch with Tania for details [tania@playwoodforestschoool.co.uk](mailto:tania@playwoodforestschoool.co.uk)

Remember you can also count the wildlife in your own garden with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which takes place on 30<sup>st</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January - just go to the RSPB website to request your free pack and find out how to take part.



### Siblings starting School

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 he or she is able to start school in September 2016. In order that your child can be considered for entry to school during the school year 2016/2017, you must submit your application by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**If you have a child who is due to start school then please ensure you have applied for a place.**

### Fish & Chips Day



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January** is Census Day and we will be having a Fish and Chips meal at lunchtime. We will have Fish and Chips in a novelty box followed by a cookie.

The school benefits if a lot of children have a meal as the census affects our school dinner funding. So far families have really gone for this and it has made a huge difference to us. As always it is completely voluntary so please don't worry if your child prefers sandwiches.

### Partnership

A school is only as good as the people in the school community and we want to be as effective as we can be.

Children benefit so much from positive supportive relationships between home and school and this dramatically increases their sense of security and ability to learn happily. So if you have any concerns about your own child please let us know and we can work together in partnership to solve any issues.

### Success at School

You may not know but the Local Authority have a grading system for schools similar to Ofsted. They have just written to say that they agree with us that our school is 'GREAT!' This is a grade equivalent to Ofsted's 'Outstanding'. Our grade is always dependent on how well our children do each year in their end of year tests. The following requests illustrate all that we need you to do to help maintain our success.



## Reading together with a child is the surest way to help them succeed at school!

Please try to ensure that your KS1 child shares a reading book with you every day. Enjoying and discussing stories builds confidence and skill.

Recording at least four reading sessions a week enables the children to gain points in the KS1 Reading Challenge.

Regular reading aloud is beneficial for KS2 children as well! Once children are independent and fluent readers the emphasis needs to be on discussing plot, motivation, character and developing the skill of reading between the lines.

**Changing to term time bedtimes.** Please help your child/children make the adjustment to term time bedtimes. The majority of children in the school need at least **10** hours sleep at night, with the oldest needing **9** or more.

Avoiding TV and screens in the build up to bed time is really important.

**Punctuality helps children succeed in their learning.** All children should be settled in class by 8.50 a.m. This means that all children need to be walking into school by **8.45 a.m. at the latest** in order to be ready on time.

Once we reach **8.50 a.m.** we want lessons to start as soon as possible after registration.

Please **adjust** your morning routines if traffic is causing late arrival as one child arriving late can affect everyone's learning.

### Holidays in term-time

A reminder that Head teachers can no longer authorise holidays in term time except in genuinely exceptional circumstances. Requests for holidays will not automatically or necessarily be agreed unless the circumstances are genuinely exceptional.

We ask that parents help support the school by following these guidelines.



### Uniform

A reminder that **all** children should wear school uniform and that **uniform and P.E. kit must be clearly labelled.**



The children spend a good chunk of the school day outdoors. It's often cold and wet this term so children need (named) coats every day (whatever they may say!)

- Trousers should be tailored
- Socks dark or grey without patterns or pictures
- Shoes rather than boots should be worn
- Long hair should be tied back for safety reasons
- Studs are fine but 'dangly' earrings including hoops are not safe in school
- No nail varnish or temporary tattoos in term time please

### Car Parking

We encourage children to walk to school where possible even if this is only from The George. Please avoid driving into Tying Road during drop off or pick up times.

It is particularly important that cars are not double parked, turned or reversed outside the school.

The yellow zigzag lines outside the school are a **no parking zone** and should not be parked on under any circumstances.

### Staff Parking Space



A notice for parents using the Breakfast Club

We would be really grateful if the staff car parking space at the front is left free for teacher use. Thank you.

# School Office



## Contact numbers

Could you please make sure we have your up to date contact numbers - preferably more than one - in case of sickness or emergencies in school time.

This is especially important in the winter when there is the likelihood of severe weather and we need to be able to contact you easily.

Most parents are superb at doing this but it's easy to forget.

## Illness

If your child is unwell please call in before 9 o'clock on the first morning so we know that the child is safe and also the reason for their absence.

A reminder that vomiting and diarrhea must be followed by 48 hours at home to avoid contagion.



Water bottles are essential in school to keep children hydrated. Some children don't have them and end up sharing beakers and plastic cups. We sell bottles in the school office for £1.50.

## Diary Dates

Please transfer these dates to your lovely new 2016 diaries and calendars! This especially applies to INSET Days. We rely on parents doing this in order to be prepared for what is coming up!

## January 2016

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** Y5 Netball/ Hockey training from Royal High School based ex-international players for six weeks

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>** Hedgerow Planting in New Field

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** **Bonanza Fish and Chip Meal (Census day)**

& Class Two to The Egg to watch 'The Bear'

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>** East Bath E-Safety Evening. Trainer Karl Hopwood: **all parents are encouraged to attend.** @ Batheaston School 6.45 p.m. Wine and nibbles

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>** Football v Bathford 3.45 p.m. @ Home

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>** Perform Drama sessions for Reception and KS1

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to the Roman Baths

## February

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Madeline Dillon (ASE American Studies student) to Class Three each Tuesday until 26<sup>th</sup> April

& Monkton Orchestral Day @Monkton Prep School

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** Class One to No 1 The Royal Crescent

& Child Protection training 3.30 - 5.00 p.m. Staff and Volunteer helpers welcome

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** Feb Y 5/6 Football Match @ Stonar School

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** Class Three Assembly 'The Egyptians' 9.15 a.m.

NSPCC Assembly p.m.

& End of Term 3

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Start of Term 4

& Class Four swimming starts

& Parent / teacher interviews

### March

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>** Netball Tournament @ Wellsway School 4 p.m.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup>** Year 5 Cross Country @ St Marks

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> World Book Day** inc Dressing up as a Book Character & 6.00- 6.45 p.m. Bedtime Story (More info later) & Book Swap

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** Year 6 Cross Country @ St Marks

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** Class Two to Farleigh Hungerford Castle

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** Dance Umbrella @ Forum

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>** Good Friday **Bank Holiday**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup>** Easter Monday **Bank Holiday**

### April

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** End of Term 4

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 5

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** 'Mill on the Brue' Year 6 Parents Meeting. Options 6 p.m. or Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9.15 a.m.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>** Parent Maths Information Meetings 2.15 p.m. and 6.45 p.m.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>** Class Six to Lifeskills Centre a.m.

### May

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

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>** KS2 SATs Week. Year 6 Children must be in school. Please note.

& Y2 Multi-skills Day @ St Marks

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>** Class Four to Charterhouse Residential Centre (return 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>** Class Five to Charterhouse Residential Centre (return 20<sup>th</sup>)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Class Photographs**

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

### June

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> INSET Day 5**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** Children start Term 6

& Y1 PE Festival @ St Marks

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>** Y3 & Y4 Tag Tails Festival @ Home

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** Primary Parliament @ Frys Keynsham

& Y3-Y6 Athletics @ St Marks

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** Y5 Tennis-Cricket @ St Marks

### July

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** Year Six Residential @ Mill on the Brue (return 6<sup>th</sup>)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>** Reception Multi-Skills @ St Marks

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>** Leavers Service 9.30 a.m.

& End of Term 6 for children