



Term Two Newsletter 2015

Dear Parents and Friends,

Changes

A warm welcome to May Pope and her parents. May joined Class Six this term from The Ridings Primary in Bristol and we hope she now feels at home.

We are pleased to welcome Silvia Cuminal of the University of Vic Erasmus Programme who is spending Wednesdays in school at present and will be with us in the New Year from 29th February to 18th March.

We are enjoying the benefit of having our Bath Spa trainee teachers Emily Forest, Francesca Spencer and Hannah Cooper in school. They are learning the role of a teacher and being a great help supporting our children.



A warm welcome to our new guinea pigs Bramble, Hazel and Willow. They seem to be settling in very well and enjoy the attention they get from members of the Guinea Pig Club and passing children.

I am very grateful to Emily Oliver and Kev Humphries who are stepping down after a long period of leading the Friends' team. Their enthusiasm, creativity and hard work have helped make the school the great place it is.

House Barges Powered by kindness

In the hall you may notice four barges which have moved slowly across the board in the hall. Each barge represents one house. The barges are powered by the kindness and consideration of children in the school. When children are observed taking special care of another person or looking after the school site they gain a house point. So far the points for the autumn are as follows; Heron House 54 points, Kingfisher House 31, Mallard House 40 and Swan House 55. Well done to every child who has gained a house point!

Christmas Jolly

Well done and many thanks to the amazing Friends team who organised the very special Christmas Event this year. The Magic Shows and Disco by Jonny G, the Pop-Up Cinema, the Craft Room and the Bar were a whole new take on Christmas Fayres. The Friends raised a fantastic £1409.76 from the Fayre and another £549.05 through selling Christmas Cards.



Many thanks to everyone who worked behind the scenes arranging it; to those who helped out; to those who stayed to clear up and not least to everyone who came and supported the event.

Thanks to Father Christmas for taking the time to visit us in Bathampton, and to Cate Archer and her team for creating a magical grotto. This was Cate's final grotto after many years!

Carol Services

We hope those of you who were able to attend enjoyed the two Christmas Services.



We had a delightful KS1 nativity called 'Angel Express' in which the angel choir hurriedly prepared for the coming of the new born king, and a dramatic KS2 courtroom based drama called 'Straw and Order'.



Well done to all the actors, narrators and all the children who sang so beautifully. Well done also to the musicians who started the KS2 service off. Many thanks also to the wonderful Friends team who provided mince pies and drinks after the services!

We raised an amazing £329.43 for Dorothy House from these two services and from Vicky O'Brien's Cake Sale.

Reading at Home

Congratulations to all the children in Classes One and Two who have completed their reading challenge over the last term. Each week, children gain a sticker if they read at home at least three times a week in Class One and four times a week in Class Two. Those who have completed the challenge every week have been awarded a special *sticker/badge (TBC)* as recognition of their hard work.

It is noticeable that nearly all children who are regularly reading at home are making excellent progress and we would urge all parents to spend a little time on most days sharing books and encouraging children in their reading.

If you go down to the woods today you're sure of a big surprise.....

Reception have been busy making, designing, story-telling and learning about the world around them using Bathampton School woods as a great resource

We started with a PlayWood session in which the children enjoyed a spectacular display of autumn colour and learnt about native woodland animals and plants and worked together to explore natural materials.



The children have been reading and learning stories written by Julia Donaldson and have re-told the stories in their own words and created a variety of story maps.



They loved making Gruffalo crumble and writing their own lists of ingredients.



We have looked at celebrations from other countries and enjoyed learning all about Diwali. The children made diva lamps and

made links between the fireworks celebrating Diwali and Bonfire Night.



The Post Office roleplay area has been very busy encouraging reluctant pencil handlers and keen writers alike to develop their early writing skills.

The new snowy stories and story telling crown have been popular too as the children enjoy a quiet moment to look at a book or share their favourite story.

The children have also been looking at patterns. They have been making and continuing repeating patterns using a range of equipment and also looking at the patterns numbers make!



It has been an amazing term and we wish all the children and families a very Happy Christmas from all in Reception ☺

Class One on Ice



Class One have been investigating ice and other liquids that become solid when frozen. Here is an ice hand that they made with instructions for how to make it by Tom:

1. Get a rubber glove
2. Put water in the glove
3. Tie an elastic and on it
4. Put it in the freezer
5. Take it out

Trip to The Egg to see 'The Snow Mouse'



Reception and Class One went to The Egg theatre on Thursday 10th December to see 'The Snow Mouse'. Here is a review from some of Class One:

It was really funny because a man dressed up as a snow mouse and he fell into the snow and he went flying through the sky onto a giant egg. There was a disco ball in the sky making it look quite windy. At the end there were Christmas trees which lit up and we played with furry woolly baubles.

The Snow Mouse lived in a ball of snow to start with but ended up in a lighted up house

It was really funny and we really enjoyed it.

By Tamara, Ralph, William and Felicity

Class Two Adventures



Class Two went to Bathampton Dry Arch. We made some butter by shaking it up and throwing and catching the pots of cream. It was really funny. We also collected apples for the pigs to eat. The pigs looked really big and much browner than I thought they would.
By Emmanuel



I loved making butter and we ate it with the bread that Tania's husband made for us. I thought it tasted delicious.
Lare



Class Two's topic this term has been 'Light and Dark'

We learnt about Diwali the festival of light. My favourite thing was making the Diva lamps. We made some out of card and some out of clay then decorated them. Rangoli decorations are really good too. I like them because they have beautiful patterns.
By Charlie

One time we were trying to make a light bulb glow by using bulbs, batteries and wires. We made them light up in our group, it was a good challenge! At first I thought the wire went to the plastic but then I realised it was the metal that made it work.
By Florence

We wrote some stories and drew some owl sketches. They were really cute owls in the pictures we were copying. Everybody's owl looked really chubby and sweet.
By Constantina

Class Three at Dry Arch



Class Three had a fabulous time investigating weight, length and capacity at Dry Arch. It involved making magic potions, measuring the length of various objects and buildings and weighing vegetables. Here are some extracts of the children's reports:-

On Thursday 12th November Class Three went to test our measuring skills at Dry Arch. The weather was cloudy, but dry. First, we walked over the bridge, then we plodded up Dark Lane. Next we strolled through the village and as we did we saw lots of things like trees, cats, shops and of course people. Finally, we arrived at Dry Arch (Daragh)

There were four different activities. My first was to make a potion that would make you invisible (it didn't). It was made of dragon fluid, frog slime, mountain haze and tear drops of a fairy. We measured in ml and litres. I found out that a millilitre is tiny. (Jack)

I learnt that 1kg is 1000 grams and that a Kelly Kettle holds one litre. I really enjoyed the magic potion making. If I went again I would like to see the pigs. (Ursula)



We used trundle wheels and measuring sticks. We measured in cm and metres. The shed was about 60cm. (Noah. C)

We had to do measuring in metres and cm. I really found that fun. I measured the length from a car to a fence and it was 72 metres. (Noah. M)

Class Three @ Bristol



Class Three had an amazing time at @ Bristol. They watched a Forces Show where Grace was hoisted up by pulleys, investigated the speed of falling objects and saw the effects of friction. They took an interesting and informative trip around our Solar System in the planetarium and got time to try out a few of the interactive exhibits too. Here are their reports:-

@ Bristol was massive, colourful and there were loads, and I mean loads of activities to try out. I felt amazed when I walked through the door. (Orson)

I also liked the music thing because you listened to music through your mouth! First you take a straw then you take off the wrapper and place it on the metal. After you bite it and put your finger in your ears you can hear music. (Jack)

I chose the hamster wheel. It was turning a water wheel, so it was quite hard. I felt like a real hamster. (Catherine)

After doing the water wheel I went upstairs to build a bridge with magnets. When you held them they felt a bit like rice, but a bit smaller. Amazingly when they stuck to the big magnets they stuck up like crystals because you had dropped them from a height, so they piled on top of other magnets. (Maggie)

I also liked the room where you freeze your shadow. You push a button and wait a few seconds while you stand by a wall and it freezes your shadow. (Noah. C)

I went In the Zone with Ursula. We did jumping first. I loved it. Next we put our hands under this machine. It showed us our veins. It looked really weird. After that we did races. (Alice)

I learnt that there are 2011 planets that have been discovered. (Oliver)

At the science show a man showed us how a heavy thing and a light thing land at the same time. I was surprised because I thought the heavy thing would land first. (Grace)

After lunch we went to the planetarium. It was like a big dome and had a video that made the planetarium turn into a kind of spaceship (Afon)

We saw lots of planets. It felt like we could touch them. The planets zoomed in and out. We saw how close each planet was to the sun. My favourite planet is the Earth because we live on it. (Anna)

Amazing earthquake Mayhem in Mexico

On Thursday 3rd December Isabella's dad came in and talked to us about Mexico's biggest earthquake yet in 1985. He talked about the Richter Scale and about how Mexico changed from old to new. Isabella and her dad showed a half squashed car which was cobalt coloured. 8.3 is total destruction on the amazing Richter Scale.

It was a really interesting talk about his experiences of regular earthquakes in Mexico.

He showed us lots of pictures of the earthquake they were amazing.

By Jemima, Chelsea, Hatty and Isabella

Making Volcanoes

Class Four have been making impressive looking Paper Mache volcanoes!

First of all we collected up plastic 1 Litre bottles. Then we got sellotape and stuck down the bottles on to card. After all that we built up with Paper Mache. Next we covered it in scrap paper to make it easier to paint. After a small period of time we painted and decorated them. The next lesson we made a mini village with trees and bushes also we made walls. In the last week of term, we are exploding volcanoes. **BOOM!!** George and Tom

Betty's Paragraph on Pompeii

Suddenly a dark cloud lowered on to the old village. The old houses crackled and shook like trees. Everyone went as quiet as a

mouse... Tranio ran like Usain Bolt to find Livia. Suddenly the sky went pitch black like soot. At last, Tranio found Livia. They dashed to the harbour and leapt onto a boat and hid in some sacks on deck. As they caught sight of the exploding volcano they screamed until it calmed down. All of their friends and family had died.

Italian club!



Every Thursday lunch Theodora and Eva will be teaching Italian! So do and come sign up by the benches Monday or Tuesday break time for some EXTRA FUN!!! Starting Thursday January 14th 2016

Holburne Museum



On Tuesday 8th December Class Five went on an extraordinary trip to the Holburne Museum. We all got on a coach and set off. By the time we got there it was about two minutes after opening time, so that meant it was going to be very quiet. Two ladies named Mary and Helen talked to us about the founder of the museum, then took us upstairs.



I really liked the Greek pottery we spotted. Along with looking at artefacts, we also sketched different things that we saw in the museum. After that, we all walked sensibly to the room that we arrived at. We all loved making Greek pottery out of clay. Just before lunch we travelled back to school. In conclusion, we really liked our trip. THANK YOU MR LEONARD!!

I was delighted to hear that Mary was very impressed by the children and praised their behaviour and organisational skills.

Class Six @ Bristol trip

It was on the 27th of November 2015 Class Six went to the @ Bristol Science centre. We did two main activities; an amazing planetarium show and a truly experiencing Lego-Robotics workshop.

The planetarium

"The planetarium was spectacular!" said Daisy. During that amazing show the funny narrator told us about all the planets and he also explained about other planets with possible alien life forms!

Lego-Robotics

"It was great fun learning how to programme the robots," exclaimed Ben, one of the computer-loving pupils in the class. We explored all the different techniques of programming Lego-robots and everyone enjoyed.

Written By Lee ☺



Bath Rugby Foundation visit to Class Six

As part of the World Cup 2015, Bath Rugby Foundation came into school to deliver an Art and Rugby morning.

When Bath Rugby visited Class Six, we all had a great time! We were divided into two groups and we all got a turn at doing something different. There was an Art activity and a tag rugby session.

In Art we designed a rugby T-shirt and everyone had to wear a paper-like suit so we got no paint on our school uniform or the class room. In the tag rugby session we warmed up with games like Fishy-Fishy. At the end, we had an amazing game of rugby.

The finished designs for the T-shirts were amazing; there were lightning bolts, waves, slashes, lines, and a lot of messy things! Thank you Bath Rugby from Class Six.

Abbey Carol Service

On Monday the 7th of December 2015, Class Six went to the Abbey Carol service in Bath.

Mr Parker was conducting all eight schools - he even wrote the majority of the songs. We sang some traditional carols too, like 'Ding Dong Merrily On High' and 'O come All Ye Faithful'. It was great fun learning all the wonderful songs he wrote.

When we went to the Abbey the sound was spectacular with all the outstanding voices and the orchestra playing in the background with the Organ.

Quote from Rebecca: "I enjoyed learning the songs and then showing the audience the terrific sound of children singing."

Overall everybody had a tremendous time at the service and wished we could go again!

New Room names

You may hear our new breakout spaces being referred to by name. Children and staff have now agreed the following names for the rooms.

- The Reception space is still called 'The Learning Zone'.
- The Year One and Two breakout space is 'The Den'.
- The Year Three and Four breakout space, previously 'The Conference Room' is now 'The Confidence Room'
- The Year Five and Six breakout space is 'The Think Tank'.

Table Tennis Tournament



On Wednesday 25th November, Ben, Roan, Cameron and Oliver went to St. John's School to take part in a table tennis tournament.

When we got there a friendly man greeted us. Next we did a warm up with our opponents. After that they took a group photo of us and the St. John's table tennis team.

Finally, we started to play some games. We all won our first three games and lost the last two games except for Cameron, who won four and lost one.

Overall we had a really exciting time and we won 89-64 on points! Report by Ben and Roan

Netball Tournament @ Royal High



The netball squad were thrilled to be playing in the Year 5 & 6 Girls' Tournament. As we paraded onto the Royal High's netball court we settled into our positions. The whistle blew and we were off! Before we knew it we were playing in the semi-finals! The Royal High School were our opponents and they were hard to beat. The game ended 4-2 to them. But we are into the B&NES semi-finals in March. Report by Rebecca Sheppard

Cup Match v Combe Down @ Odd Down 3G



What a performance from Bathampton FC and a brilliant Victory- up there with some great games in the past decade. Alex was brave in goal - Seth made the crucial interception at the vital moment of the game and getting injured to boot- Ben was solid assertive at centre half - Joe made some vital tackles at top pace. Ben came on and contributed to the defence- Beaujan linked up with passing and long throws with Roan and Cameron whose contributions were truly immense.



A true team performance and a top spirit.

Report by manager Mark Archer. Thanks to ref Tom Naysmith. We are through to the second round of the Cup with a very strong team!

In Concert



On Friday 4th December children and staff played in the concert at the Salvation Army Hall in James St West. They were awesome! Here Charlie Hedges describes the experience.

As I walked onto the stage holding my violin I felt nervous, very nervous. I had just heard an amazing band play and a choir. At last it was our turn! We began to play. It was nerve racking, but soon it was done. The crowd cheered loudly and we came off the stage ready for our next turn.

Scrooge @ The Missions Theatre



We were generously invited to watch a performance of "Scrooge" by the Searchlight Theatre Company at The Mission Theatre in Bath on Tuesday 15th December.

We are grateful to 'Next Stage' for their kindness, and to Serena who thought to invite us.

The children loved; the way two actors managed to play so many roles, the audience participation, and the hilarious lines.

Best of all it inspired the children just before performing in their own Christmas play.

One of the actors and Serena gave the children helpful tips for projecting their voices at the end.

There was no charge for the performance and the 'Friends of Bathampton' kindly paid 50p per child to cover squash and a biscuit mid-morning in the theatre cafe.

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 lots of 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 thought about them, and showed some care.

Class One Awning

We are very grateful indeed to the Class One parents and the Friends team who very generously contributed towards a beautiful new awning for Class One.

This, combined with the superb artificial grass, has made a huge difference to the children's play space and they will benefit hugely from having their own outdoor play area that they can use during 'classroom time'.

Mrs Lake and the Year One children really like the awning and are very appreciative of everyone's kindness. Here are some of the children's comments:

It's a good idea because if it rains we won't get wet. Eddie

When we go outside it feels like there's a blue sky even when it's cloudy. Talia

I like it because blue is one of my favourite colours. Gully

When it's sunny it will give us a bit of shade. Iona

When it's raining we hear a pitter-patter but underneath it feels sunny. Sammy

Special thanks to Melita for liaising with parents, the Friends and with the firm who installed it. These projects are never simple but we now have a resource that will benefit children for years to come!

School Community



Volunteer Reading Help
confident children, literate for life

Could you be a Better Reading Partner and make a real difference to a child?

This is the most effective scheme we have seen for helping children become confident readers. The Better Reading Partnership scheme was developed by Bradford Local Authority in 1996 and is based on the Reading Recovery Programme pioneered by Marie Clay in New Zealand. Children make an incredible average gain of six months in ten weeks.

If you could find 20-30 minutes first thing in the morning after dropping children to school, or 20-30 minutes before pick-up in the afternoons two or three times a week for 10 weeks we could train you to support a child. Parent volunteers have found this to be very rewarding!

Please be aware that some children are nervous of dogs and their presence can cause anxiety.

Could dog owners please keep their dogs away from the entrance and make sure that they are under control at all times. Thanks!

E-Safety The revised Responsible Use of the Internet policy has gone out to all families and staff members for signing. We have arranged a training event for parents and Governors at Batheaston School on Monday 25th January at 6.45 p.m. This will be led by experienced trainer Karl Hopwood and we will encourage as many parents and Governors as possible to attend as this is a relevant and important issue for us all, The cost will be shared between Bathampton and Batheaston schools.

On this topic we strongly recommend that parents check out age restrictions for apps and online social media. Facebook has a minimum age of 13 and the Mobile messaging app WhatsApp requires members to be at least 16 years of age. All children need their parents and school to help them learn to use social media responsibly.

Child Protection We have arranged for a Child Protection training event for staff, volunteer parents and Governors at School on Thursday 4th February at 3.30 p.m. This will be led by Matt Stone, the head of Bathford School. This is a key training session.

Late Pick Up Club Message from Club Leader Vicky O'Brien



"I provide a nurturing environment which is safe and happy, where the children can feel valued. Parents/carers can have peace of mind in the knowledge that their children are being given high quality childcare which is both supportive and affordable.

The atmosphere in my club is designed to be friendly, relaxed and homely, based in "The Den" (previously known as "The Discovery Room")

After a busy day of learning, the children are provided with a healthy snack & a range of fun child-led activities, such as arts, crafts, supervised computer play, and outdoor activities. I am also more than happy to help pupils with their reading and homework if they wish.

The Late Pick-Up Club runs from 3.15-4.15, Mon - Thursday, and I try to pack as much as I can into the hour to accommodate the tastes of all pupils.

Please see the School's website for full terms and conditions, or feel free to speak to me and I'll happily answer any of your queries".

Jobs @ Bathampton



As our Chronicle article showed a Crossing Patrol Officer is needed. This might be an ideal job for a retired person who would like to be at the centre of things. If you know anyone who might be suitable why not mention it to them?

Catering Services Assistant Needed. We really would value having a third member of the kitchen team. Please call 01225 394424 for details.

SMSA (Lunchtime Supervisor) Needed for January. We are very keen indeed to recruit a new person for as many days as possible. Please consider this rewarding role!

Bathampton Primary's Forest School teacher and her parents at the LOTC Awards Ceremony



A message from Tania Orgill:

Thank you for all your votes and kind words over the last couple of months. Although I did not get enough votes to win the Advocate for Learning Outside the Classroom 2015 I feel lucky that I was shortlisted and that the LOTC moved me up two categories. I attended the awards dinner with my parents on 26 November in London and we had a wonderful evening. We sat with Michael Morpugo and his wife Clare who were charming and amusing. The Morpugo's have been running 'Farms for City Children' for 30 years and they were Lifetime Achievement nominees but unfortunately they did not win either. Being nominated, shortlisted, voted for, attending the conference and awards dinner has been an amazing experience. A huge thank you to Catriona Macmillan who wrote the nomination piece.

Admissions Consultation

Please note that there is a consultation taking place concerning admissions criteria for this school and other local schools.

If you have a view please check the B&NES website under Admissions Consultation and contribute.

Diary Dates

January 2016

Monday 4th Start of Term 3

Friday 8th Y5 Netball/ Hockey training from KES for six weeks

Tuesday 12th Hedgerow Planting

Wednesday 13th Jan or 10th Feb (TBC) Y 5/6 Football Match @ Stonar School

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

Thursday 28th Perform Drama sessions for Reception and KS1

February

Tuesday 2nd Madeline Dillon (ASE American Studies student) to Class Three each Tuesday until 26th April

Thursday 4th Child Protection training 3.30 – 5.00 p.m. Staff and Volunteer helpers welcome

Friday 12th NSPCC Assembly

& End of Term 3

Monday 22nd Start of Term 4

& Class Four swimming starts

& Parent / teacher interviews (**Condense!!**)

March

Tuesday 1st Netball Tournament @ Wellsway School 4 p.m.

Friday 4th Year 5 Cross Country @ St Marks

Friday 11th Year 6 Cross Country @ St Marks

Thursday 17th March Dance Umbrella (actual day this week TBC)

Friday 25th Good Friday Bank Holiday

Monday 28th Easter Monday Bank Holiday

April

Friday 1st End of Term 4

Monday 18th Start of Term 5

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

Thursday 28th Parent Maths Information Meetings 2.15 p.m. and 6.45 p.m.

Friday 29th Class Six to Lifeskills Centre

May

Monday 2nd May Day

Monday 9th KS2 SATs Week. Year 6 Children must be in school. Please note.

Wednesday 18th Class Four to Charterhouse Residential Centre (return 19th)

Thursday 19th Class Five to Charterhouse Residential Centre (return 20th)

Friday 27th End of Term 5

June

Monday 6th INSET Day 5

Tuesday 7th Children start Term 6

Monday 20th Primary Parliament @ Frys

Y3-6 Athletics @ St Marks

Friday 24th Year 5 Tennis-Cricket @ St Marks

July

Monday 4th Year Six Residential @ Mill on the Brue (return 6th)

Thursday 21st End of Term 6 for children

Happy Christmas and New Year from all the staff

