

**Bathampton Primary School**  
Together on a learning adventure



*Start of Term letter*  
Term One 2014

Dear Parents

I hope you had a great summer and are ready for a glorious sunny September.

I am delighted that we now have seven classes and that all children are with their own year group.

This is quite a special moment in the history of this school. We had anticipated reaching this point by 2018 so are pleased to be four years ahead of schedule. This has been made possible by our rapid growth, which will now slow as the school becomes full.

A special welcome to the new families starting this term. Please let your child's class teacher or teaching assistant know if your child has any problems; most can be sorted out quickly with good communication.

The teachers will be settling their classes in the morning so for a longer conversation it is best to chat after school.

We welcome Cynthia Gerber from the USA who is studying with Advanced Studies in England and who will be with Class Three every Tuesday until late November.

We also welcome Sarah Mockschan and Nadine Hoffmann who are Swiss trainee teachers who will be with us for three weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> September. They will be based in Class One and Two.

*Class Three Improvements*

During the holiday Site Manager Mike Ball has done a superb job of refurbishing Class Three. We are grateful to him for his hard work, creativity and expertise. Thanks to his continuing work the school has never looked better!



*Tour of Britain*

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September Bath will host Stage Six of the Tour of Britain cycle race. The riders will race through Bath on their way to Hemel Hempstead, leaving at 10.30 a.m. Bathampton Year Six Laurie Dash (Leake) is one of the Bath pupils who has been invited to meet the cyclists and also to cycle in a pre-race 'Lead out'.

Parents who wish to take their children to attend are welcome to do so. B&NES are promoting the event and have given our school some space in Victoria Park so if you are interested you could use this or watch elsewhere on the route.

The official race starts at 10.00. It will be very busy so it is worth allowing plenty of time for traffic and parking. Some families are walking or cycling. Children will be able to come back to school once it is finished with plenty to talk about! Please let the office or your child's class teacher know in advance.

Incidentally I was really pleased to hear that ex-Bathampton pupil Laurie Maylor has been appointed Head Boy at St. Mark's School and has also been chosen to lead out the Tour of England from Bath next Friday!

*All Star Donation*



Did you know that Bathampton Toll Bridge was built in 1872 replacing the original bridge which was built in the 1850s? Prior to that people used a ford and ferry.

The Toll Bridge is owned by the General Estates Company and we are very grateful to company director Peter Walker and the board who have kindly donated £750 to our school. Our cheque will go towards start-up costs for our 'All Stars' After School Club.

## Australian Links



You may know that we have long-standing links with the Arthur Phillip Society in Australia. The First Governor of New South Wales and founder of Australia is buried in Bathampton and the older children attend an annual remembrance service.

Society members Dave Shakespeare and Margret Hogge send their best wishes to us all and have kindly given the school an Australian flag and a CD of the national anthem as a symbol of this relationship.

### Class Parent 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.

They will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September with one session from 2.15 to 3.00 and another from 3.30 to 4.15. Child care will be provided for the second session if needed.

## Better Reading Partners



**Volunteer**

Volunteers Needed! We are very keen to recruit volunteers to support reading, and in particular volunteers for our new 'Better Reading Partners' scheme. Please come to the meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September if you might be interested! Please do pass on this date to any family members or friends who might be interested in helping out in school. A letter will be sent out with more details.



Please note that we will be having a Sponsored event this term to support this important charity. More information later.

## Vocal Adventure



We are looking forward to very special morning of singing on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Australian Chris James teaches internationally about the power of sound and song, voice and self-expression. He will lead the children in Year One and above in a 'Vocal Adventure'. We will be asking families for a voluntary contribution of £1.50 per child (max £3.00 per family) to help pay for Chris's expenses.



We are now taking our meals from the brand new hub in Larkhall. This state of the art kitchen is providing good quality meals for four or more local schools. Initial feedback from children and staff has been very positive. The quantities were generous and the food looked and tasted very good.

We are hoping that there will be good take up especially on *Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October* as this is a key Census day and high numbers on this day this will help the school absorb the cost of the free meals. We also request that families who are eligible for free school meals continue to apply as this will significantly benefit their children.

## School Money

We are pleased that our free online payment system is now up and running; we are confident that paying for school dinners and trips will be much easier for parents and carers to administer. We have recently emailed the user guide to you however if you have any queries Julie Wellington is more than happy to help. Parents can still pay by cheque and cash if more convenient.

[www.schoolmoney.co.uk](http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk)



## Holiday Diaries

Thanks to all the families who have brought in a holiday diary. It has been a real pleasure to see these and to share some happy times. I suspect that many will be treasured for years to come! We will be showing them in Friday assembly for the first couple of weeks.

### 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 will 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. It is **essential** for these and other uniform items to be named. It is helpful if lunchboxes, water bottles and book bags are also clearly named.

#### Being in sight

Could the parents of the Reception and KS1 children in particular ensure that they are close to the gate at end of school times, to be clearly visible for hand-over.

#### Time keeping

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. Lateness affects learning so it would be great if all children consistently arrived on time this year!

#### Keep drinking water

Drinking water helps children to learn and stay happy. Replacement bottles are available from the school shop at the 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.

## Snacks

We strongly promote healthy snacks such as fruit. Chocolate and sweets are not allowed, and we ask for your co-operation regarding this. Reception and KS1 children will continue to receive their free fruit and vegetables at morning break. 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.

### Car Parking

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

Please do not park on the zigzag lines or the yellow double lines outside the school. Turning or reversing in Tying Lane is especially dangerous.

### Friends Dates (Bathampton P.T.A.)

Please watch out for Friends' dates. The first meeting is coming up soon. Everyone is automatically a member of the Friends and very welcome! The Friends do an amazing job and provide many additional resources, and run our fun social events.

### Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will be at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at St Nicholas Church. We encourage children to bring in non-perishable food items for Julian House. Space will be limited but families are welcome to attend.

#### Key dates for the Autumn Terms

Please note class induction sessions for parents in the diary dates

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** End of Term 1 for children

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October** INSET Day 3 & 4

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** Start of Term 2 for children

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**Diary Dates**

Please add to your family calendar

**September**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>** Reception children start

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** KES Lower Sixth students start weekly reading visits

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** Tour of Britain Cycle Race a.m.  
Children can watch this important event with their parents on request.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** Swiss Students start

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** NSPCC Event

& Class Parent Induction Meetings 2.15-3.00 and 3.30- 4.15 p.m.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** Chris James 'Vocal Adventure'

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>** 'Mythical Maze' Library Challenge Assembly (please bring in Challenge certificates and medals.)

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>** 'Better Reading Partners' introduction 9.00- 10.00 a.m. (Please come if you can!)

& School Council changeover

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>** Cello, Clarinet, Flute & Recorder, Violin lessons and Orchestra start. (Please note change of day for Violin & Orchestra.)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>** KS1 Drama Workshops

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** Visit by Ashely Ayre Director Childrens Services

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>** Reception stay to lunch

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>** Individual Photographs (All new staff and pupils)

**October**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** School Meal Bonanza!

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** Reception children start full time  
& Class Six to @Bristol

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** Harvest Festival Service in St Nicholas Church 9.30 a.m.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** Four Y4 Children to Mathematics Challenge @ King Edwards

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** Classes Five & Six to Admiral Arthur Phillip Service 11.00 a.m.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** Ted's Big Day Out (Funky Footwear)

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** End of Term 1 for children

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** INSET Day 3

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** INSET Day 4

**November**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Start of Term 2 Class Five Swimming starts

& Start of Y1-6 Parent/ teacher interview fortnight

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** Open Morning

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** Road Safety Week

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** Start of Reception Parent/ teacher interviews

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** Lantern Procession Holburne Museum

**December**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** KS1 Christmas Service KS1 1.45 p.m. (TBC)

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** Class Two Party

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Fayre 3.15 – 5.15 p.m.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** Class Three Party

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** Reception Party

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** KS2 Christmas Service 1.45 p.m. (TBC)

& Class One Party

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** Class Four Party

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>** End of Term 2

& Class Five & Six Party

**January**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Start of Term 3

All term dates available online

[www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar](http://www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar)