

Bathampton Primary School
Together on a learning adventure



Start of Term letter
Term One 2017

Dear Parents

I hope you have enjoyed our sunny summer and had a really good break.

A special welcome to the new Reception families starting this term.

Changes

A warm welcome to the following children and their families; Maxwell Stock has joined Class One. Sacha Parks has joined Class Four. Mateo Arias Lousa has joined Class Five and Lolly Willis has joined Class Six. We hope they all enjoy their new school.



On Monday 18th September we will be welcoming Laura Handloser and Livia Schwartz who are Swiss trainee teachers from the Thurgau University of Teacher Education and will be with us until 6th October.

We will also be welcoming King Edwards students Jemima Millar, Lily Robertson, Oscar Baines and Tom Harcourt. The young people will be visiting once a week and helping in classes as part of their community involvement programme.

Lunchtime Roles

As is often the way we are looking for new SMSA's to cover each lunchtime: the advert is online. If you are interested or know someone who might be please get in touch.

Creating a Caring and Supportive Culture

As I write every year please let your child's class teacher or teaching assistant know if your child has any problems in school; most can be sorted out quickly when we work in partnership. We want to deal with issues as soon as possible to avoid unhappiness at home or at school.

If children have problems in school it is important that these are sorted out *in* school. We ask that parents talk to the child's class teacher and request that parents do not text or contact other parents concerning issues that have happened in school. Teachers are ideally placed to resolve any conflicts and can deal with these sympathetically and continue to keep an eye on the children in their care. If problems continue please speak to me.

As always we ask that parents treat such issues confidentially and sympathetically remembering that we are dealing with Primary age children who are learning how to learn and play together and who deserve to belong to a positive and supportive community.

As usual the first few weeks are always focused on establishing a superb classroom ethos so that learning can speed ahead.

School Safe Zone

Last year we created a Safe Zone around the school to reduce the likelihood of a child being hurt. We are grateful to Cheryl Cook and the Safe Routes team for the new 'Safe Zone' banners outside school. Hopefully by including posters from the children everyone will be even more inclined to respect the safe spaces.

The Safe Routes to School team ask all parents not to drive into Tynning Road or drive in and out of Church Close during drop off and pick up times.

This restriction applies from 8.30 to 9.00 a.m. and then from 3.00 to 3.30 p.m. so parents using the Breakfast Club or After School Clubs are not affected.

We encourage children to walk to school wherever possible. If it is not possible to walk the full journey, please use the gravelled area of the car park at The George and walk from there. Thank you for your support!

The school staff are very grateful to the new landlady of The George, Deborah Parry, who has arranged for the staff to be able to use the George car park again. It's great to have a community minded local pub!

New School Nurse

This year we have a new School Nurse Sally Mitchell. Sally is an experienced School Nurse and will be getting to know our children. If you have any health issues that you would like to discuss with Sally please let us know or contact her directly via St Martins 01225 831666, or on her mobile 07894 598 251.

Previous School Nurse Clare Squires was an amazing support to the school and sends her best wishes.

School Houses

Congratulations to Swan and Heron Houses who jointly won the School House trophy last term. They both achieved an amazing 337 house points! All of the houses combined achieved an amazing 4775 points during the 2016-17 academic year with Swan achieving 1292, Heron 1281, Mallard 1139 and Kingfisher 1063.

House Points are awarded to children who show special consideration to others and community-mindedness.

Each week we look forward to seeing which house has achieved the most points and we are proud of every single child who gets a house point.

As usual we will be choosing a boy and girl from each House to be House Captains. These Year Six leadership roles will be a real responsibility and we will be looking for young people who have shown consistently exceptional care for others.

School Census Day

We are hoping that many children will continue to enjoy school meals especially on Thursday 5th October as this is a key Census day and good numbers on this day helps the school absorb the cost of the free meals. Families have been very supportive in helping the school on this date in the past and it is a huge help. We also request that families who are eligible for free school meals continue to apply as this will significantly benefit their children.

Parents Introduction Meetings

Class Parent Introduction Meetings are 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. As advertised in last term's newsletter Class One and above will have two sessions on Wednesday 20th September, one at 2.15 p.m. and one at 3.30 p.m. Reception will send out dates later.

Photos

On Thursday 19th October we will have our photographer in school to take individual portraits and family ensembles. Pre-Schoolers are able to be brought in at 8.40 a.m. for a photo with their siblings. We will also be arranging a photo of the Reception Class for the Chronicle. Please let us know if your Reception child should not be included in such a photo.

Harvest Festival

We encourage children to bring in non-perishable food items for The Foodbank on 3rd October. Due to space issues I am afraid that this will be a school only service.



Holiday Diaries

Thank you 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 also be celebrating children who completed the Library Challenge this summer in assembly on Friday 29th September. Please bring certificates and / or medals on this day.

Improvements

I am very grateful to Site Manager Mervyn Burt for his work during the holidays, and to the cleaning team who have ensured that the school is ready for the new academic year.

Usual reminders

Uniform

We would be grateful if all parents could ensure that their child is dressed in the correct uniform.

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.

Children also need to be prepared in sensible outdoor clothing for Forest School session. The woods are often chilly being shaded. Layers are always a good idea for the outdoors.

Naming items

By the very nature of school uniform, one sweatshirt looks very much like another. Name tags **are essential** for these and other uniform items. It is helpful if lunchboxes, water bottles, coats and book bags are also clearly named to avoid a large collection of lost property.

Being in sight

Could the parents of the Reception and KS1 children in particular ensure that they are close to the appropriate exit at end of school times, to be clearly visible for handover.

Time keeping is key to success!

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. **Persistent lateness damages a child's learning** so if traffic is an issue please adjust departure times accordingly.

Snacks

We strongly promote healthy snacks at break time such as fruit. Chocolate, crisps 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.

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.

Listening to your children read

Children who do well at school almost always have parents who **listen to them read** and who **read to them** daily or near daily! This makes a really significant difference to their academic achievements, and outcomes. It is much harder for children to succeed if this is not happening at home regularly.

We are establishing the reading routines as quickly as possible and would be grateful for your patience while we do so. Volunteers to help listen to children read in school are always very welcome!

French Club

Anyone wanting their child to join French Club should email the tutor, Mrs Swindells, directly on itasylvia@gmail.com. Children are encouraged to join the club at the start of the school year.



We were pleased to see that we were listed as one of the Top 3 Primary school in Bath by Three rated. We are not sure exactly how the decision was made but apparently the review team approved our business listing using their 50-Point Inspection which includes everything from checking reputation, history, complaints, ratings, satisfaction, trust and cost to the general excellence.

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Diary Dates

Please add to your family calendar

September

Saturday 9th Village Flower Show

Monday 11th Reception children start either morning or afternoon

Wednesday 13th Class Six to Life Skills, Bristol

Saturday 16th Bath University Open Day. Please be aware as this has traffic implications!

Monday 18th Swiss Students start

Wednesday 20th Music lessons start

& Parent Induction Sessions for new classes

Preparing for your child's new class

We wish a warm welcome to the families who have Reception children starting in September.

Mrs Evans and Mrs Kirby led the Sept 17 Reception induction meeting on Wednesday 17th May.

Other classes will have their parent induction sessions for the 2017-18 class on Wednesday 20th September at 2.15 and 3.30 p.m.

Friday 22nd Africa Day

Monday 25th Reception children morning only

Friday 29th Open Morning

October

Monday 2nd Reception stay to lunch

Tuesday 3rd Harvest Festival Contributions

Friday 6th British Schools Biathlon Qualifying Event @ Bath University

Monday 9th Reception children start full time

Admiral Arthur Phillip Service (Classes Five & Six)

Friday 13th Mufti Day (RUH & BPS)

Thursday 19th Individual Photographs (All staff and pupils)

& End of Term 1 for children

Friday 20th INSET Day 3

Monday 30th Start of Term 2

& Parent Teacher Interview fortnight

November

Monday 13th Anti-Bullying week

Monday 20th Walk to School week

Wednesday 22nd Flu vaccinations (Optional R - Y4)

December

Wednesday 6th KS1 Christmas Service 2pm

Wednesday 13th KS2 Christmas Service 2pm

Friday 15th End of Term 2

January 2018

Tuesday 2nd INSET Day 4

Wednesday 3rd Children start school

February 2018

Friday 9th End of Term 3

Monday 19th Start of Term 4

March 2018

Friday 23rd March End of Term 4

April 2018

Monday 9th Start of Term 5

May 2018

Monday 7th May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 25th End of Term 5

June 2018

Monday 4th INSET Day 5

Tuesday 5th Start of Term 6

July 2018

Tuesday 10th Option One Sports Day (KS2 morning & KS1 afternoon)

Tuesday 17th Option Two Sports Day (KS2 morning & KS1 afternoon)

Tuesday 24th End of Term 6

All term dates available online

www.bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk/calendar