

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



**Start of Term letter**  
Term One 2015

Dear Parents

I hope you have enjoyed the summer and had a good break, maybe even seeing the sun now and then.

A special welcome to the new Reception families starting this term. I have been impressed by how happily the children have settled into school.

**Changes**

A warm welcome to Hannah Elliott and her family. Hannah has joined Class Four from W.A.S.P.s in Weston, Bath.

We are saying goodbye to two children. Gus Disney has moved to Kingswood Prep and Rosie McDonald to St Mary's RC School in Weston. Both families have been involved in lots of aspects of school life and we will miss them all!

Most families will be aware by now that our outstanding Crossing Patrol Officer, Simon Chilcott has moved on. Simon has started work at Batheaston medical centre training to be a receptionist. He sends his thanks to all parents and children for being so welcoming and helpful during his time as CPO and making it enjoyable. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking over please let us know.

**Visitors**

This term we will be welcoming Valeska Lehmann & Marielle Rieser who are Swiss trainee teachers who will be with us for three weeks from 14<sup>th</sup> September.

We will also be welcoming King Edwards students Helena Robertson, Lydia Shephard, Sophie Ballantyne and Imogen King who are visiting once a week and helping in classes as part of their community involvement programme.

**Lunchtime Roles**

We are looking for two new SMSA's to cover each lunchtime: the advert is online. One is for a general position and the other supporting a child. 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; 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.

As always it's worth asking that parents listen carefully to their children's concerns and at the same time try to encourage children to think the best of their peers. We very much want to avoid negative stereotyping of children who are still in their formative years.

We are all learning how to do the right thing and this works best when children grow up in a warm supportive community with clear boundaries.

It's worth remembering that children are often tired and hungry at the end of the school day and this can affect their perception of others.

**School Houses**

This term is the start of our new House system so expect to hear more about this from me and from children. The eight School Families are paired to form four new Houses.

Heron House is led by Mrs Lake and Mr Leonardi. Kingfisher House is led by Mrs Edmund and Miss Edwards. Mallard House is led by Mrs Evans, Mrs Kirby, Ms Ovigne and Mrs Wood, and Swan House by Mr Falkus and Miss Corcoran.

There will be some House as well as Family assemblies and House Points will be awarded to children who show special consideration to others and community mindedness.

### **Improvements**

During the holiday there have been a series of improvements on the school site, leaving us in a much stronger position as a seven class school and in some cases addressing issues highlighted in our 2015 parental questionnaire responses.

We have modernised our IT significantly by replacing our IT Suite PCs with class-based laptops. This enables children to use IT when appropriate as part of their normal lessons rather than on an occasional and timetabled basis.

The 'Learning Zone' is now a dedicated space during the school day for the Reception class, although it will also be used on Wednesdays for music lessons. This enables the slightly larger than normal class to have additional space in which to learn. For four mornings each week the class will have additional teaching assistant support from Mrs Hedges.

We have created an attractive new additional teaching space or 'Breakout Space' for KS1 (Class One and Two) in the old 'Discovery Room' where groups or individuals may receive support.

A section of the 'Discovery Room' has been converted into a new PE Store and additional storage. This has given us extra space in the School Hall and we are now able to meet together for whole school assemblies. This addresses a key issue for the school.

We have also created a superb new 'Breakout Space' for Class Five and Six in the upper School House. This means that all classes now have access to a shared additional teaching space.

A further improvement is to our lighting: we have replaced the fluorescent lights with low energy 'daylight' quality lights. The better lights should help the children to see clearly and are more environmentally friendly whilst reducing our energy bills.

This saving will be helped by a new efficient boiler running our heating system.

I am very grateful to Site Manager Mike Ball for the challenging role of overseeing the many projects on site during the holidays, as well as making improvements to the staff kitchen/ work room. Thanks also to Dr Steve Haigh, of Artisan Carpentry, who completed the building improvements in record time, for his superb craftsmanship, attention to detail and exceptional hard work.

I am also grateful to parent governor Emma Naysmith for her hard work in researching the new lighting project and for her insights that inspired the change to a laptop based computer system. The school is only as outstanding as the people in it and we have outstanding support from our school staff and community.

We feel that the school is now working very effectively as a seven class school, and is in excellent shape.

### **Update**

I am hoping that we will be able to get the new field prepared for use. We have been promised local authority support but in case this is further delayed if anyone has access to a plough we would like to discuss this.

It is worth mentioning that the financial crash of 2008 and the diminishing role of the local authority in the new educational landscape means that B&NES have had to reduce the scope of their ambition for educational building projects. We still hope for re-building support from the local authority but are aware of the new limitations.

### **Traffic Issues**

Network Rail wanted to let us know that for the next few weeks we will still have lorries passing the school to collect and deliver machinery from the nearby site compound. The Communications manager, Garry Wilkinson, has spoken with Colas Rail and they advise that the steps they put in place prior to the school summer holidays will continue.

They advise that all suppliers have again been briefed not to come to the yard between 0800 - 0930 and 1500 - 1630.



We are hoping that many children will continue to enjoy school meals especially on *Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October* as this is a key Census day and good numbers on this day helps 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.

### **Tania Orgill shortlisted!**

We were delighted to hear that our Forest School teacher, Tania Orgill, have been shortlisted for the Awards for Outstanding Contribution to 'Learning Outside the Classroom' 2015 in the category of LOTC Advocate.

The Awards recognise individuals and teams of people who have had a significant impact on the lives of children and young people through their commitment and dedication to providing and/or championing exciting and inspiring learning outside the classroom opportunities.

The nomination will go to a public vote in mid-September and the winners will be revealed at an exclusive dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> November. We hope that parents will enthusiastically support Tania's nomination as she has transformed outdoor learning at this school and at other local schools. More information on how you can support her will follow once available.

### **Bathampton Toll Bridge**



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. We would like to save up to buy an indoor playhouse for the Reception class and our cheque will go towards this. Other fund raising opportunities will be coming later!

It is worth mentioning that we have a dynamic set of parents in Class One who are looking to raise funds for a new awning to enhance the Class One outdoor learning space. Thanks to everyone involved in this **project!**

### **Parents Induction Meetings**

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. Class One and above will have two sessions on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, one at 2.15 p.m. and one at 3.30 p.m. Reception will send out dates later.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October we will have our Photographer in schools to take individual portraits and family ensembles. Pre-Schoolers could come in at 8.40 a.m.

### **Harvest Festival**

The Harvest Festival will be at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday 6<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.

### **Governing Body**

We currently have three places available for parent governors. If you are interested in serving in this role please ask at the School Office for the relevant papers. It is a role for parents who are established in the school, and ready to serve the wider school community. Deadline for responses on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.



### **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 also be celebrating children who completed the Library Challenge this summer in assembly on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Please bring certificates and / or medals on this day.

## 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.

### 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 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 handover.

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

### Snacks

We strongly promote healthy snacks 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.

## Car Parking

We encourage children to walk to school wherever possible. If it is not possible to walk the full journey, please use 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 lines outside the school. *Turning or reversing in Tynning Lane is especially dangerous and should **not** be attempted.*

## 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](mailto:itasylvia@gmail.com). Children are encouraged to join the club at the start of the school year so that they can start on the appropriate workbook alongside the other children starting. French Club starts on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> or Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, depending on the age of your child.

## After School Activity Clubs

Most after school clubs will start next week, with the exception of Chess Club, which starts the following week (Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September). The current clubs list is on our school website.

## Coming soon .....

**PlayWood Forest School sessions for pre-school children** on Tuesdays 8:30am – 1:00pm during term time in Monkton Combe. Spaces for three children. Tania is a qualified child minder and is Ofsted registered. For more details please contact her on [tania@playwoodforestschool.co.uk](mailto:tania@playwoodforestschool.co.uk) or 07780 673 229 & 01225 720 378

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**Diary Dates**

Please add to your family calendar

**September**

**Saturday 12 September** Village Fair

*& University of Bath Open Day will affect local traffic*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** Village service in the Marquee

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** Swiss Students start until 2<sup>nd</sup> October

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>** King Edward's School students start

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** Clubs start this week

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** Library Challenge Assembly. Children can bring their Library Challenge medals to show in assembly

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** Cello, Violin, Clarinet, Flute & Recorder lessons start

& Classes One and above Induction Sessions for Parents 2.15 p.m. & 3.30 p.m. (Reception induction later this term)

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>** Anti-Bullying Week

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** First new School Council Meeting changeover

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>** First Orchestra Session

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

**October**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>** School Meal Census Day

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Reception children optional afternoons start

& Big Ted's Bake Off Week

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** Harvest Festival Service in St Nicholas Church 9.30 a.m. (Standing room only)

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9.15 for 9.30 start

& First House Assemblies

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** Classes Five & Six to Admiral Arthur Phillip Service

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>** Individual Photographs (All staff and pupils)

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>** Reception children start full time unless exception

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>** End of Term 1 for children

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>** INSET Day 3 (School Development Planning)

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** INSET Day 4 (East Bath Learning Partnership Shared Training)

**November**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Start of Term 2

& Swimming starts for Class Five

& Start of Parent/ teacher interview fortnight

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** Road Safety Week

**December**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Event 3.15 p.m.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Service KS1 Time TBC

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>** Class Three Party

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** Reception Party

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** Christmas service KS2 Time TBC

& Class One and Class Two Party

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** Class Four Party

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** Class Five & Six Party

& End of Term 2

**January**

**Monday 4<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)

