



Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good

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Headteacher: Mr. K. Purkiss

Newsletter Four: December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to our final newsletter of 2017, may I wish you all a very **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** 2017 certainly seems to have raced by – it has been a pleasure to get to know all our wonderful children as well as many families. 2018 promises to be an exciting year for Bathwick, with joining Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (further details will be available in the new year), the opening of our Woodland Area as well as further developing the rich curriculum we can offer all our children.

As an Outstanding School, we all strive to provide the very best learning opportunities for all our children. **Thank you** to all the families who are always in school on time for the 8:50 bell, which ensures lessons and learning can begin promptly. Unfortunately a few children are increasingly arriving well past the 8.50 bell and as such disrupting the learning of their classmates. **As we begin 2018, please make every effort to ensure your child or children are on the playground ready for the 8.50 bell.** This will also mean you are able to pass messages to class teachers (who do their best to be on the playground before the bell). Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in this important matter.

Mince Pie plea!

The PTA would welcome a little help to serve mince pies to parents at approximately 2.45-3.15 p.m. on Monday 11th December following the Infant Nativity. If you are able to help, please email Annabel: mrsmary@live.co.uk. Thank you.

School email

When you receive an email message from school, please do not send email to the 'Schoolcomms' address as this address is not monitored. Please continue to use bathwickstmary_pri@bathnes.gov.uk. Thank you.

Thank you to the Woodland Team

A big thank you to Sarah Farrar, Garry Pratt, Kevin Renfrew, Kostas Iatridis, John Ord, Andrew Hawthorn, Mike Taylor, and Richard Cliff-Atkins who gave up their own time to help make our woodland area safe and ready for use in 2018. Thank you as well to Sue Tugwell and Tracey Bryant for cooking a good number of bacon butties to keep us all going!



The area is now safe to use and will be open to our classes from January. Every Thursday Sian Evans, a trained Forest School Leader, will be leading outdoor learning days in our woodland. More details will be in the January newsletter.



Clerk to the Governing Body

The Governing Body are still seeking a Clerk. If you are interested in this paid position, please speak to Mr. Purkiss or call into the school office.

Low immunity danger

Sophie (Year 4) has recently started a new medication for juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Similarly to **Fabienne** (Year 2), her immunity to a variety of illnesses including Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Shingles, Slapped Cheek and Scarlet Fever can put Sophie at **serious risk**. Fabienne's immunity still remains compromised putting her potentially at **serious life-threatening risk**. If your child becomes ill - and in particular with one of the illnesses listed above - then please ensure that you let the school office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Children in Need



Thank you for 'going spotty' in November. We managed to raise £185 for Children in Need.

Bathwick Christmas Card

Well done to Johnny in Year 6 who has designed our Bathwick St. Mary Christmas card. It has been sent to over 100 people this year. Thank you Johnny!



Carol Service

We look forward to seeing you at our School Carol Service on Thursday 14th December. Please be **seated by 1:30pm**. All children take part in the Service, so **please collect your child from the Church at the end** (we expect to end by 2.45 p.m.). If any child is left uncollected by the time everything has been cleared away from the Church, we will bring them back to school. If your child is usually collected from school by an after-school club, please let them know the arrangements for the afternoon.

Youth Speaks Competition

Congratulations to Ruby, Joseph and Miranda (Year 6) who spoke fluently, elegantly and with such conviction at the recent Bathavon Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition. I was extremely proud of each of them for not only representing the school impeccably but also for refining their public speaking skills. Well done!



Our Roundabout Garden

A huge thank you also to Jennifer MacDougall (Sam and Emily's grandmother) and Christiane Delatour for the dedication and effort they put into remodelling the roundabout garden which has been designed to reflect the Bathwick colours across the different sections. Thank you again to Jennifer who has also kindly donated the central tree.

Severe weather

In the event of very severe weather, it may be necessary to close or partially close the school. We will always do our very best to remain open, but with many staff living outside of Bath, due consideration is given to safe travel. In the event of poor weather, please watch for information at www.bathnes.gov.uk/school-closures. We will also do our best to email all parents and update our website. If you see other children walking to school, please do not suggest they walk back home, as parents would assume they have safely arrived at school. It would also be helpful to send your child in with a change of footwear!

Christmas Parties

- The Infant party is on Tuesday 12th December. The PTA has kindly offered to organise all the food again this year.
- The Year 3/4 party is on Friday 15th and Year 5/6 on Thursday 7th December.
- Please be mindful of our **no nuts** policy.

Christmas Post box

Each year our Year 6 become honorary post-people and deliver hundreds of cards. As last year, we would also appreciate your support in making the system manageable, by encouraging any child who would normally send Christmas cards to *everyone* in their class, to consider sending just one Christmas card to the whole class instead. This will ensure Season's Greetings are shared with all and will enable a much more manageable distribution of cards at the end of each 'post-box day'! The post-box is now open.

Christmas arrangements

A reminder to parents of infants that you should have received your tickets for one of the Nativity performances. These are:

- Monday 11th December 2.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 12th December 9.30 a.m.

Some children in year 4, 5 and 6 (you will have received a letter) are performing for some of our older Bathwick residents at the Bridgemoor residential and nursing home on Friday 15th December.

Christmas Services in St Mary's Church

- Tuesday 12th December, 7.30 p.m.: Come and enjoy Bath Community Gospel Choir and Chippenham Allsorts Choir at a free 'Sing for Christmas' festive concert.
- Wednesday 20th December, 7.30 p.m.: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by refreshments.
- Sunday 24th, 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist and Sermon
- Sunday 24th, 4.00 p.m. Children's Crib and Christingle Service (children are welcome to wear a nativity costume!)
- Sunday 24th, 5.00 p.m.: Holy Communion
- Sunday 24th, 11.00 p.m. Midnight Mass
- Christmas Day: 10.30 a.m. Family Eucharist

May I wish you all a very blessed and happy Christmas season.

Our term begins again for all children (at 8.50!) on Wednesday 3rd January.

With my best wishes,



Kevin Purkiss
Head Teacher

Admissions – September 2018

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 they are able to start school in September 2018. In order that your child can be considered for entry to school during the school year 2018/2019, you must submit your application by **15th January 2018**. It is imperative that you do not miss the deadline or else your form will not be considered until after the first allocation round. For further information visit the B&NES website www.bathnes.gov.uk. If you have any queries please contact 'Admissions and Transport' in BANES on 01225 394312.

Admissions Consultation 2019

Is your child due to start school in September 2019? **The Governing Body would welcome all comments on the proposed significant changes to the admissions policy** for 2019/2020 entry. The consultation documents can be found here: <http://bathwickstmary.org/admissions/> The consultation period will run until 16th January 2018. If you have any comments on the proposed changes to the 2019/20 admission arrangements you wish the Governors to consider, please email: bathwickstmary_pri@bathnes.gov.uk or send these to:

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FLOW Christmas Club

FLOWtopia is running two Christmas themed Holiday Clubs at St Stephen's School on 19th and 20th December. A chance to run some last minute errands whilst your kids COOK, MOVE, LAUGH and BREATHE through yoga, cooking, doodles, mini HIIT and mindfulness. They will make a healthy Christmas gift and get a FLOWtopia Christmas goody bag. Full and half days available. More details are on the website www.flowtopia.co.uk or contact Kate on 07989 306553.

Children's Science workshops BRLSI

Bookings are now being taken for all children 8 and over for Spring term 'hands on' science workshops at Bath Royal Literary and Science Institution, 16 Queen Square, Bath, BA2 2N 1pm to 4pm on the 2nd Saturday of every month. £6 per workshop. More information can be found here: www.brlsi.org/youthactivities