



Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good

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Headteacher: Mr. K. Purkiss

Newsletter Three: November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break. As ever, there is a lot of information included in this newsletter. Please read through to keep in touch with the many events and activities coming up this month. A quick reminder that **all children should now be in their full winter uniform.** Thank you.

Our new Chair of the Governing Body

The Governing Body will shortly be writing a newsletter to parents. In the interim, I am pleased to update you on some changes to our Governing Body at Bathwick St. Mary. Keith Moss has served as a Governor here for 23 years, eight of those most recently as Chair. Under his leadership Bathwick has gone through some significant changes, including that of the appointment of a new Headteacher and deputy Headteacher! Keith will step down as Governor at Christmas time after many years of dedicated service.

I am very pleased to announce we have a co-chair structure as we move further into this academic year. Sally Lewis (Foundation Governor) and Lucy Spedo-Mirandola (Foundation Governor and mother to George in Year 2 and Frederick in Year 1) have jointly taken on the role of co-Chair. This voluntary role has a significant workload and as such sharing some of the key responsibilities will add to the strength and capacity of the Governing Body to support and challenge the leadership of the school. I am also very pleased to announce that Ben Jenkins (Foundation Governor and father to Ned in Year 2 and George in Reception) has taken on the role of vice-chair.

Open afternoons to see our new ICT Suite

A reminder that there is an opportunity for each class to share the ICT suite with their parents. Children will be in the ICT suite on the following days and times – and 'pick up' will be from the ICT suite. This will give you a chance to see your child using the new computers.

- Year 2: Wednesday 1st November: 3.00-3.15
- Year 5: Thursday 2nd November: 3.10-3.25
- Year 6: Friday 3rd November: 3.10-3.25
- Year 1: Wednesday 8th November: 3.00-3.15

Welcome to new children

A very warm welcome to Andy (Y3) and Miah (Y2). We hope you will be very happy at Bathwick!

BIG TEDs Mufti Day

Thank you to all children who donated for this cause – we raised £173 for the RUH.

Maasai warriors at Bathwick!



Children thoroughly enjoyed the Kenyan Maasai Warriors performance earlier in October. We were the only school in Bath to have managed to book the group as part of their 2018 tour and were pleased to have provided such an opportunity for our children.



Youth Speaks Competition

The best of luck to Ruby, Joseph and Miranda (all in Year 6) who are being entered as Bathwick's team in the Bathavon Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition next week. Thank you to Mrs. Pemberton who has very kindly offered to support the team as they prepare for this challenging competition.

Children in Need - Mufti Day



We will be supporting Children in Need this year on Friday 17th November. Children can come dressed in mufti clothes – but with the challenge of wearing something **spotty** to support this charity! A suggested donation of £1 is welcome. Can you go...

S p o t a c u l a r ?

Keeping safe online

The date for the Year 3 and Year 5 E-Safety evening is Wednesday 22nd November. Please look out for the separate letter about this from Mr. Jackson.

Harvest donations

It was a pleasure to see over 120 parents join us for our Harvest Service last term. Thank you for your kind donations of food and toiletries for the Bath Food Bank. Thank you also for the £162 raised at the service – this money has been sent to the Bath Food Bank, helping those in our city less fortunate than ourselves.

Updated Dates for the Diary Terms 1 and 2 (more details to follow for several of these dates / events)

November

- Wed 1st: Year 2 ICT Suite open - 3.00-3.15
- Thurs 2nd: Year 5 ICT Suite open - 3.10-3.25
- Thurs 2nd AM: Deadline for Christmas Cards
- Fri 3rd: Year 6 ICT Suite open - 3.10-3.25
- Tue 7th: Eucharist for Years 4/5/6 at 9.00
- Wed 8th: Year 1 ICT Suite open - 3.00-3.15
- Wed 8th: Yr 6 trip to see War Horse (no football club this week – moved to Wed 13th December)
- Fri 10th: PTA Discos
- Tues 14th: Reception to Woodland Adventures
- Wed 15th: KS1 and Yr 3 Collective Worship 9.00
- Thurs 16th: Year 5 to Herschel Museum
- Fri 17th: 'Spotacular' Children in Need mufti
- Sat 18th: 9-12 'Woodland Working Party
- Weds 22nd: E-Safety evening for Year 3 and 5
- Thurs 23rd: Abbey Concert – details to follow
- Fri 24th: PTA Cake Sale
- Thurs 30th: Year 4 Art trip to Sydney Gardens
- Thurs 30th: Riverford evening

December

- Weds 6th: Yr 6 trip to Fleet Air Arm museum
- Mon 11th p.m. and Tues 12th a.m.: KS1 Nativity Performances
- Thurs 14th: Christmas Carol Service 1.30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church
- Fri 15th: Bridgcare concert a.m.

Woodland area – please can you help?

From January 2018, we are hoping to run each Thursday an outdoor learning day held in our woodland area. Each class from Year 1 to Year 6 will get opportunities to experience a 'Forest School' ethos based learning in the great outdoors! For this to happen we need some volunteers to help make the woodland area safe. On **Saturday 18th November from 9 a.m. - 12 midday** we need a team of people (to join Mr. Purkiss) who are happy to put in some physical labour to improve the area. You will need to bring good work gloves, saws and an appetite for physical work! We need to cut and remove some branches and ensure the area is free of litter and some slabs of concrete! There is a reply slip at the bottom of the letter – please complete this if you are able to help. Free Bacon butties and tea and coffee will be on tap thanks to Tracey who works in our school kitchen. Sadly children are not able to attend due to the area not being safe yet and the use of saws etc. Thank you in advance!

Mercy in Action Shoe Boxes - thank you

Thank you for supporting this project. We are pleased to have collected and sent 70 boxes out to the Philippines with Mercy in Action. We look forward to receiving pictures and news of our boxes with their recipients in the new year!



Severe weather

In the event of very severe weather, it may be necessary to close or partially close the school. We will always to our very best 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! Thank you.

Cross Country Success



On Wednesday 4th October, a group of Year 5 and 6 children attended the B&NES Primary Cross Country competition at Odd Down Sports Ground. Our teams did extremely well and we are very

proud of all our children who took part in the race. A special well done to Oliver Y5 (2nd), Sophie Y5 (4th) and Louis Y6 (5th) who have qualified in their races for the County Competition in November. Well done to all!



New opportunity for Play Equipment

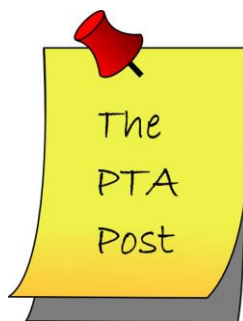
I am pleased to begin a trial that will enable the use of the play equipment opposite the Wheatley Room to be used after school for children in Reception, Year One and Year Two. We are lucky to have such lovely equipment and many children are keen to play with it after school. I have shared with our children:

- It may only be used where parents or carers are actively supervising their children.
- The responsibility for its safe use lies with the parent or carer and not the school.
- It is expected all children will have left the school site shortly after the end of the school day or shortly after clubs and events have finished.

Infant children all have been trained how to use the play equipment safely and to follow these four rules to help keep everyone safe:

- Keep hands and feet to ourselves
- Move around the equipment carefully
- Only three people on each 'section' of equipment
- Hands only on the upper parts of the climbing walls

I do hope our Infant children will enjoy safely using the equipment under your supervision for a short time at the end of the day.



The PTA Post – PTA News

Please come to the **PTA meeting** (at The Curfew) on Wednesday 15th November at 8p.m. All are welcome.

Starting your Christmas shopping? Then **Please sign up to Easyfundraising**, a scheme through which retailers donate to the PTA every time you shop online (including most major retailers, supermarkets, department stores, and even Amazon)! We raised £105 from April to June this year with only 45 parents signed up! We could raise a lot more if everyone signed up! Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/1YQPCH/2HI1WI/> and we will get an extra 50p for each new member.

If you have children's clothes, toys and equipment you want to sell or pass on to other parents, join our Facebook group for Bathwick parents. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1863232943994798/> and request to join. If you wish you can donate proceeds or part of proceeds to the PTA.

Congratulations to Site Manager Debs!

A huge congratulations to our Site Manager Debs Miner who was shortlisted in National Site Manager Awards 2017. She is officially in the top ten of all Site Managers in the UK! We know she always goes above and beyond her role to improve and develop our school – so it was lovely for her to receive such recognition for all her sterling work!



Wet weather in the mornings

We will always do our best to open the doors to the school early if the weather is very wet in the mornings. To help our office staff, **please do not try to come into school using the main entrance**. In the event of very wet weather we will open doors around 8.40 for children to go straight into school. Please ensure your child has a coat as if the weather is just drizzling, they will need to wait outside until the bell time as usual. Thank you for your understanding!

New bike and scooter sheds – coming soon

We are looking to install a new bike and scooter shelter after the new year which will help with environmentally friendly travel to school. A polite reminder – please be considerate if you need to drive to school. Some parents have parked and left their vehicles on the double yellow lines and block safe access to the school. Whilst I appreciate the challenges of access on Darlington Road, please do not park on double yellow lines or on school grounds as there is a very real danger of reversing down the drive and potentially knocking into one of our children. Thank you for your cooperation.

Calling all pianists!

Mrs. Bradley leads our choir each week. We try to be involved in several events both in and out of school throughout the year. Are you able to support Mrs. Bradley by playing the piano accompaniment for the choir while Mrs. Bradley conducts for our Carol, Easter and Leavers Services? If so, please do let myself or Mrs. Bradley know. Thank you.

Remembrance Poppies

If your child would like to purchase a poppy, your child may bring in a donation from Thursday (tomorrow). A suggested minimum donation of £1 per poppy would be gratefully received. Year six will go into each class with the poppies for children to purchase.

Low immunity danger

Fabienne (Year 2) finished treatment for leukaemia last December. Her immunity still remains compromised putting her potentially at serious life-threatening risk if exposed to a variety of illnesses including Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Shingles, Slapped Cheek and Scarlet Fever. If your child becomes ill - and in particular with one of those listed above - then please can you ensure that you let the school office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Purkiss
Head Teacher

Individual Photograph Day

A reminder that the school photographer will take pictures of individual children and children with their siblings on **Thursday 9th November from 8:15 am**. If you completed the slip in the previous newsletter regarding pictures of younger siblings, please be in school at 8:15am and kindly wait by the Wheatley Room doors. Thank you.

Biathlon Success

A huge thank you to Sian Dudman who took 25 of our children to the qualifying time trials for the UK Schools Biathlon Championships to be held at Crystal Palace in March 2018. Children had to swim a 50 metre length of the pool and run 800m around the athletics track! We will be notified in mid-December as to which children have qualified for the UK championships. Last year, six children qualified from Bathwick and five children made the trip to London to take part! All 25 children really performed to the best of their ability and were a credit to our school. They were so encouraging and supportive of each other and very well behaved - a great team.

A particular well done to:

- Oliver - 3rd in the Under 10 Boys
- Sophie - 4th in the Under 10 Girls
- Tomas – 10th in the Under 10 Boys
- Toby - 10th in the Under 11 Boys
- Theo - 11th in the Under 11 Boys



Woodland Area help: Saturday 18th November, 9.00a.m. - 12.00

I am available to help clear and improve our woodland area and will bring strong gloves and equipment that may be needed. (Children are not able to attend due to the area not being safe yet and the use of saws etc.)

Name: (Adult) Parent of:

Please return this slip to the school office by **Friday 10th November**. Thank you.