



*Achieving excellence through
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School
Darlington Road
Bath
BA2 6NN
01225 465654
office@bsm.bwmat.org
www.bathwickstmary.org
Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



Newsletter Four: December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sounds of Christmas are just starting here in Bathwick St. Mary. Albeit in a different form to usual, the music of carols, nativity rehearsals and instruments ring through our corridors! As we come to our final newsletter of this year, may I wish you all a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** May 2021 be a year with many blessings for our children, families and school community. We look forward to enjoying again many of the trips, visits and school events that make the Bathwick curriculum so rich and varied for our children.

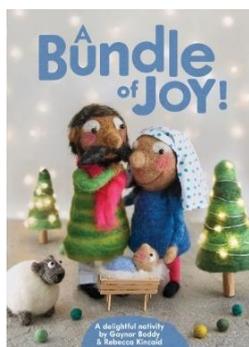
Christmas plans!

We are determined to ensure that the Christmas period in school is a time to celebrate and be joyful!

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day – Tuesday 8th December. A reminder that Christmas lunch is on Tuesday 8th December and you need to book on Parent Pay. It will be a day of festive fun – with Christmas games and activities planned by staff during the day. It will also be our Christmas Jumper Day. Please can all children wear a **non-uniform jumper** and **bring in a donation for the charity [Save the Children](http://www.save-the-children.org.uk) and our PTA.** If you don't have one, there is no expectation or pressure to buy a new jumper – any top will be fine! Feel free to decorate the top with tinsel and snowflakes to help make this a Christmas Lunch day children will remember!



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Infant Nativity – 'A Bundle of Joy' – Monday 14th December

A reminder that Monday 14th December is filming day - the staging will be up, the stage lighting will be ready and we need all infant children to wear their costumes to school. We will be filming each part of the nativity separately and piecing them

together for the final performance which you will be able to view from home as a family.

Peter Pan PTA Fundraiser Wednesday 16th Dec.

Thank you to all parents who have kindly donated to the PTA for the live stream theatrical production of '[Peter Pan](http://www.peterpanmusicals.com)'.



As we cannot have our Christmas Fair, this event will act as a PTA Fundraiser and during the last week, each child will be making a Christmas gift to 'sell' to parents or carers at home. The donation link is now live and we **suggest a donation of £5 please per child, but please feel free to give as generously as you feel you would like to.** All money raised will go directly to the PTA for our fundraising projects! Thank you very much.

Our Carol Service

As much as we would all enjoy a Carol Service for our whole school community, we have made necessary the decision this year to hold a virtual Carol Service. Each class has prepared a festive performance which will be recorded at school and shared with each other and with all our parents and carers. Our Year 6 children, as this is their last year at Bathwick, will still attend St. Mary's Church on Thursday 17th December and perform and record their amazing choir pieces (unfortunately no parents can attend). We will share this recording with all parents and carers as soon as possible.

PTA Christmas Auction

Look out for the PTA auction link due to **launch this Friday.** Thank you to all parents and local business who have so generously donated to this event. There are some amazing items that you will be able to bid on – if



you are stuck for present ideas this could be your place to look! One of the 'top items' is a limited edition signed and numbered Damien Hirst 'Rainbow Heart'!

Christmas Postbox

Each year our Year 6 become honorary post-people and deliver all the cards that have been written. We want our children to enjoy this experience, but need to adapt our procedures. Please do not allow children to hand out cards separately instead but them in the postbox. Children can put cards in during the day as agreed with their teachers.

The postbox will close on Friday 11th December and all cards left for 72

hours. They will then be safely distributed in the final week of term. 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 in a more manageable and environmentally friendly way! Cards must state the recipients name AND class please.



NEW: PTA Facebook Page and Wreath Sale!

[Click here to go to our Facebook Page.](#)

Please support our PTA by buying a handmade Christmas wreath, created by school mums using local seasonal foliage. Wreaths are available to view and order via our new [PTA Facebook Page](#) and are priced between £10 and £20, with **100% of the money raised going straight to the PTA.** Wreaths are online now, and we will be adding more over the next couple of days. They can be collected at school drop off or delivered locally to your door. If you do not have access to Facebook and would like to order a wreath, please contact Jess Westbrook for more info on 07736 326 751. Thank You.



Allergies in school

We have children in school who have **life-threatening allergies** to nuts, sesame seeds, and products containing sesame (sesame can be found on or in a variety of food, including on rolls, bread, oil, hummus). We take all our children's safety extremely seriously and as such there is a **school wide ban on nuts and sesame products.** Thank you for your continued vigilance and support.

Low immunity danger

Fabienne's (Year 5) immunity remains compromised and a variety of illnesses including Chickenpox, Measles, Mumps, Shingles, Slapped Cheek and Scarlet Fever put her potentially at **life-threatening risk.** If your child becomes ill - and in particular with one of the illnesses listed above - then please let the school office know immediately.

Royal Society Young People's Book Prize

We are delighted to announce that we have been selected to participate in the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize again this year. This is a real privilege as the judging panel will help to choose this year's winning book. This year's panel is Agnes, Beau, Evie, Isabelle, Mark and Max (all Year 6) who are really enjoying reading and discussing the shortlisted books. Some favourites are already beginning to emerge!

The shortlisted books are:

- Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry
- Cats React to Science Facts
- The Everyday Journal of Ordinary Things
- Gut Garden
- How to Win a Nobel Prize
- In The Key of Code

The panel will be making their final decision in January, then we will send our votes to the Royal Society. The panel will also be creating a special newsletter in January to give their thoughts about the books. The overall winner will be announced in February and more information about the Book Prize can be found at [Royal Society Young People's Book Prize](#)



Congratulations to Kitty in Year 6 who has won the competition for our Bathwick Christmas card this year. Thank you to all children who entered the competition this year!

New Wraparound Team

At the end of this term we will say a fond farewell to Izzy Olivey who has led our After School Club since its inception a year ago. We wish Izzy every success for the future. I am pleased to share with our families that Liam Alford has been appointed as Club Leader from January and will be ably assisted by Sarah Hayes and Leanne Plank during the week.

Support for Bath Open Christmas

Thank you to Year 6 who helped to create cards for the charity 'Bath Open Christmas' who cook around 400 Christmas lunches for those who might be on their own on Christmas Day. This year's celebrations can't take place as usual, but every guest will now receive a card made by a local school child.



Cross country success!



On Wednesday 4th November two teams of Year 4 children had a fantastic afternoon competing in a cross country event with other school across B&NES. The teams had a fantastic afternoon and demonstrated such perseverance and respect in all they did! Congratulations to both the Bathwick girls team AND Bathwick boys team who came 1st out of all schools across B&NES who entered! In addition, a huge well done to Anna who came 1st and Lola who came 2nd out of every child in the competition! A very well done to all!



Severe weather procedures

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 leading to a closure, **we will email and text all parents**. If you see other children walking to school, please do not suggest they walk back home, as parents may assume they have safely arrived at school. If we are open, please send your child in with a change of footwear! Thank you.

Christmas gifts

If after Christmas you are having a clear out and have a good quality complete game that could be donated for our classes for wet play or Wraparound Care club, please do bring those in next term. Thank you!

Term 2 Dates for the Diary

December

Th 3	OWL Year 2
Fr 4	Year 4 Carnival Day
Mon 7	Year 6 Evacuee Day
Tues 8	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Th 10	OWL Year 1
Fri 11	OWL Year R (Date changed)
Mon 14	Nativity Performance and recording
Weds 16	Peter Pan Theatre Performance
Thurs 17	Carol Service recordings
Fri 18	Last day of term

Term 3 starts for all children on Tuesday 5th January as Monday 4th is a staff training (INSET) day.

As I have said on a number of letters over the course of this most unusual of years, thank you for all your ongoing support of our school and our staff team. As always, should you have any queries, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to stop me in the playground or contact the school office.

Wishing all our children and families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2021!

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Purkiss
Headteacher

