



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 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write December's newsletter, the sounds of children singing carols, the guitar group strumming and excited chatter at the sight of the Christmas tree, echo through the corridors. The school is a hive of activity as normal lessons continue but we also prepare for the Carol Service on the last day of term.

One of the many special things about our school is the sense of community and being part of a school family. We continue to work hard to carefully balance the latest risks associated with Covid and the importance of being together at these events, both for our children and families. I am pleased to share that following B&NES Public Health and Government guidance released this week and considering the current picture of Covid cases across the school, and in line with our assessment of risk, we very much look forward to the **School Carol Service (1.30 p.m. on Friday 17th December at St. Mary's Church)** which, at this stage, we expect to be going ahead. Both the size of the internal space at the church and the ability to maintain an acceptable distance are two key reasons that we are planning to go ahead with this special event. Families with children in Year R, 1 and 2 will be aware of the need to record the Nativity, but we are pleased to be able to showcase some key sections live in the Carol Service which will give every child the opportunity to share their song, dance or acting skills with the whole school family.

'One Kind Word'

We are extremely proud of our School Council. They have worked hard on producing a thoughtful 'One Kind Word' message for our school community as part of Anti-bullying week. All children at school have had the opportunity to watch their message in Collective Worship and reflect on the key messages of how words can be used to encourage and build each other up! We reflected again how we are all different and can celebrate our diversity, and at the same time all equal and of equal value. [Their brilliant video is here.](#)



Year 5/6 Cross Country

Once again our children modelled exceptional passion, behaviour and great attitudes in the second inter-school cross country event. We are extremely proud of how well they supported every member of their team to be the very best they could be. Thank you to parents for their support at this event.



On Friday 10th December



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

we will be supporting the charity 'Save the Children'. Children can wear a Christmas / festive / other jumper on top of their usual uniform for 'Christmas Jumper Day'. There is no need to buy a special jumper – but do feel free to decorate any jumper to make it as special as possible! We will have buckets in the playground for a suggested donation of £1.00 or what you feel you can give!



Thank you for your generous support of **Children in Need - we raised £264.37!**



Earlier this week, **Year 6** were all evacuated from Bathwick as part of their topic. The fascinating trip to the Steam Museum helped further develop their understanding about life as an evacuee in the 1940s.



PTA Rainbow Hamper Raffle

Thank you for the wonderful donations for the Hamper raffle. The PTA will soon be holding the raffle – more information to follow! Thank you very much to **Ruben** in Year 2 who recently made delicious cakes and then sold them outside his home to raise £66 for the PTA. Another big thank you to **Bea** in Year 6 who raised a further £81 for the PTA from the Grow £1 project. Thank you to both Ruben and Bea!



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 (this includes bringing snacks after school for your children or during clubs time)**. Thank you for your continued vigilance and support.

Low immunity danger

Fabienne's (Year 6) 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.

On Tuesday 14th December, our **Year 5 and 6 choir** are very much looking forward to performing at Bath Abbey as part of the **Rotary Carol Service**. We are the only school to have been invited and are delighted to give our children the opportunity to perform to an expected audience of around 800! In addition, we have children doing readings and a solo of 'Once in Royal David's City'. A reminder that children in choir need to be at the Abbey at 17.10 and that Y5/6 cricket club has moved to Wednesday 15th from 15.25-16.30. It is likely to be a very memorable experience, especially as we will be singing under the moon at the Abbey! It is well worth a visit – more [details can be found here](#).



Christmas Dinner is next week, on Tuesday 7th December. Please ignore the menu on Parent Pay, but **book a red option for a turkey Christmas Dinner, or green for the vegetarian Christmas dinner with vegetarian sausages**. There is no yellow option that day. A huge thanks to our kitchen team for providing a delicious Christmas lunch for around 250 children and staff that day!



Our **Reception children** had a lovely opportunity to witness the planting of trees in Sydney Gardens earlier this week as part of the garden redevelopment.





Diwali celebrations in Year 1

Year 1 children have learnt a lot about Diwali this term, demonstrating their understanding of the topic in a celebration of Diwali at the end of November. They carefully made rangoli pattens and crafted clay pots during OWL adventures.



Save the date(s)

In addition to the dates below, a reminder of some key events in the year ahead:

- Sunday 30th **January**, Education Sunday
- Friday 8th **April**, 1.30 p.m. Easter Service
- 27th – 29th **April**, Year 5 to Dean Field
- 6th – 10th **June**, Year 6 to Isle of Wight
- 22nd – 24th **June**, Year 4 to Magdalen Farm
- Wednesday 20th **July**, Leavers Service 1.30 pm.

Term 2 Dates for the Diary	
December	
Tues 7	CHRISTMAS LUNCH TODAY
Weds 8	6.30 p.m. Choir performing at Bath Ree (Cancelled by the organisers)
Thur 9	OWL Year 6 Year 4 Carnival Day – Jamma de Samba Workshop
Fri 10	Save the Children Jumper Day
Tues 14	Choir to Rotary Carol Service – Bath Abbey, evening. (17.10 arrival)
Thurs 16	Year 2 End of term project with Sian Evans – wear 'OWL' clothes.
Fri 17	Whole School Carol Service, 1.30 p.m.

We wish all our families a lovely Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing all our children and again at 8.50 a.m. on Wednesday 5th January 2022!

You may be interested in...

Please have a look at some of the local events or information that we have been asked to share with our parents and carers. We will only share information that is likely to be relevant to our children and families and by organisations already linked to the school.

Bath City Farm – Natural Pathways Group

Natural pathways is a group for people 18+ with mild to moderate mental health needs, such as anxiety, depression, stress, low mood. The group is made up of around 6 people and runs 10-2:30 every Thursday with George Cook who works for Avon Wildlife Trust. Activities include pond clearance, hedge trimming and general conservation work. The focus is on wellbeing with regular check ins and breaks for mindfulness. info@bathcityfarm.org.uk / 01225 481269

Job opportunity - term time only - Bathford School

One of our local BWMAT schools (Bathford) is looking to recruit an After School Club supervisor as part of warm, friendly and successful team. This is a great position for an individual who is looking for a part time (13 hours a week, 3-6.15pm Monday-Thursday) term time only and permanent contract. Please have a look at the [full details here](#).

Do you have any formal dresses or suits in your wardrobe gathering dust? You could help support a local charity that collects pre-loved dresses and suits and gives them for free to students in South Africa who would otherwise not have anything to wear to their own graduation ball. Tine Stapelfeldt, Frida's mum is collecting formal wear on behalf of the charity Dress It Forward (<https://dressitforward.net>) and is asking for parents and pupils to bring in any items on the 14th of December.

Natural Pathways

A friendly wildlife conservation group with a focus to improve people's mental wellbeing

Join our Wildlife Conservation Group at Bath City Farm!

Thursday 10:00am - 2:30pm

Explore the site, learn new skills, meet new friends and help improve the farm for wildlife!

For more information about the group and to request a place please contact the farm on:

info@bathcityfarm.org.uk

01225 481269

Bath City Farm (c) George Cook
BATHSCAPE
HERITAGE FUND

Britannica children's non-fiction magazine

Bathwick St Mary Church School is taking part in a new reading initiative that you and your child may be interested in. Britannica, the oldest source of factual information across the world, is launching a new, exciting children's non-fiction magazine to engage children in reading, support child development and academic ability, and explore interests without screentime. For every ten families who subscribe to the magazine under our school's name, we'll receive £100 (max. £1,000) to spend on non-fiction books for our classrooms and library, and support our school's reading initiatives for this year. If you would like to take a look at the launch issue, [you can view it here](#).

We're really excited to be part of this initiative to get children reading and engaged in fun, exciting non-fiction stories, facts, jokes, and more. Please consider subscribing online at britannicamagazine.com. It's a perfect Christmas gift! And please remember to choose **Bathwick St Mary Church School** at the online checkout to make sure your subscription counts towards our free books!



Supporting people with learning disabilities in the Bath area

Bath Half 2022

Thinking about running the Bath Half?
Want to help a local charity raise vital funds?

We have free Charity places available now

For further information please contact info@lifeprojectbath.org.uk

www.lifeprojectbath.org.uk

Winter Holiday Adventures



- Out in nature
- New friends
- Hot chocolate
- Marshmallows
- New skills
- Campfire
- Fresh Air
- Games
- Fun

Our Christmas Holiday dates are:

Monday 20th December
Tuesday 21st December
Monday 4th January

To book or to get in touch with us, please check our website or write to us at info@swainswickexplorers.co.uk

www.swainswickexplorers.co.uk  



HAVEN CAFE

We understand the sights and sounds of Bath at Christmas can be exciting and also overwhelming. A warm welcome to all, especially those who need a down time to enjoy a good time.

A Pop-Up Cafe offering a safe haven to those with additional needs visiting Bath this Christmas season.

Monday to Thursday
29th Nov to 16 Dec
4:00pm to 6:00pm
@ Manvers Street Baptist

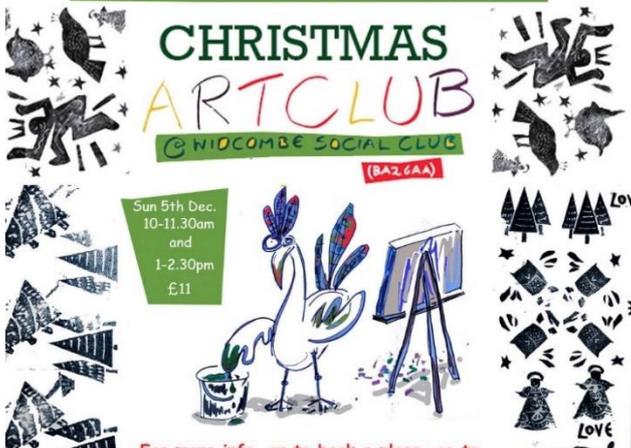
www.lifeprojectbath.org.uk
Manvers Street Baptist
Bath, BA1 1JW

This Artclub will explore printmaking, creating individual stamps to take home, as well as a selection of paper decorations.

CHRISTMAS ARTCLUB

at NIDCOMBE SOCIAL CLUB (BA2 6AA)

Sun 5th Dec.
10-11.30am and 1-2.30pm
£11



For more info. or to book a place, go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-artclub-tickets-207030532897> or Email: mazybartlett@googlemail.com

Mazy Bartlett is a qualified teacher with a current enhanced DBS

Bathwick St. Mary School Term and Holiday Dates – 2021-2022

NO HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN TERM TIME (v3 addition of July 22nd B&NES School holiday date)

AUGUST 2021						SEPTEMBER 2021					OCTOBER 2021								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	
T		3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28	T		5	12	19	26	
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	
TH		5	12	19	26		TH	2	9	16	23	30	TH		7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29	
S		7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25		S	2	9	16	23	30	
SU	1	8	15	22	29		SU	5	12	19	26		SU	3	10	17	24	31	
NOVEMBER 2021						DECEMBER 2021					JANUARY 2022								
M		1	8	15	22	29	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24	31
T		2	9	16	23	30	T		7	14	21	28	T		4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26	
TH		4	11	18	25		TH	2	9	16	23	30	TH		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28	
S		6	13	20	27		S	4	11	18	25		S	1	8	15	22	29	
SU		7	14	21	28		SU	5	12	19	26		SU	2	9	16	23	30	
FEBRUARY 2022						MARCH 2022					APRIL 2022								
M		7	14	21	28		M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	
T	1	8	15	22			T	1	8	15	22	29	T		5	12	19	26	
W	2	9	16	23			W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	
TH	3	10	17	24			TH	3	10	17	24	31	TH		7	14	21	28	
F	4	11	18	25			F	4	11	18	25		F	1	8	15	22	29	
S	5	12	19	26			S	5	12	19	26		S	2	9	16	23	30	
SU	6	13	20	27			SU	6	13	20	27		SU	3	10	17	24		
MAY 2022						JUNE 2022					JULY 2022								
M		2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	
T		3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28	T		5	12	19	26	
W		4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	
TH		5	12	19	26		TH	2	9	16	23	30	TH		7	14	21	28	
F		6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24		F	1	8	15	22	29	
S		7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25		S	2	9	16	23	30	
SU	1	8	15	22	29		SU	5	12	19	26		SU	3	10	17	24	31	

School Term Dates:	
Holiday Dates:	(Children not in school)
Inset Days:	(Children not in school)
Bank holidays:	(Children not in school)

The 22/23 academic year begins on Thursday 1st September 2022.