



Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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## Newsletter Two: October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The school year is in full swing with many exciting learning opportunities for our children – all carefully linked to our Bathwick Curriculum. The love of reading and books was evident as all classes from Years 1 to 6 heard from some brilliant authors as part of the recent trips to the **Bath Literature Festival**. We all thoroughly enjoyed listening to **Michael Rosen** (Children’s Laureate from 2007-2009) at the start of the week. Following this, each Junior class were fortunate to be inspired by other super authors: Year 3 listened to poet and playwright [Joseph Coelho](#); Year 4 enjoyed the acclaimed author [Maz Evans](#); [Year 5](#) learned about Incredible Untold Stories that Shaped Britain with The Black Curriculum; and Year 6 were enthralled with authors [Robin Stevens](#) and [Serena Patel](#). Reading is an essential life skill and is a real strength at Bathwick. It remains a key focus for us as we ever strive to improve. We build on current successes by using events such as the Literature Festival, approach to the teaching of phonics and carefully chosen whole class texts to develop children’s imagination, their vocabulary and a genuine love of reading.

A reminder that you will find **our carefully constructed curriculum [mapped out here](#)**. The documents set out what content children will be learning about in each subject over the course of the term. The national curriculum forms just one part of the school’s curriculum, which is enriched through local studies and visits. Year 4 enhanced their learning about key aspects of the **Roman invasion of Britain** with their Roman Day just yesterday. They will learn more in a trip to the Roman Baths shortly. Year 5 will soon enjoy a fascinating trip to the **Herschel museum** where William Herschel discovered the planet Uranus. **Year 6 will be ‘evacuated’** to Steam in Swindon as part of their in depth study of how children were impacted in Britain during World War II. Year 3 will enhance their studies around Mary Anning as they visit the fascinating fossil displays at the **American Museum** later this month.

### Safeguarding – hearing our children’s views

Thank you to our Safeguarding Governor, Mel Skeet, who held the first ‘Safeguarding Pupil Voice’ meetings this week. These meetings enable Governors to hear first hand from children and then challenge the work of the school and help ensure Safeguarding always remains at the very top of our priorities

**Congratulations** to the children in Year 5 and 6 who took part on the Bath Schools Cross Country at the end of September. As usual, the teams were a credit to themselves and the school. Particular congratulations to Max A who came tenth overall in his age group!



### The importance of school attendance

In every newsletter and in regular communication we remind our community that no holidays are authorised in term time. Children make progress in their learning when they know more, remember more and are able to do more. Our carefully sequenced curriculum is built around this pedagogy – and **this is one of the key reasons why school attendance matters so much**. This year, we will be publishing each class’s attendance figures for any unauthorised absence.

**Congratulations** to Years 2, 3 and 5 who have had **100% attendance** (which includes authorised absence) for the month of September.

Year R: 99.4%	Year 4: 96%
Year 1: 99.8%	<b>Year 5: 100%</b> 😊
<b>Year 2: 100%</b> 😊	Year 6: 97%
<b>Year 3: 100%</b> 😊	WHOLE SCHOOL: 98.9%

### Teaching children to read

Learning to read fluently, with confidence and for enjoyment is without doubt one of the most important aspects of your child's education. Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to come to the recent information session on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Our approach to teaching phonics and early reading utilises the excellent 'Read, Write, Inc.' scheme and is having great impact. All parents and carers in Year R, 1 and 2 should have received an information pack. If you need further information, please see your child's class teacher.



### PCE (Parent / Carer Consultation Evening) reminder

A reminder to please sign up for PCEs (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October) here please:

<https://bsm.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

### Open mornings

Is your child due to start school in September 2023? You are warmly invited to our Open Mornings on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> November, each from 9.00-10.00 or 10.45-11.45). Contact Clare Turner in the office to book a place: [office@bsm.bwmat.org](mailto:office@bsm.bwmat.org)

**Thank you to everyone** who supported the second-hand book sale last week. We raised an amazing **£147** which will be spent on new books for the library. Thank you to Clare Turner and Katherine Jenkins for all their support!

Thank you also to the **new PTA team** who ran the second-hand uniform sale recently. The event was well attended and raised **£451.40!** A PTA newsletter is coming out shortly. In the meantime have a look at some of the exciting events planned in Dates for the Diary on the next page!

The Governors and PTA will be holding a special **Presentation and Q&A session at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.** This will be a great opportunity to hear more about the key things the school is working on this year, our longer term strategies, the work of the PTA... and how you can be involved. There will be refreshments, a chance to ask questions and will be the first of several events over the course of this year designed to build on our close working relationships with parents and carers. Do look out for more information to follow...

### Walking home alone and mobile devices

A reminder if you wish your child in Years 5 or 6 to walk home on their own at the end of the school day, please [complete this short permission form](#). If you feel your child in Year 5 and 6 has a specific need for a mobile phone (this includes 'Smart' watches with the ability to make/receive texts or calls) in school, please contact Clare Turner in the school office who will share a permission form. Thank you.

### Our outdoor curriculum

Huge thanks to Liam Alford who has taken on the leadership of our OWL Adventure days. Here are Year 6 building shelters for an escaped tortoise (which has since been found safe and well!).



Each class have been enjoying developing their 3D sculpture skills with our OWL Adventure days.



### Winter Uniform – from October half term

As we approach half term may I remind parents that **all children** need to wear their 'winter uniform' (shirts and ties) from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Thank you for your co-operation. The uniform [requirements are here](#).

### Important safety updates

We have children in school who have **life-threatening allergies**. We take all our children's safety extremely seriously and as such **the following foods and foods containing these ingredients are banned from the school site** (this includes bringing snacks after school for your children or during clubs time):

- ⊘ **Sesame seeds and food containing sesame** (sesame can be found on or in a variety of food, including on rolls, bread, oil, hummus)
- ⊘ **Nuts and food containing nuts**
  - ✗ All 'Tree nuts' - this includes cashew, hazelnuts, almonds, walnuts, pistachio, macadamia, pecan and Brazil nuts
  - ✗ Peanuts and chestnuts
  - ✗ Pine nuts and Pesto

Some food packing uses wording such as, 'This product has been produced in a factory that handles nuts and/or sesame' or 'May contain nuts and/or sesame'. At school, we only ban foods that specifically state nuts or sesame in the ingredient list. Thank you for your continued vigilance.

**Term 1 Dates for the Diary**

## Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest Celebration service on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** at **1.30**



**p.m.** at St. Mary's Church. We are delighted to invite our whole school community to share in this joyful service together. We would like to **especially invite all Year R and other new-to-school Parents and Carers** – new children in Reception and others across the school will receive a Bible from school which we will present to each child in this service. All children take part in the Service, so please collect your child from the Church at the end (we expect to end by 2.40 p.m.) If you are unable to collect your child (or they are booked into Wraparound Care or clubs), we will take children back to school for the usual end of the day.

During the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> October, please bring in any of the **following donations** which will be collected by Bath Foodbank. Bath Foodbank can only accept non-perishable food items (tinned and dried goods), which do not spoil or decay. All items should be unopened and in date.

**Food:** Long life juice, Milk (UHT), Meat (Tinned), Fish (Tinned), Vegetarian meals (Tinned), Ready meals/Microwavable meals, Kettle meals (noodles etc), Soup (Tinned and instant), Rice (dry), Instant mash, Vegetables (tinned carrots/peas/sweetcorn), Tomato pasta sauce (jars), Biscuits, Chocolate, Fruit (tinned), Sponge pudding, Coffee (instant), Pet food.

**Non food items:** Laundry detergent, Washing up liquid, Toilet roll, Toiletries – shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, soap, dental, Children's toiletries – shampoo, bath wash, dental.

We look forward to seeing as many of our school community as can make it for the Harvest Service. In the meantime, please do stop me in the playground or make contact to share ideas, concerns or questions.

With best wishes,

Kevin Purkiss  
Head Teacher

October Black History Month	
5	Year 4/5/6 – Eucharist, 9.00 a.m. Thrive Parent Evening – 6.30 p.m.
6	Year 4 – KES Music carousel
7	OWL – Year 5 Year 6 World War II Steam Visit Year 3 American Museum Visit
10	PCEs 3.30-8.00
12	Year 5 Herschel Museum Visit
13	PCEs 3.30-6.00
14	OWL – Year 3 PTA Cake Sale (Responsibility of Years 5/6)
17	Show Racism the Red Card – All to wear red
19	Year 4 Roman Baths Visit
20	Year 4 Litter Picking with B&NES Councillors
21	Harvest Service, St. Mary's Church, 1.30 p.m.
Term 2 Dates for the Diary	
31	Individual Photographs
November	
3	Open Morning for September 2023 Reception PTA & Governor Presentation and Q&A 7.00 p.m. OWL Year 2
9	From Page to Stage Week Y2-6 To Bristol Hippodrome 'Beauty & the Beast'
10	PTA Quiz Night in School Hall (From 7.30pm)
11	Remembrance Day OWL Year 1 Cake Sale in WR (Responsibility of Years 3/4)
14	Anti-bullying week Odd Socks Day
15	Flu Vaccinations
18	Children in Need OWL Year R School Disco. End of school day - 4.30 Infants / 4.45-5.30 Juniors
24	Open Morning for September 2023 Reception OWL Year 5
25	Year 6 – Walking Tour of Bath
December	
1	PTA Christmas Wreath Evening 7.30 p.m.
2	OWL Year 6
6	Christmas Lunch
9	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the children) Year 4 OWL After school – PTA Christmas Fair
12	2.15 Nativity Performance (YR/1/2)
13	Evening Choir to Rotary Carol Service - Abbey
14	9.45 Nativity Performance (YR/1/2)
16	Carol Service, 1.30 p.m. St. Mary's Church

### Save the date(s)

- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> **March**, Easter Service, 1.30 p.m.
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> **April**, Year 5 to Deanfield
- 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> **June**, Year 6 to Isle of Wight
- 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> **June**, Year 4 to Magdalen Farm
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> **July**, Leavers Service, 1.30 pm.

## You may also be interested in...

### Libraries for the Children of B&NES – Survey

Calling all parents and carers of 0–11-year-olds!

Do you bring children to our libraries?

If not, why?

What would encourage you to use our services?



Take part in our online survey:

Visit

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/parents-carers-libraries>  
to complete the survey online by **10th October 2022**  
or, **scan the QR code**



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Facebook: @BathnesLibraries  
Instagram: @bathnes\_libraries  
Twitter: @BathnesL  
Pinterest: @BanesLibraries  
Blog: <https://bathneslibraries.wordpress.com>

### Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a special introductory discount of £40 for members of Bathwick St Mary if they sign up by Tuesday 24th January. Parents should quote BSMP240123 when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at [perform.org.uk/try](http://perform.org.uk/try). The nearest classes are:

- Perform Larkhall (Drama for 4-7s). Mondays at 4.00pm, New Oriel Hall, BA1 6RA
- Perform Larkhall (Drama for 7-12s), Mondays at 5.05pm, New Oriel Hall, BA1 6RA

The Royal High School Bath will be holding a **Creative Art Masterclass on Saturday 12 November...** and we would like to invite your girls from **Year 5 and 6** to join us. There is **no charge** for this event but places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. If you are interested, registration and more details are on our website, please follow the link below.

[Art Masterclass for Year 5+6 - Royal High School Bath \(gdst.net\)](http://gdst.net)

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
OUR  
*Thanksgiving Service*

Thursday 13 October 2022  
at Bath Abbey  
from 7.30pm to 9.30pm

*All Welcome!*

GenesisTrust  
New beginnings - Better futures


Please join us for an evening for giving thanks for the support and provision Genesis Trust has received over the last 32 years.

We would also like to offer an update on how Genesis Trust is currently supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable people, especially at this time of increasing need, and to share with you some plans for the future.

Worship will be led by Dave Bilborough and his band.

Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, and we will finish by 9.30pm.

Tickets are free, but please scan here to book



or visit  
[www.genesis-trust.org.uk/events](http://www.genesis-trust.org.uk/events)

### Bath Philharmonia: Free Tickets

We're writing to offer free tickets to your school community to attend our forthcoming orchestral concert on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7:30pm at The Forum, Bath.

This concert features internationally renowned pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, performing Mendelssohn's stormy and passionate first Piano Concerto. plus we'll be performing Beethoven's 8th Symphony. It promises to be a playful and cheery musical evening.

We're opening up the concert hall to those who may have never heard the magic of a live orchestra before or want to try something new and are particularly keen to widen younger audiences' access to live music.

Details of this special offer and how to book your free tickets can be found here:

<https://www.bathphil.co.uk/bathphilforfree>

Kind regards,

Aaron Buckley

Orchestral Projects Coordinator | Bath Philharmonia

# Term and Holiday Dates – **2022-2023**

**NO HOLIDAYS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN TERM TIME**

AUGUST 2022						SEPTEMBER 2022					OCTOBER 2022							
M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26	M		3	10	17	24	31
T	2	9	16	23	30	T		6	13	20	27	T		4	11	18	25	
W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28	W		5	12	19	26	
TH	4	11	18	25	TH	1	8	15	22	29	TH		6	13	20	27		
F	5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23	30	F		7	14	21	28		
S	6	13	20	27	S	3	10	17	24	S	1	8	15	22	29			
SU	7	14	21	28	SU	4	11	18	25	SU	2	9	16	23	30			
NOVEMBER 2022						DECEMBER 2022					JANUARY 2023							
M		7	14	21	28	M		5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
T	1	8	15	22	29	T		6	13	20	27	T		3	10	17	24	31
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
TH	3	10	17	24	TH	1	8	15	22	29	TH		5	12	19	26		
F	4	11	18	25	F	2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27		
S	5	12	19	26	S	3	10	17	24	31	S		7	14	21	28		
SU	6	13	20	27	SU	4	11	18	25	SU	1	8	15	22	29			
FEBRUARY 2023						MARCH 2023					APRIL 2023							
M		6	13	20	27	M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24	
T		7	14	21	28	T		7	14	21	28	T		4	11	18	25	
W	1	8	15	22	W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26		
TH	2	9	16	23	TH	2	9	16	23	30	TH		6	13	20	27		
F	3	10	17	24	F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28		
S	4	11	18	25	S	4	11	18	25	S	1	8	15	22	29			
SU	5	12	19	26	SU	5	12	19	26	SU	2	9	16	23	30			
MAY 2023						JUNE 2023					JULY 2023							
M	1	8	15	22	29	M		5	12	19	26	M		3	10	17	24	31
T	2	9	16	23	30	T		6	13	20	27	T		4	11	18	25	
W	3	10	17	24	31	W		7	14	21	28	W		5	12	19	26	
TH	4	11	18	25	TH	1	8	15	22	29	TH		6	13	20	27		
F	5	12	19	26	F	2	9	16	23	30	F		7	14	21	28		
S	6	13	20	27	S	3	10	17	24	S	1	8	15	22	29			
SU	7	14	21	28	SU	4	11	18	25	SU	2	9	16	23	30			

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

The **23/24** academic year begins on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.