



*Achieving excellence through
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



Newsletter Four: December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

THANK YOU for your support...

Last week was certainly a busy one! Our last Ofsted was in 2009 – and SO much has changed and been developed since then! We have a new leadership team in place, the majority of the staff team have changed, we've ensured our school is truly inclusive and represents the diverse community we serve, the curriculum has been completely reworked, we've introduced more clubs than ever, launched wraparound care, organised more trips and visits for our children, introduced OWL, are redeveloping the playground and play spaces, overhauled the approach to Safeguarding, transitioned into an academy with Bath and Wells MAT, introduced a number of brilliant programmes such as Read, Write, Inc... and the list goes on. There is much to celebrate!

As you will be aware from yesterday's Governors letter, we expect the Ofsted report to be published in early January and as soon as we have it, it will be shared with our community. I am proud of the inclusive, aspirational and caring school Bathwick is, and I am grateful to the huge numbers of parents and carers who took the time to share their views with the inspectors. It is wonderful to be able to share some highlights from the [Parent View survey](#):

- 97% agree that their child is happy at Bathwick
- 100% say their child is safe here
- 94% agree their child does well at our school
- 95% would recommend this school to another parent

These are fantastic outcomes, but there are always things to work on and develop – and as we enjoy the run into Christmas – I look forward to continuing to build on our successes to make sure that each and every child flourishes at our school and is ready for the next stage of their education.

School Nurse – Parent and Carer Session

Please save the date! On Friday 6th January, 9.00-10.00, in the school hall, our school nurse will host a coffee morning open to all parents and carers. She will talk about sleep concerns, such as bedtime routines, night waking and night terrors etc. This is a great opportunity to meet the school nurse to chat about sleep and meet other parents.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who packed and delivered a 'Christmas Shoebox' to school ready for distribution by Operation Christmas Child. We collected a total of 58 boxes as a school, which meant Miss Farrar had a very full car - and they were thrilled when she arrived at a local collection point. Our shoeboxes are now beginning their journey to spread Christmas joy to children around the world. Thank you everyone!



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.

Christmas events at Bathwick

The sounds of children singing carols, the guitar group strumming and excited chatter about the Christmas tree and Post Box echo through the corridors. The school is a hive of activity as normal lessons continue but we also prepare for a number of events in the next couple of weeks. Here are the details for a few key events...

Christmas Wreath Making Night – Thursday 1st Dec. at 7.30pm

Tickets are priced at £30 which includes a glass of prosecco on arrival and everything you need to make a beautiful festive wreath.

We only have a few tickets remaining so please book on ParentPay [asap](#) to reserve your place.



Friday 2nd December is Non-Uniform Day

In preparation for the Christmas Fair, the PTA are kindly asking for donations in exchange for a Non-Uniform Day.

Gifts/Prizes for Adults: Good quality, new/preloved items to use as prizes on our tombola stall. *Suggested items: Chocolates, Wine, Prosecco, Beer, candles, cosmetics, books, homeware etc.*

Gifts/Prizes for Children: Good quality new/preloved items to use on our pocket money stall.

Suggested items: Toys, books, stationary, games

All items need to be: Good quality, clean, intact and complete, and unopened (cosmetics & food/drink).

We will be taking donations in the school playground on Friday 2nd, and any other donations can be left in the school office for the PTA to collect.

Christmas Dinner day is on Tuesday 6th December.

Please book lunches for next week on Parent Pay as normal but on Tuesday 6th ignore the menu on Parent Pay and book: RED for a **turkey Christmas Dinner** or GREEN for the **vegetarian Christmas Dinner** (cauliflower cheese). There is no yellow option that day. So that our team are aware of numbers, could you complete your child's option by **Friday 2nd December**. A huge thanks to our kitchen team for providing a delicious Christmas lunch for around 250 children and staff that day!

Wednesday 7th December is 'Carols at the Rec' for our Choir – more information r.e. tickets is coming!

Year 3 and 4 children have been busy practising songs ahead of the B&NES Christmas Celebration held at Bathwick St Mary Church on **Thursday 8th December** at 1:30pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join together with other schools across B&NES.

On **Friday 9th December** we will be supporting 'Save the Children'.



Children can wear a Christmas / festive / other jumper on top of their usual uniform. Don't buy a special jumper – but do feel free to decorate any jumper to make it as special as possible! There are no 'red buckets' out this time. If you want to make a donation, [click here](#).

The **SPECTACULAR** Christmas Fair is Friday 9th December, 3 – 5pm in the school Hall!

- Children's games, raffle, tombola, refreshments, and festive fun!
- Full details of this event will be sent out shortly but please save the date in your diaries.
- If you own or know of a local company who would be willing to donate a prize to our raffle (however big or small), we would be very grateful for any donations.
- One brilliant raffle prize are two tickets for 'Pub in the Park' – see details below!
- We will need lots of volunteers for this event to go ahead, so if you are able to help on the day, please email the PTA at PTA@bsm.bwmat.org.

The wonderful **Infant Nativity Performances** of, 'Don't Be Afraid', are on Monday 12th December at 1.45 p.m. and Wednesday 14th December at 9.45 a.m. This is not a ticketed event, but **each family has a maximum of two allocated spaces per performance.**



We look forward to seeing many of you there!

On Tuesday 13th December, our **Year 5 and 6 choir** are 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 800! In addition, we have children doing readings and a solo of 'Once in Royal David's City'. **Children in choir need to be at the Abbey at 17.10. There is no 4.30-5.30 cricket club on 13th, but all cricketers are invited for a 'double up' session on Tuesday 13th from 3.25-4.30.**

We look forward to celebrating Christmas and seeing you at our **School Carol Service** on Friday 16th December. Please do join us for and 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 2.40 p.m.) If you are unable to collect your child (or they are booked into Wraparound Care), we will take children back to school for the usual end of the day arrangements. Thank you.

Christmas Post box

Each year our Year 6 become honorary post-people and deliver all the school cards. We would also appreciate your support in making the system manageable, by encouraging children who want to, to only send just one Christmas card to the whole class. 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 open from Thursday 1st December.

Thank you for your generous support of **Children in Need - we raised £158.27!**



The importance of school attendance

We regularly 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.** Here are each class’s attendance figures for any unauthorised absence last month.

Congratulations to Years R, 1, 2, 3 and 5 who have had 100% attendance (which includes authorised absence) for the month of November.

Year R: 100% 😊	Year 4: 99.9%
Year 1: 100% 😊	Year 5: 100% 😊
Year 2: 100% 😊	Year 6: 99.9%
Year 3: 100% 😊	WHOLE SCHOOL: 99.9%

Looking into 2023...

Next term’s clubs and school menu will be released shortly – look out for these on Parent Pay and via email.

Playground updates

We are pleased to share that despite a number of delays (due in part to the inclement weather, labour and material shortages) we expect the Holburne Park developers to have completed the refurbishment of the play space adjacent to the infant playground ready for the new year. Once again, apologies for the delays – but we very much look forward to opening this wonderful play area for all our children to enjoy in the New Year.

His Majesty’s coronation – an additional Bank Holiday

In light of the announcement of His Majesty’s coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023, an additional bank holiday has been announced on Monday 8th May. All schools will be closed that day. The Year Six SATS will go ahead, but run from Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th May 2023.

You may also be interested in...

And finally...

As we come to the end of our final newsletter of 2022, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A reminder that term starts for children on Wednesday 4th January! (Tuesday 3rd is an INSET day for Staff).

With best wishes,



Kevin Purkiss
Headteacher

Term 2 Dates for the Diary	
December	
1	PTA Christmas Wreath Evening 7.30 p.m.
2	OWL Year 6 Non-Uniform Day for Tombola Prizes
6	Christmas Lunch
7	Choir to ‘Carols at the Rec’ (evening)
8	Y3/4 to Bathwick Church for B&NES Carol Service
9	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the children) Year 4 OWL 3.00-5.00 p.m. PTA Christmas Fair
12	1.45 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 31st **March**, Easter Service, 1.30 p.m.
- 19th – 21st **April**, Year 5 to Deanfield
- 5th - 9th **June**, Year 6 to Isle of Wight
- 21st – 23rd **June**, Year 4 to Magdalen Farm
- Wednesday 20th **July**, Leavers Service, 1.30 pm.

We are sharing the poster below as ‘Pub in the Park’ have donated two tickets for our Christmas PTA raffle.

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 4th September 2023.