



*Achieving excellence through  
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



## Newsletter Seven: March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to begin with a **THANK YOU** to the 26 parents and grandparents who volunteered their time on Saturday for the 'Ground Force' morning. It was good fun with a real sense of community spirit. A huge amount was achieved to improve our school grounds for all our children: cutting and fitting new boarding around the Play Garden; moving, barrowing and spreading 15 tonnes of gravel to increase the play area further; renewing and digging over the sow 'n' grow bed; washing the traverse wall; fixing new trellis ready for 'greening up' the junior playground; installing a water butt for Reception children; fitting donated bird boxes; and beginning to plant and seed the meadow area!



We really could not have achieved all this without such a great team and their support – not everyone quite made the photo – but thank you to **all** involved once again! Thanks also to Kitchen Manager Kirstie Morgan and Site Manager Debs Miner who kept us well fed and especially to Jess Westbrook and the PTA team who helped organise and run the day. Look out for the next 'Ground Force' opportunity which we will plan for the summer term!

### Education Sunday – thank you

A further thank you but this time to the wonderful group of 36 children who kindly volunteered to present a little about their learning on Education Sunday earlier in February. It was a special event where all children spoke clearly and confidently to a large congregation of parents and regular worshippers at St. Mary's Church. Very well done to all involved!

### Keeping in Touch – Presentation and Q&A session

Thank you to those who were able to come to our recent 'Keep in Touch Evening'. Staff, Governors and the PTA shared more about the development of our school – from the refinement of our curriculum, next steps in teaching and learning, plans for the brilliant new Play Garden area and review and celebration of our Ofsted report. Our next meeting will be at a different time of the day to appeal to as many families as possible. You should have received all the slides in a recent email.

### Welcome to new staff

A very warm welcome to Mr. Myrddin Wooding as class teacher for Year 4; to Mrs. Freya Newman as teaching assistant in Year 5; to Miss Caitlin Malewski as teaching assistant in Year 6; and to Mr. Max Ma joining our Site Team. I am sure you will want to join me in welcoming these new members of the team – we look forward to benefiting from their expertise over the coming weeks and months.

In other staff news, I will shortly be taking two weeks **paternity leave** – we are expecting a little addition to our family in the next few weeks! I expect the leave to be either towards the end of this term or the very beginning of Term 5. In my absence the Senior Leadership Team (Deputy, Mrs. Claire Rigby; Head of Juniors, Mr. Duncan Jackson; SENCO, Mrs Elliott) will ensure our school continues to run smoothly.

## How can you keep your child safe online?

We recently celebrated Safer Internet Day at school where children had the opportunity to reflect on e-safety. We have arranged for a guest speaker to guide parents through the topic of online safety. As you are aware the topic of online safety is an ever-changing picture. This can make the job of keeping children safe online a difficult responsibility. We recognise the role you as parents have in supporting healthy online habits and understanding the risks and challenges. We have arranged an information session which we would like to invite you to, on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 6pm – 7pm** (in the school hall). This will be delivered by the Cyber Protect Officer from Avon & Somerset Police, Megan Haldane.

Session overview:

- Online risk: breaking down what the online risks are and how we can understand them better
- Mitigating the threat: a discussion around the technical and non-technical measures that can be used to safeguard
- Becoming more Cyber Aware: how we and those we support can be more cyber aware and safe online
- Q&A session and time to share resources

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of your role in matters related to online safety and would strongly encourage you to attend this opportunity.

## Mental Health Week at Bathwick

We marked Children's Mental Health Week last month. Teachers designed a number of opportunities to complement our ongoing focus on this essential area.



**World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book character!** We are celebrating World Book Day on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** with prizes for the best dressed classes. Thank you to Miss. Bowman and Mrs. Turner who have arranged various literary events throughout the year. World Book Day tokens will be sent home on Friday.



The **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** (please note the slight changes of dates) after school in the Wheatley Room. You can pay with cash or pay online using the QR code on the day. Books sold earn rewards for the school so we can buy new books. We look forward to seeing you there! Please see attached leaflet for more details.

## 'Minotaur': An A-maze-ing mythical Musical!

We are looking forward to the Year 3 and 4 production of 'Minotaur' at the end of this month. The performing arts are a key part of our curriculum offer and we plan to give each child, every year, the chance to star on stage and perform to a live audience. The show dates and times are:

- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1.45 p.m.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 9.45 a.m.



## The PTA Post

Thank you to the PTA team who have led several events this term – and thank you to all who have supported them.

The Years 1/2/3 Movie Night, Pancake Day, Cake Sale and Ground Force Day were all great successes. Look out for information about the Years 4/5/6 Movie Night this Friday (3<sup>rd</sup>), and also Discos on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March.



## 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 Year R and 3 who have had 100% attendance** (which includes authorised absence) for the month of February. A real improvement on January – thank you!

<b>Year R: 100%</b> 😊	Year 4: 3 sessions lost
Year 1: 2 sessions lost	Year 5: 6 sessions lost
Year 2: 5 sessions lost	Year 6: 3 sessions lost
<b>Year 3: 100%</b> 😊	<b>WHOLE SCHOOL: 99.7%</b>

## Comic Relief: Red (Nose) Day

"Poverty isn't simple, or easy to see. It's behind so many of the issues that we work to tackle. At Comic Relief, we're here for people who are facing the toughest times of their lives. Whether they're impacted by the cost of living crisis, the drought in East Africa, or the recent, heartbreaking earthquake in Syria and Turkey." **This year, we are inviting all children to dress up in a 'comic' way on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March.** You could wear a completely **red outfit**, wear **something** that will share a laugh with your class, wear a (plastic free) **red nose**, dress up as a **comic superhero**... We don't mind! Just be as creative as you like and if you would like to please bring in a donation to support this charity on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March. There will be **red buckets** in the playground for any donations. Thank you!



## Easter Service – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

We look forward to celebrating Easter with you at our Easter Service at St. Mary's, Bathwick on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please do join us for 1:30pm. All children take part in the Service, so please collect your child from the Church at the end (around 2.30 p.m.) If you are unable to collect your child, we will take children back to school for the usual end of the day collection. Please note there is no Wraparound Care or clubs that afternoon.

### 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.

## Severe weather

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. B&NES Council website no longer keeps a list of school closures, therefore if we need to close the school we will **email and text all parents and carers and update our website homepage.**

## Term 4 Dates for the Diary

Term 4 Dates for the Diary	
March	
3	World Book Day PTA 'Movie Night' - Years 4, 5, 6. 3.25-5.30pm
6	OWL Year 3 (Monday) New Play Equipment in Play Garden
8	9.00 Eucharist for Year 4/5/6 Book Fair today
9	Bathwick 'Pie Off' and sale after school
10	PTA DISCOS 3.30-4.30 Infants / 4.45-5.45 Juniors
13	Book Fair today OWL Year 2 (Monday) Author visit to Years 4, 5 and 6 – Tamsin Mori
14	Book Fair today FLAG group 8.00 Parent and Carer E-Safety meeting: 6-7 p.m.
17	Red Nose Day / Comic Relief No After School Wraparound Care this evening
20	OWL Year 1 (Monday)
24	PTA Cake Sale and Uniform Sale
27	OWL Year R (Monday) Dance Umbrella (evening)
28	Year 3 & 4 show – 1.45 p.m.
29	Year 3 & 4 show – 9.45 a.m.
30	'Dare to be Different' PTA Non-Uniform Day
31	Easter Service, 1.30 p.m. No After School Wraparound Care or clubs

## Save the date(s)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Term 5: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- 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.



## Term dates for 23-24 Academic Year

We follow the [B&NES School calendar](#). Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September will be an INSET day, so children will start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## And finally...

Thank you once again for your support – whether attending PCEs, supporting with PTA events, sharing ideas or volunteering in our library or on trips and visits.



## You may also be interested in...

Dear Parents,

Have you considered a sports party for your little one or big kid? Here's what some of our parents have had to say about our parties: *"Full of energy, great fun and lively for the children. Came on time and well prepared. Kids had a great time, would book again. Thank you, would recommend your services to everyone :)"*

*"Frank and his friends had the best time! Thank you so much! Such a great mix of sports and games and all set to the theme of Ninjas, which is just what Frank wanted!"*

*"A Huge thank you for today! Everyone had an amazing time!"*

We have multiple options to cater for your needs and are flexible to ensure that your child's experience is not just good - but great!

Our team of qualified sports coaches 'GET Kids' and love sport and are perfect at helping your little ones or bigger kids to have an awesome time! If you have a larger budget and would like something bespoke or a mixture, please get in touch and we can discuss your requirements.

Please have a look at the attached flyer and for further info click on the link below which will take you straight to the [GET Spotted Parties page](#).

We would love to help so if a sports party sounds of interest please do get in touch at [parties@getspotted.org](mailto:parties@getspotted.org)

Kind regards, Byron Culf

**WORLD Heritage Day**

Saturday 4 March 2023 - 11.00am to 3.00pm

Celebrate Bath's spa heritage, past and present, with **free**, exciting activities for all at the Guildhall, Bath

[www.bathworldheritage.org.uk](http://www.bathworldheritage.org.uk)

Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Improving People's Lives

unesco  
City of Bath  
Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987

unesco  
The Great Spa Towns of Europe  
Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2021

City of Bath  
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

We agreed to share details about 'Pub in the Park' due to the kind donation of tickets for our PTA Christmas Raffle.

**PUB IN THE PARK**  
16-18 JUNE 2023 | ROYAL VICTORIA PARK

example McFLY gabrielle

HOSTED BY MATT TEBBUTT, MARCO PIERRE WHITE, JIMI FAMUREWA & LEYLA KAZIM  
CELEBRATING FOOD, AWARD-WINNING RESTAURANTS,  
WORLD-CLASS CHEFS AND ICONIC MUSIC

TICKETS ON SALE NOW [PUBINTHEPARKUK.COM](http://PUBINTHEPARKUK.COM)

## Before the 'Ground Force' morning...



## 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.