



*Achieving excellence through  
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

01225 465654

[office@bsm.bwmat.org](mailto:office@bsm.bwmat.org)

[www.bathwickstmary.org](http://www.bathwickstmary.org)

Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



## Newsletter One: September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all our Staff and Governors - a **very warm welcome** to this new academic year whether you are a new family to school or have been here for some time! We hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer.

**Thank you to the staff team** who have been busy preparing the school for this new year. Thank you to our office team who have been working to ensure things run as smoothly as possible; to our teachers and teaching assistants for all the planning and preparation that has taken place; to our kitchen team for creating a new menu for children to enjoy; and to our site team who have overseen different improvements over the summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children and families on Tuesday.

Our newsletter is usually sent on the first school Wednesday of each month although this September newsletter is being sent a little early to help us all be prepared for the new year and term.

### Please book school lunches

A reminder to please book school lunches on Parent Pay before Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The delicious menu is below! There are no planned cost increases for 23/24. Term 1 dinner money will be £91.80 for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children (it is free for all Year R, 1 and 2), payable via ParentPay.

If you know your child will be absent from school due to illness or any other planned absence, it would be really appreciated if you cancel booked meals which will not be required to prevent food wastage. If your child does not have a school meal booked and does not have a packed lunch with them, the office team will book a school packed lunch for your child. A charge of £2.70 will automatically be deducted from your ParentPay account. If you do not have enough funds in your account, please ensure this charge is paid or the system will automatically delete the last meal booked to cover the packed lunch not previously paid for.

### Welcome to new children and staff!

A very warm welcome to new members of our staff team:

- Mrs Timea Toth joining our Office Team
- Mr George Downing who is teaching Year 5
- Mr Daniel Cooke in the Year 6 team
- Mrs Jessica Morris in the Year 6 team and leading OWL Adventures
- Miss Mia Blaettler in the Year 4 and 1 teams

We look forward to benefitting from their expertise!

It is always lovely to welcome our new Reception children to Bathwick, as well as new children in other year groups.

A very warm welcome to:

- Y1 - Georgina and Sebastian
- Y2 - Owen and Lena
- Y3 - Mathaois, Elizabeth, Hudson, Sami
- Y4 - Rosie
- Y5 - Isabella, Daniel, Lilwen, Alhasan

We hope you will all be very happy here!

### Important safety notice

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.

### Timings of the school day

To adhere to Government guidance for schools, we will be slightly extending the length of the infant school day. **The Year R, 1 and 2 school day will end at 15:20 and not 15:15.** The timings of clubs and Wraparound Care remain the same. Years 3-6 will continue to finish at 15:25.

### ‘Meet the Teacher’ – class information sessions

We are pleased to be holding ‘Meet the Teacher’ events next week. These sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child’s class teacher(s), learn about your child’s curriculum and ask any questions. We recognise not everyone will be able to attend, but all paperwork will be shared afterwards. Please wait outside your child’s class door and you will be welcomed in at 3:30. All meetings run from 3:30-4:00.

- Year 1: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 2: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 3: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 4: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 5: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 6: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

### Grow a Pound – ‘Growing’ success!

Jessica (Y6) and Zara (Y3) grew tomato plants from seeds. They waited for the plants to grow big enough to pot and then sold them to friends, family and neighbours. They hope buyers can enjoy some yummy tomatoes later in the summer! The girls also sold some of their



Beanie Boo cuddly toys to clear space in their bedrooms. People were very generous and in total Jessica and Zara raised £75. Thank you both!



### Christian Value Award Champions – Summer Term

Every long term, one child in each class is nominated by their peers for living out our Christian Values. One child is declared the overall champion for each value. I am pleased to announce our champions for the Summer Term (last academic year):

- **Respect:** Lizzie, Year 4
- **Joyfulness:** Joe, Year 5
- **Fairness:** Yasmin, Year 2
- **Love:** Edie, Year 6
- **Forgiveness:** Rory, Year R
- **Perseverance:** Finn, Year 3

Well done to all our children who regularly demonstrate these important Christian Values in their daily lives!

### Excellent academic performance

High academic standards are a key part of a brilliant primary education. We are pleased to share our excellent outcomes from the 2023 Y6 SATS. These demonstrate our commitment for all children to achieve their very best and particularly show the strong ‘Greater Depth’ standard many of our children attain. This strong performance was noted by the Chair of BWMAT, who wrote in July:

*‘The outcomes attained by your children reflect your unwavering commitment to excellence and your relentless pursuit of high standards. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and expertise of your entire staff, as well as the diligence and enthusiasm demonstrated by your children. It is clear that your school maintains high expectations for all learners, fostering an environment that encourages academic growth and personal development. We are delighted to witness the continued progress and success of your school, as it goes from strength to strength. This accomplishment is the result of your visionary leadership, the hard work of your staff, and the strong support of your governing committee. The consistency and dedication exhibited across your school community have undoubtedly contributed to this excellent performance and serve as a source of inspiration for others.’*

Please see the full letter attached.

KS2 (Year 6) results		School Result	National Result
Reading, Writing and Maths combined	Expected standard	65%	59%
	Higher than expected standard	15%	Not published
Reading	Expected standard	79%	73%
	Higher than expected standard	53%	Not published
Writing	Expected standard	71%	71%
	Higher than expected standard	21%	Not published
Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar	Expected standard	82%	72%
	Higher than expected standard	65%	Not published
Maths	Expected standard	82%	73%
	Higher than expected standard	41%	Not published

**Our Senior Leadership Team** and key areas of responsibility are as follows:

- Mr Kevin Purkiss, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Ally Elliott, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCO
- Miss Vicky Bowman, Assistant Head with responsibility for Curriculum
- Mr Duncan Jackson, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

We will usually be in the playground before or after school on most days, so please do stop us with any questions, comments or feedback.

## After School Clubs for Terms 1 and 2

A full complement of clubs is attached. All clubs apart from Netball will run from week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> September through to week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> December. Netball club will start once Safeguarding checks have been completed.

## Wraparound Care update

Our Wraparound Care service provides on-site childcare from 7.30-8.50 and at the end of the school day to 17.30. The costs for each session are £6.00 (Breakfast Club; end of the school day to 16.30; 16.30-17.30). <https://bathwickstmary.schoolipal.co.uk/>. To find out more, please contact the office team. I am pleased to share that there is **no increase in the cost of Wraparound Care this year** and each session remains at £6.00. Wraparound Care runs every school day of the year – apart from the last day of each term when there is no after school Wraparound Care. These dates are marked in the Dates for Diary overleaf.

Being sent with this newsletter is the 2023/2024 Wraparound Care Contract. Please read this carefully. A paper copy of the form is available in the office and will be soon sent with children who regularly use the service. Please review this and sign and return to the school office – thank you.

## Read Write Inc. and Reading at Bathwick

Learning to read fluently, with confidence and for enjoyment is without doubt one of the most important aspects of your child's education. Over the summer our Read, Write, Inc. scheme has been refreshed and updated and we look forward to this restarting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Starting then gives children time to settle into their class routines before moving to different groups. It is important we accurately assess all children and they are perfectly matched to the book they receive, so **all children will receive their new Read, Write, Inc. books on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September**.

## Open mornings

Is your child due to start school in September 2023? You are warmly invited to our Open Mornings (26<sup>th</sup> September, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> November, each from 9.00-10.00 or 10.45-11.45). Contact Clare Turner or Timea Toth in the office to book a place: [office@bsm.bwmat.org](mailto:office@bsm.bwmat.org)

## Survey for all Year 5 and 6

- If you wish your child 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 in school, please contact Clare Turner or Timea Toth in the school office who will share a permission form. Thank you.

## Music tuition at Bathwick

### Acoustic Guitar lessons

Tim Clark is available for guitar tuition in Years 4, 5 and 6. If you would like further information, please email Mr. Clark at [tclarkguitar@gmail.com](mailto:tclarkguitar@gmail.com).

### BANES Music Tuition for Y4 / Y5 / Y6 children

If your child would like to continue or start music lessons, please contact [Music@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Music@bathnes.gov.uk).

### Piano and Singing lessons at Bathwick for Y4 / Y5 / Y6

We continue to offer a limited number of personalised private singing or beginner piano lessons with our Choir and Ensemble conductor, Ms Kelly Sharp. Please email the school office for more information.

## Free School Meals (Benefit Related) in B&NES

Did you know you may qualify your our school for £1,385 worth of **Pupil Premium Funding** if you are entitled to benefit related free school meals?

If you think you may be entitled, check online at [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk) and search 'free school meals' to see eligible benefits. Apply online at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> or you can contact The Free School Meal Team at [freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk) or on 01225 394317 to check your entitlement (if you leave a message they will call you back). You can still apply for benefit related free school meals while receiving universal infant free school meals. In addition, school provides a £50 voucher towards uniform should you successfully apply.

## Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest Celebration service on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30 p.m.** at

**St. John's Church**. We are delighted to invite our whole school community to share in this joyful service together. We will ask for donations of food for the Bath Foodbank and will be in touch with details nearer the time. We also would like to especially invite all Year R 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. Please do 'save the date' if you can. 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, we will take children back to school for the usual end of the day. Please note there are no clubs or Wraparound Care after school on the last day of each term.



## Have your contact details changed?

If you have not provided school with your most up to date address, contact numbers and email address, please inform the school office ([office@bsm.bwmat.org](mailto:office@bsm.bwmat.org)). It is crucial we have accurate and up to date records and contacts for all families.

### Your questions, queries and feedback...

Please do read the important 'Annual Reminders' below and particularly make note of the term dates at the end of this newsletter. We are all very much looking forward to an exciting year ahead – full of laughter and learning for our children.

Please do stop me in the playground or make contact to share ideas, concerns or questions. Bathwick is a wonderful school, but there are always things we can do to improve and develop – and I am always willing to hear your ideas and comments. It is by working in positive partnership that our children will continue to thrive!

With my best wishes for the year ahead.



Kevin Purkiss  
Head Teacher

### Save the date(s)

In addition to the dates, here are some key events in the year ahead:

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> **December**: Carol Service, 1.30 p.m.
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> **March**, Easter Service, 1.30 p.m.
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> **April**, Year 5 to Deanfield
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> **June**, Year 6 to Isle of Wight
- 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> **June**, Year 4 to Magdalen Farm
- 12<sup>th</sup> **July** – Year 6 Show (evening)
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> **July**, Leavers' Service, 1.30 pm.

## Vocal Sunday Sessions

Two exciting vocal sessions for students who love to sing!

**A morning session for primary aged students and afternoon for secondary aged students delivered by Kate Courage, covering a wide range of different styles and genres.**

**When:** Sunday 24th September

**Who:** 9.30am - 12.30pm Primary  
1.30pm - 4.30pm Secondary

**Where:** St John's RC Primary, Bath

**Cost:** £15 per student, free for students in receipt of free school meals



Term 1 Dates for the Diary	
<b>September</b>	
5	1 <sup>st</sup> day back
6	Year 6 Meet the Teachers 3.30-4.30
7	Year 4 and 1 Meet the Teachers 3.30-4.30
12	Year 2 Meet the Teachers 3.30-4.30
13	Year 3 and 5 Meet the Teachers 3.30-4.30
18	OWL Year 6
	OWL Year 4
26	OPEN MORNING - 9.00-10.00 and 10.45-11.45 (For prospective parents – please email office to book)
<b>October</b>	
3	OWL Year 5
9	OWL Year 3 PCE 3.30-8.00
12	PCE 3.30-6.00
16	OWL Year 2
	Harvest Service: 1.30 pm at ST JOHNS CHURCH, Bathwick
20	No After School Wraparound Care

To book a space: <https://bit.ly/sessionvocal>

For more information: | [music@wema.org.uk](mailto:music@wema.org.uk)

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

## Important 'Annual Reminders'

In order to keep our school being the best that it can be, please read through these polite reminders. The 'Meet the teacher' events are happening next week and if you have any questions about your child's learning, please do ask their teacher. Thank you.

### Medical information

- If your **child is sick** or has diarrhoea, please wait 48 hours before returning to school.
- Please **do not send in medicines** without prior authorisation from the Head Teacher. There are guidelines we follow to ensure the correct administration of medicine. **We can only administer prescribed** medicine with clear written instructions from a doctor.

### Attendance regulations

- The Government is very clear that **no holidays should be taken in term time**. We appreciate the strain this may cause on families, but we believe that every day in school is so important for your child. If some very unusual situation arises we have to clearly explain the circumstances to the Attendance and Welfare Support Service and demonstrate its uniqueness. Consequently, please assume there is no 'holiday entitlement' and put in writing any request for planned absence. Any absence must be authorised in advance; this includes medical (unless an emergency) and exam or secondary school appointments. Thank you for your understanding.
- **Please carefully check the Term Dates (at the end of the newsletter) before booking any holidays.**

### Communication

- We believe that a close working partnership between home and school is essential if children are to make the best progress. You can contact your child's teacher in a number of ways – please do see your them at the beginning or end of the school day, or email or phone and we will answer your query as soon as possible. A polite reminder that 'Tapestry' is not designed to be a home / school communication tool.

### Birthday Treats

- Some children wish to celebrate their birthday by handing out a small 'treat' at the end of the day. This is not expected or encouraged, but if children do, we will ask recipients of any 'treat' to wait until seeing their collecting adult who can choose what is appropriate for their family.

### 'Dropping off' and 'picking up' routines

- **School starts at 8:50 a.m.** Please ensure your child is ready for the start of the day. Any child arriving after registers close will be marked as Late.
- **Infants only:** To keep our children safe, if there is any change to the authorised collector form you have previously completed, please email the school office.
- Thank you to all our parents for your patience and courtesy to each other and Darlington Road residents due to the traffic.
- Please can all children and adults be very **mindful of the school drive** especially at the beginning and end of the school day. There are regularly moving vehicles at that time. Children, once collected, should make their way away from the school site and not 'play' near the drive or on the garden or bushes.

### Uniform

- Children may wear winter or summer uniform until October half term, after which all children should be in full winter uniform please, including black shoes and ties.
- A reminder that jewellery, nail-varnish or tattoos are not allowed. Children should tuck in their shirts and tie back long hair.
- Here are the [uniform requirements](#).

**PE Uniform:** Please ensure children have the appropriate clothing – the quantity and cost of which we aim to keep to a minimum:

- Navy PE shorts
- Light blue PE T-shirt printed with the school name - to be ordered from Michael Hope
- Navy or dark coloured (non 'branded') jogging bottoms or leggings and hoodie/sweatshirt for outdoor PE. Children in the Juniors are encouraged to have a light blue school hoodie printed with the school logo to be ordered from Michael Hope Sports
- A pair of plimsolls (daps) or trainers.

**Thank you for your cooperation with these annual reminders.**

We seek to provide the very best education we can and by working together and supporting our school in this way, things run much more smoothly! Your help is much appreciated. If you have any questions, please do ask.

## Autumn Term 2023 Bathwick Menu

WEEK	MEAT FREE Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>WEEK 1: 4<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December</b>					
<b>Option 1: Main Meal</b>	Three cheese Macaroni	Roast Turkey	Beef Lasagne	Pork sausage	Jumbo Cod Fish Finger
<b>Option 2: Vegetarian Meal</b>	Vegetable Enchilada	Cauliflower Cheese	Vegetable Lasagne	Vegetable sausage	Veggie nuggets
All the above served with	Peas, sweetcorn and bread	Roast Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy	Fresh salad and bread	Mashed potato, peas, carrots and gravy	Oven Baked Chips, Baked Beans or sweetcorn
<b>WEEK 2: 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>					
<b>Option 1: Main Meal</b>	Cheese and tomato pasta bake	Roast Chicken	Sticky BBQ Pork	Cottage Pie	Jumbo cod fish finger
<b>Option 2: Vegetarian Meal</b>	Vegetarian meatballs with pasta	Quorn toad in the hole	Sticky BBQ Quorn	Cottage Pie	Cheese and Onion Quiche
All the above served with	Fresh Salad bar and Garlic bread	Roast Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy	Rice and Fresh salad bar	Green beans Carrots Bread	Oven Baked Chips, Baked Beans Sweetcorn
<b>WEEK 3: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>					
<b>Option 1: Main Meal</b>	Cheese and tomato pizza	Roast Gammon	Beef Bolognese with pasta	Nacho chicken grill	Jumbo Cod Fish Finger
<b>Option 2: Vegetarian Meal</b>	Cheese and mushroom puffs	Broccoli and cauliflower bake	Quorn Bolognese with pasta	Quorn nacho grill	Savoury muffin
All the above served with	Herby Diced Potatoes and Fresh Salad Bar	Roast Potatoes Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy	Seasonal Fresh Vegetables Fresh Bread	Jacket Wedges Bread	Oven Baked Chips Beans Sweetcorn
<b>Served Every Week</b>					
<b>Option 3: Alternative Meal</b>	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, or Tuna	Farm Assured Ham with Chips
<b>Dessert</b>	Fruity Shortbread Fresh Fruit Organic Yoghurt	Fruit Mousse Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Banana Flapjack Fresh Fruit Organic Yoghurt	Lemon drizzle cake Fresh Fruit Organic Yoghurt	Ice Cream Pots Fresh Fruit Organic Yoghurt

Any child with food allergies or intolerances will be offered an alternative Main Course and Dessert to meet your child's needs. All the meals are served with milk or water.

# Bathwick St. Mary School Term and Holiday Dates – **2023-2024**

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

AUGUST 2023						SEPTEMBER 2023					OCTOBER 2023								
M		7	14	21	28	M		4	11	18	25	M		2	9	16	23	30	
T	1	8	15	22	29	T		5	12	19	26	T		3	10	17	24	31	
W	2	9	16	23	30	W		6	13	20	27	W		4	11	18	25		
TH	3	10	17	24	31	TH		7	14	21	28	TH		5	12	19	26		
F	4	11	18	25	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		6	13	20	27			
S	5	12	19	26	S	2	9	16	23	30	S		7	14	21	28			
SU	6	13	20	27	SU	3	10	17	24	SU	1	8	15	22	29				
NOVEMBER 2023						DECEMBER 2023					JANUARY 2024								
M		6	13	20	27	M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28	T		5	12	19	26	T		2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	31	
TH	2	9	16	23	30	TH		7	14	21	28	TH		4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26			
S	4	11	18	25	S	2	9	16	23	30	S		6	13	20	27			
SU	5	12	19	26	SU	3	10	17	24	31	SU	1	7	14	21	28			
FEBRUARY 2024						MARCH 2024					APRIL 2024								
M		5	12	19	26	M		4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	29	
T		6	13	20	27	T		5	12	19	26	T		2	9	16	23	30	
W		7	14	21	28	W		6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24		
TH	1	8	15	22	29	TH		7	14	21	28	TH		4	11	18	25		
F	2	9	16	23	F	1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26			
S	3	10	17	24	S	2	9	16	23	30	S	1	6	13	20	27			
SU	4	11	18	25	SU	3	10	17	24	31	SU	2	7	14	21	28			
MAY 2024						JUNE 2024					JULY 2024								
M		6	13	20	27	M		3	10	17	24			1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28	T		4	11	18	25			2	9	16	23	30	
W	1	8	15	22	29	W		5	12	19	26			3	10	17	24	31	
TH	2	9	16	23	30	TH		6	13	20	27			4	11	18	25		
F	3	10	17	24	31	F		7	14	21	28			5	12	19	26		
S	4	11	18	25	S	1	8	15	22	29			6	13	20	27			
SU	5	12	19	26	SU	2	9	16	23	30			7	14	21	28			

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

The 24/25 academic year begins on Monday 02 September 2024.