



*Achieving excellence through  
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



## Newsletter Two: October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great start to the new school year 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**. Year 1 and 2 were



enthralled by [Nadia Shireen](#); Year 3 loved listening to [Katie and Kevin Tsang](#); I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 5 to hear the acclaimed [Frank Cottrell-Boyce](#);

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed authors [Phil Earle](#) and [Hiba Noor Khan](#); and Year 4 are looking forward to hearing from [Katherine Rundell](#) this Friday. Thank you to our Librarian, Clare Turner, and Vicky Bowman for championing these brilliant opportunities for our children.



### What is my child learning this year?

Vicky Bowman, Assistant Headteacher and teacher of Year 6, leads our curriculum development. We always seek to develop and improve our curriculum offer to our children. You will find our carefully constructed curriculum [mapped out here](#). The documents set out the 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. Over the coming weeks, further resources and plans will be added to this area of our website. Please do take a look. If you have any questions about what your child is learning and how you can support please speak to your child's teacher.

### Welcome to new children!

A very warm welcome to the following children:

- YR – Louis and Deeda
- Y3 – Hugo

We hope you will all be very happy here!

### How can I find out how my child is doing at school?

Our teaching teams try to be as available as possible to our parents and carers – it is by working closely together that our children will go from strength to strength. Teachers are available before school in the playground as well as after school on most days. We recognise with many children in wraparound care and accessing the many clubs on offer, not all parents have the opportunity to speak to teachers in person. Please feel free to email ([enquiries@bsm.bwmat.org](mailto:enquiries@bsm.bwmat.org)) or call (01225 465654) to ask questions or queries or arrange a time to meet your child's teacher. A reminder that in addition we have **PCEs (Parent / Carer Consultation Evening)** on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October. Please [sign up here](#) or for further details see the email that was sent on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Read Write Inc.**

### How can I support my child's reading in Reception?

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 Reception parents and carers who were able to come to the information session in September. Please make every effort to come to the next part of this – 2.50 p.m. on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. All parents should have received an information pack from the first meeting - if you need further information, please see Miss Farrar or Miss Lozynskyj.

### How do I know my child is safe at school?

We are pleased that last academic year, 100% of parents who voted in the [Parent View survey](#) said their child feels safe here. Safeguarding always remains at the very top of our priorities. Thank you to our Safeguarding Governor, Mel Skeet, who recently observed lunchtime routines in both Infants and Juniors. She has also built in several 'Safeguarding Pupil Voice' meetings over the course of this year. These meetings enable Governors to hear first hand from children and then challenge the work of the school to help ensure children's safety remains paramount.

## Year 5 Cross Country event

We were delighted to take a Year 5 team to the Bath Schools Cross Country yesterday at Odd Down Sports Ground. Thank you to parents and carers who kindly transported the children and Emma Williams who



organised the event. The team (Erica, Florence, Henry, Jake, Layla, Luke, Monte, Poppy H, Sky and Thomas) performed brilliantly on the 1.2km grass course. Special mention to Jake who came second overall!

## Please come to our Harvest Celebration!

Our Harvest Celebration service is on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30 p.m.** at **St. John's Church** (on Bathwick Street opposite the Fire Station). We are delighted to invite our whole school community to share in this joyful service together where each class will be presenting something related to Harvest. 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. 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.



Curry Sauce (Jars)  
Tomatoes (Tinned)  
Vegetables (carrots, peas)  
Biscuits  
Fruit (Tinned)  
Meat (Tinned)  
Soup (Tinned)  
Mash (Instant)  
Vegetarian Tinned Meals  
Jam / Marmalade  
Custard (Tinned)  
Rice Pudding (Tinned)  
Rice (Dry)  
Fish (Tinned)  
Long Life Juice  
Milk (UHT)

Please note there are no clubs or Wraparound Care after school on the last day of each term.

Each year, we support the Bath Foodbank. Please can children bring in any donations from the information on the left from **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**. We cannot accept any donations after 17<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you!

## Celebrating and marking Black history month

Black history month gives us an opportunity to share, celebrate and learn about the impact of black heritage and culture. This year's theme is 'Saluting our sisters', focusing on black women who have made contributions to a wide variety of spheres including literature, music, fashion, sport and business. We will learn about Florence Price, the first black female composer to have her work performed by a major orchestra, in a black history month Collective Worship. **On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, we invite everyone to wear something red** (from one item of clothing to being dressed entirely in red!) as we mark 'Show Racism the **Red Card**' day.

## Important reminders to help your children to focus on their learning...

Thank you for always ensuring your child is getting to school in time for the 8:50 – it has been a great start! As soon as children are in the learning day begins. Please allow your children to get settled into the school day and **please do not knock on windows or try to get your child's attention** as it disturbs their learning and the learning of others in their class. Thank you.

'Smart' watches that act as phones or messaging tools or can take photos or videos **are not permitted** in school as they can distract children from their learning.

The only **jewellery** items permitted are small ear studs if necessary.

Please remember your child needs a **waterproof coat**. We aim for children to be outside for play and lunchtime – even if it is wet – they need a coat with a hood please!

At the end of the day, supervised children are welcome to use the trim trail opposite the Wheatley Room for a few minutes until the after school clubs start and the gates are locked. However, **adults collecting children MUST supervise and take responsibility for their children**. Thank you for your support.

## 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. **Congratulations to Years R, 3, 5 and 6 who had 100% attendance** (which includes authorised absence) for the month of September.

Year R: <b>100%</b> 😊	Year 4: 3 sessions lost
Year 1: 11 sessions lost	Year 5: <b>100%</b> 😊
Year 2: 1 session lost	Year 6: <b>100%</b> 😊
Year 3: <b>100%</b> 😊	WHOLE SCHOOL: 98%

**Thank you to our Librarian, Clare Turner**, who organised the big book giveaway in September following a thorough audit and overhaul of our school library and class libraries. It was brilliant to be able to share so many lovely books with our children.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you for your co-operation. The uniform [requirements are here](#).

## Your PTA events coming up...

A huge **thank you** once again to everyone who helped the PTA raise over **£20,000** last year. Our target for 2023/4 is £10,000 (which we hope we can smash!) whilst we continue to build on 'Project Playground' and aim to fund beautiful outdoor, sheltered seating areas for groups and classes to use.



We have some exciting events coming up which we hope you'll support and enjoy. See the 'At a glance' section for dates for your diary, followed by a little more detail for those who need it.

### At a glance:

- Year 4 Cake Sale – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Coffee Morning and AGM – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 9am-9.45am
- Non-Uniform Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October
- Parent & Teacher Quiz Night – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm
- School Disco – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November (Infants 3.30-4.30. Juniors 4.45-5.45)

### **Cake Sale – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Year 4** are hosting our first Cake Sale of the year this coming Friday afternoon in the school playground. Each class will be responsible for running and providing the baked goods for one sale each during the year, after which a proportion of the money raised will be spent directly on resources for their own classroom.

### **Coffee Morning & AGM – 11<sup>th</sup> October, 9am-9.45am**

Please join us in the school hall for coffee and refreshments after drop-off next Wednesday morning. The PTA would like to welcome new parents, provide information about what we do and how you can get involved, as well as asking for a quick show of hands for our AGM.

### **PTA Non-Uniform Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

There will be red buckets in the playground as children arrive at school for your donations.

### **Parent & Teacher Quiz Night - 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm**

Join us for one of the most fun nights on the school social calendar!

- Arrive from 7pm for drinks and our Quiz Master will kick off proceedings at 7.30pm!
- Tickets cost £6 per person and can be purchased on Parent Pay now.
- Organise your own teams of up to 8 people or we will place people in a team on the night!
- There will be a licensed bar serving prosecco, wine, beer, and a few snacks throughout the evening.

### **School Disco – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

We are delighted to announce the legendary DJ Infinity will be back for our ever popular school discos, one each for the infants and juniors.

#### **The Infant Party 3.30-4.30pm**

- School will finish as normal at 15.20 but if your child is staying for the disco there is no need to collect. Send them to school with their party clothes and they will get changed with their teacher and escorted to the party!
- Tickets cost £6.00, available from tomorrow on Parent Pay, to be purchased by 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- The ticket price covers entrance to the disco, a snack and a drink.

#### **The Junior Disco 4.45-5.45pm**

- Please collect your child as usual at 3.25pm and bring them back to the school main entrance in their party clothes at 4.45pm.
- Tickets cost £6.00, available from tomorrow on Parent Pay, to be purchased by 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- The ticket price covers entrance to the disco, a snack and a drink.

Lots of fun to be had whilst raising money to support our wonderful school and make it even better!

We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Best wishes,

Your PTA

### **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.

## Open mornings for children starting in 2024

Is your child due to start school in September 2024? You are warmly invited to our Open Mornings 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)

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

## Save the date(s)

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

- 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.

## You may also be interested in...

### 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 Wednesday 24th January. Parents should quote BSMP240124 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). Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to Bathwick St Mary are: **Perform Larkhall (Drama for 4-7s)**, (0.6 miles), Mondays at 4.00pm, New Oriel Hall, Brookleaze Buildings, BA1 6RA. **Perform Larkhall (Drama for 7-12s)**, Mondays at 5.05pm, New Oriel Hall.

Term 1 Dates for the Diary	
October	
6	Year 4 to Bath Literature Festival pm
9	OWL Year 3 Launch of Black History Month PCE 3.30-8.00 Opening of Donations to the Foodbank
12	Year 6 to Steam Museum PCE 3.30-6.00
13	Non-Uniform Day for PTA Fundraiser
16	OWL Year 2
17	Last day for Donations to the Foodbank
18	Wear RED day – Show Racism the Red Card
19	Year 5 to Hershell Museum 2:30 – 3pm Reception Open Classroom Event
20	Harvest Service: 1.30 pm at ST JOHNS CHURCH, Bathwick No Clubs or After School Wraparound Care
Term 2 Dates for the Diary	
30	1 <sup>st</sup> day of term
31	OWL Year 1 Open Morning for Reception 2024
November	
1	Y4 Cross Country @ The Glasshouse
3	PTA Cake Sale Year 6
6	Individual Photographs Reading update Reception Parents – 2:50pm
7	OWL Year R
14	OWL Year 4 Open Morning for Reception 2024
16	PTA Quiz Night 7.00 p.m.
23	9.00 Eucharist with Fr Peter for Year 4/5/6
24	PTA Discos – after school
27	OWL Year 5
December	
1	PTA Christmas Fair
4	OWL Year 3
5	Christmas Lunch
6	PTA Wreath Making evening 7.00 p.m.
11	OWL Year 2 (TBC) Infant Nativity Performance - PM
12	Infant Nativity Performance - AM
13	Abbey Carol Service – Choir – evening
15	School Carol Service 1.30 p.m. St. Mary's Church No Clubs or After School Wraparound Care

# OCTOBER HALF TERM CRICKET CAMP!

Dear Parents,

Apologies for the late notice, but we have a 3 day camp this coming October Half term and we would love to see your children there.

## GET Serious Cricket Camp

**Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th October**

**Ages 7-14 years old.**

**9.30-4pm**

**St Marks C of E School, Larkhall, Bath**

There is NO GET Sported Multi-sports camp this time round, but our popular cricket camp is a great opportunity for all abilities to come and learn the game and have a lot of fun with Grant & Kenny. Children will be placed into relevant age and ability groups.

We have a **NEW VENUE** and a **NEW CHEAPER PRICE** at just £27 for the whole day or only £70 for all 3 days. (10% sibling discount also available and bursary support from our hardship fund)

PLEASE NOTE: If your child thinks they have become too old to attend, we have extended the age to 14 years old - they can still join us!

Click here to book: <https://www.getsported.org/Groups/316965/Bath.aspx>

We really hope to see your children this October at St Marks School.

Kind regards, Team GET Sported



## Interested in volunteering?

SENDIAS Bathnes offers free, impartial and confidential information, advice and support to children and young people between the ages of 0 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents/carers.

We have two exciting volunteering opportunities.

We are looking for an **Administrative Volunteer** to support our friendly and professional team. Tasks will include telephoning our service users for feedback and assisting with marketing and general administrative tasks.

We are also looking to expand our current team of **Parent Champion Volunteers**, who attend events such as support group coffee mornings and school open days to speak to families about what we do and what other services are available locally.

We will provide you with training, on-going support and cover reasonable expenses.

For further information and an application form please visit <https://sendiasbathnes.org.uk/volunteer-us>



## Bath Children's Choir

Age 7 - 12 and love to sing?

Join Voices for Life's Bath's Children's Choir!

Make friends, have fun and learn with professional musicians.

I love singing in a group, having fun and feeling part of something special!

Sing in major venues, take part in big VFL projects and perform alongside other local choirs.



**Where:** The Church of the Ascension, Claude Avenue, Bath, BA2 1AG

**When:** Wednesdays, 4.15pm - 5.15pm

**Cost:** £30 per term

Come along for a free trial session! Email [contact@voicesforlife.org.uk](mailto:contact@voicesforlife.org.uk)

### Get In Touch

Call us: 01225 394382  
Email us: [sendias@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:sendias@bathnes.gov.uk)  
Text: 07530263401



Sendiasbathnes



**Voices FOR LIFE**

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# 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.