



Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



Newsletter Three: November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back after the half term break. Towards the end of last term, Year Six were successfully evacuated (and safely returned!) to the [GWR Steam museum](#), Year 5 had a fascinating trip to the [Herschel Museum of Astronomy](#) learning all about the discovery of the planet Uranus right here in Bath in 1781, and in the last two days Year 4 had a brilliant trip to the [Roman Baths](#) followed by a Roman Day in school. All these hands-on experiences helped cement children’s knowledge about their carefully planned curriculum topics.



Fantastic fireworks – more amazing achievements!

Another well done – this time to **Isabella** in Year 5 and **Adam** in Year 2 who were the prize winners in the Bath Rotary Firework Poster competition. Over 2000 children entered the competition so we are really proud their achievements.



Welcome to new children!

A very warm welcome to the following children:

- Georgina in Year 1
- Crema in Year 3

We hope you will all be very happy here!

Congratulations again to Mia!

Mia in Year 6 competed in her first away competition last week in Chepstow. This was the first time she competed in a youth group as previous competitions have been against adults. There were 15 children from the age of 10 to 15 and she won a silver medal in weightlifting! Amazing achievement Mia!



Year 5 Cross Country event

Another brilliant achievement for Luke in Year 5 – after coming second overall in the Year 5 Bath Schools Cross Country at Odd Down Sports Ground, later in November he is due to represent Bathwick and BANES at the Inter Area Primary Cross-Country. This event will involve runners from Bristol, BANES, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire. Go for it, Luke!



Harvest Celebration

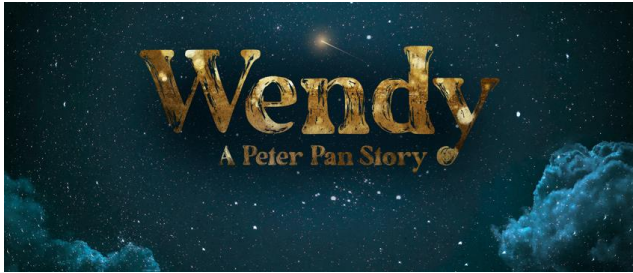
Thank you for your brilliant support at our Harvest Celebration Service on the last day of term. It was a joy to ‘formally’ welcome all our new children in Reception and across the school to our school family and celebrate Harvest and some of the children’s learning from Term 1. We raised £159 for the Bath Foodbank.



PCE (Parent / Carer Consultation Evening)

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent PCEs. If you missed your appointment or feel there are any further queries you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. It is by working together that our children will make the best progress in their learning.

Thank you also for your support for the 'Show Racism the **Red Card**' day. Last month everyone wore red as we made a stand against discrimination and racism in all its forms. Due to your generous donations, we raised £138 for the work of the charity who do great work in schools across the UK, educating children and adults about the causes and consequences of racism. [Find out more here.](#)



We are thrilled to have secured enough **free** tickets to take all of **Years 4, 5 and 6** to see the magical performance of '[Wendy: A Peter Pan Story](#)' at the Egg Theatre on the first day back after Christmas. More details will follow – but children will leave school after lunch on Wednesday 3rd January, and return to school around 16:45.

Dogs near the gate

Many children and families love their furry friends – but several children are anxious around dogs as well. Please can all dog owners be mindful of this and allow all children and families to enter and exit the school grounds without their pets being in the way of the gates. A polite reminder that no dogs other than guide dogs should be on the school site. Thank you for your support.

Winter Uniform

It is good to see all children wearing their 'winter uniform' (shirts and ties). The uniform [requirements are here](#). A reminder that all children should wear sensible black shoes (**not trainers or boots**). Thank you for supporting this.

Individual Photographs

The school photographer will take pictures of individual children on **Monday 6th November**. If you wish your child to have a photograph with pre-school siblings, please be in school at **8:30am** and kindly wait by the Wheatley Room doors. All children must wear their full winter uniform and not PE kit on this day.

Remembrance Poppies

If your child would like to purchase a poppy, your child may bring in a donation from today until Friday 10th November. A suggested minimum donation of £1 per poppy would be gratefully received. Year 6 will go into each class with the poppies. Please note: If children are wearing a poppy when the school photographs are taken, they will have their photograph taken wearing the poppy.

Safer Routes to School

The Governor Safer Routes to School Letter sent last term is attached. Thank you to those already who have come forward – this is a final call for any interested persons to support all our children in safely traveling to school. Please contact the school office to find out more.

Healthy Snacks

A reminder that all snacks brought into school for breaktime should be healthy (and not full of sugar, for example). Some children have brought in very sugary and unhealthy snacks which does not support them in accessing their learning. Fruit, vegetables or other healthy snacks are acceptable. Sweets, chocolate, crisps etc. are not allowed. Thank you.

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 Reception who had 100% attendance** (which includes authorised absence) for the month of October.

Year R: 100% 😊	Year 4: 3 sessions lost
Year 1: 1 session lost	Year 5: 1 session lost
Year 2: 1 session lost	Year 6: 1 session lost
Year 3: 2 session lost	WHOLE SCHOOL: 99%

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'. We only ban foods that state nuts or sesame in the ingredient list.



PTA update...

We are delighted to share some images of proposed outdoor covered spaces and sheltered seating areas for our children and adults to use throughout the school day. *These are not the finalized designs*, but we are sharing these to give an idea of the plans for the year ahead. We have already had other quotes and designs from parents – thank you for your support! If you think you may be able to help or know someone who can, please don't hesitate to get in contact. The areas are designed to be flexible with movable seating (not shown below) for all to enjoy!



Junior playground:



Infant playground:



Year 3/4 Outdoor area:



More information, designs and plans will follow during the year!

Reminder: Quiz Night - 16th 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.

Christmas / Winter Jumper Sale



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Tuesday 5th 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 will be red buckets in the playground if you would like to donate to Save the Children.

In advance of our Christmas Jumper Day there will be a tabletop sale in playground after school on **Friday 17th November**. Please can children bring in any old Christmas / Winter jumpers by Friday 10th November. Then, on Friday 17th November, Christmas Jumpers can be purchased for just £1.00 with proceeds going to the PTA.

Reminder: School Discos – Friday 24th November

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 on Parent Pay, to be purchased by 22nd 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 on Parent Pay, to be purchased by 22nd 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 are also looking forward to the **PTA Christmas Fair** on Friday 1st December (3.00-5.00 p.m.). In preparation for this, we will hold a **NON-UNIFORM DAY** on Friday 24th November – **IN EXCHANGE FOR TOMBOLA PRIZES**. Look out for more information to follow!

Save the date(s)

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

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

With best wishes for the term ahead,

Kevin Purkiss
Head Teacher

You may also be interested in...



THE NEST PROJECT

We provide free clothing and equipment for 0-5 year olds to anyone in BANES that needs it. Come along to one of our toddler groups to order items you need or just for a chat and play! You can also visit our website to request items.

FREE TODDLER GROUPS

THURSDAYS
Twinkles
Mulberry Park Hub, BA2 5BU
10-11:30AM

FRIDAYS
The Lighthouse Centre,
Twerton, BA2 1DQ
10-11:30AM

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about how we operate, including how to donate or request items, please visit thenestproject.co.uk or scan the QR code:



The Nest Project is a charity that provides free clothing and equipment to all families with children aged 0-5 living in B&NES.

We're excited to announce that, after the success of last year's Christmas Gift Appeal, we are delighted to be giving away Nest Christmas gift bags again this year, to bless children and families in need in B&NES. With the Cost of Living Crisis, we're looking for donations of gift bags to help more families than ever.

Our Christmas gift bags cater for mums to be and children aged 0-5. They are distributed to some of the most vulnerable families in B&NES by local agencies. Our clients face a range of challenging circumstances including poverty, being refugees, fleeing from domestic abuse or being victims of trafficking.

Parents can sign up to donate a gift bag by scanning the QR code on the digital flyer, which is attached to this email. This will take them directly to a page giving them more information about what to include in a gift bag and where they can drop it off.

Term 2 Dates for the Diary	
November	
3	PTA Cake Sale Year 6 Reception Library visit – open to parents from 2.30
6	Individual Photographs – normal winter uniform Reading update Reception Parents – 2:50pm
7	OWL Year R
10	Nasal flu vaccination for all classes
14	OWL Year 4 Open Morning for Reception 2024
16	PTA Quiz Night 7.00 p.m.
17	PTA Christmas / Jumper Winter Sale £1.00 after school
20	OWL Year 6
23	9.00 Eucharist with Fr Peter for Year 4/5/6
24	NON-UNIFORM – IN EXCHANGE FOR TOMBOLA PRIZES PTA Discos – after school
27	OWL Year 5
December	
1	PTA Christmas Fair 3.00-5.00
4	OWL Year 3
5	Christmas Lunch and Christmas & Winter Jumper Day
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



CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

The Nest Project would love to invite you to put a smile on a child's face by joining us in our Christmas gift bag appeal.

With the cost of living rising, this time of year can put real financial pressure on families that are already struggling. Each gift bag will be given to local families with young children in BANES.

THANK YOU!

To sign up scan the QR code!



ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL
BATH
G D S T

Art Masterclass

Saturday 11 November
10am-12:30pm

Join us for an exciting art workshop for girls in Years 4 to 6 at any school

To register for the Art Masterclass, [click here](#).

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.