



Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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

Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



### Newsletter Four: December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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 enjoy and prepare for a number of events during this and next week!



The wonderful Infant Nativity Performances of 'The Angel Who Nearly Missed It All', are on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45 p.m. and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, our **Year 5 and 6 choir** are looking forward to performing at Bath Abbey as part of the **Rotary Carol Service**. Again this year, 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'. A reminder that any children in choir need to be at the Abbey at 17.10.

We look forward to celebrating Christmas and seeing you at our **School Carol Service on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. Please do join us 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, we will take children back to school for the usual end of the day. A reminder there are no clubs or Wraparound Care after school on the last day of each term. Thank you.

We kindly ask all **infant children** to come to school on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> with no book bag, snack pots or water bottles**. The children will be provided with a fruit snack and drinks of water/milk as well. If your child has a packed lunch, they can bring this to school as normal. Please also do remember to send the children with a coat. Children will be given their updated **phonics folders** on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December instead.

### Welcome to new children!

A very warm welcome to: Amber in Year R, Evelyn in Year 2, Maxim in Year 3, Myra in Year 4, and Mark in Year 5. We hope you will all be very happy here!

### A farewell to Mrs Falzoni

We are thrilled for Mrs Falzoni that after six and a half brilliant years in her role as Teaching Assistant at Bathwick, she is due to embark on teacher training in January. As such, very sadly Mrs Falzoni is moving on, but we wish her all the very best for the future and look forward to hearing how she gets on. She has regularly taught classes here for many years and we know she will be such an asset to the profession – we wish her all the very best!

We are holding interviews this week to ensure children in Year 3 continue to benefit from the excellent support they have had to date.

### Year 4 Cross Country event

We were delighted to take a Year 4 team to the Bath Schools Cross Country 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 (Alexandra, Charlie, Emily, Finn, Fred, Laurel, Leon, Matilda, Otto, Quinn, Zara) performed brilliantly on the 1.2km grass course. Special mention to Matilda who came 2nd overall - a fantastic achievement!

### Year 6 Girls' friendly football match

Huge congratulations to the brilliant Amelia, Constance, Ella, Emily, Evie, Frida, Lottie, Millie and Myra who played their first friendly against Widcombe recently. The team wanted a special mention to: Ella, Frida and Myra for their goalkeeping skills; to Constance and Millie for terrific tackling, to Ben for his brilliant coaching and thanks to all the great support from those watching. Everyone did really well – they said they were scared at first but then really went for it! The teamwork, support of each other and never letting their heads down was fantastic! WELL DONE! (Sorry you missed today's photo, Amelia!) 😊



### 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 now open!



Thank you for your support at the **SPECTACULAR** Christmas Fair last Friday!

We are thrilled that a total of total profit from the Christmas Fair was **£2829.91** which is £1000 more than last year, largely down to the pre-affle sales! As well as a brilliant event for our children and families to enjoy, the money raised will go toward the next stage of the playground project – outdoor covered spaces and sheltered seating areas for all children and adults to enjoy! Huge thanks to the whole team of PTA volunteers – parents and staff for their help. We must particularly thank Jess Westbrook for all she does in her role as PTA Chair – her brilliant organisational skills and dedication to the school are really appreciated. We are looking forward to **TONIGHTS Christmas Wreath Making Night – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm**. Tickets are on Parent Pay – please book asap to reserve your place.

### Book Award news and Royal Society news

A huge well done to Eliani, Jacob, Joe and Millie (all Y6) who did a fantastic job reading the four books on the School Library Association Information Book Award shortlist for 8-12 year olds. They read and considered all the books, before voting on their favourite which was..... The Big Book of Mysteries. The group gave a brilliant presentation to all of the junior children, describing all of the books and why everyone should read them. The junior classes then held a vote and the winner was, again, The Big Book of Mysteries. There will be a library newsletter coming out soon with the panel's thoughts about the books. These are available to borrow from the school library, although they are all currently out on loan!

A new group of Florence, Ixia, Thomas (all Year 5), Dan, Emily and Lata (Year 6) have begun reading the books on the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize shortlist so do look out for more information about the amazing books on this year's shortlist. You can read more about the prize [here](#).



### Biathlon achievement

Freddie in Year 6 took part in the South West Regional Biathlon at Millfield. He was one of the only solo competitors and up against some very talented children. He finished 15th in swimming and 28th in running, giving him an overall position of 19th. Congratulations!

### Reception class trip



Reception Class recently enjoyed an autumnal trip to Sydney Gardens where they looked at the changes in the seasons.

### Safer routes to school update

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, the first working party dedicated to discussing safer routes to school was held. The working party is comprised of parents, governors and staff who have a specific interest in ensuring that all stakeholders are safe when arriving and leaving school. We discussed issues around sustainable and safe travel, parking and the wider environmental impact of how we choose to travel to school. **We are looking for additional members of the community who would be interested in joining the working party, particularly anyone who drives in from outside the local area.** We are keen to have as wide a range of representatives as we can. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

In the near future, we will be surveying all families about how they come to school and any issues they perceive in the way that they travel. Please watch out in January 2024 for the survey to complete. Pupils and staff will also be surveyed in school for their views.

We have also signed up to MODESHIFT stars which is an active travel plan initiative led by the local authority. You may have also noticed the Anti-Idling posters displayed outside school - please do turn off your car engines whilst waiting outside school.

### Diwali celebrations

Years 1 & 5 had a brilliant joint celebration of Diwali recently – thanks to Mrs Herron for marking this special occasion.





### Bath Schools Tennis Tournament

Alexandra, Charlie, Eloise, Francis, Laurel, Otto, Ruben and Scarlett enjoyed a brilliant day at the Bath Schools Tennis tournament recently. As usual, their support of each other and sportsmanship stood out - well done to all!

### Celebrating over the holiday?

Can you collect as many clean beer bottle tops and champagne and prosecco corks for school as you can please – we use them in OWL Adventures. Thank you!

### A huge thank you to...

Mr Kai Li and Mrs Masami Nakamura for kindly building four of the new outside tables around the school recently. They are being enjoyed both in OWL Adventures and at playtime!

### Data checking sheets

Your child came home yesterday with a data checking sheet. We would be extremely grateful if this could be checked, signed and returned by Thursday, 14th December. Please make any necessary changes to the information on the sheet, but please return the sheet even if there are no changes.

### Wendy: A Peter Pan Story - Can you help?

A reminder that 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. We need parents to help support this trip – please email the office to offer your support if you can. **Years 4, 5 and 6 will leave school after lunch on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, and return to school around 16:45.**

### A few important reminders for 2024...

Please remember to ALWAYS NAME clothes that children bring into school. We have unfortunately had reports of some items going missing – please check carefully clothes your child brings home. Lost property is emptied and checked regularly so it is always very helpful to have everything named – thank you.

A reminder that if your child has been physically sick or had diarrhoea that they must not return to school for a **full 48 hours** after the final illness. Thank you.

We'd love a few more **reading helpers** – can you spare a couple of hours on a weekly basis to support children read? Sadly, not everyone is heard to read regularly at home, so the more support we can build into the school day, the better. Please email the office to find out more!

### 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 Year 2 who had 100% attendance** (which includes authorised absence) for the month of November.

### 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.

### Looking into 2024...

You will have already received next term's clubs – please book in the usual way. Look out for the information on Parent Pay and via email.

### And finally...

As we come to the end of our final newsletter of 2023, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! **A reminder that term starts for children on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> is an INSET day for staff – we will be further developing the curriculum).

With best wishes for the new year ahead,

Kevin Purkiss  
Head Teacher

Term 2 Dates for the Diary	
December	
6	PTA Wreath Making evening 7.00 p.m.
11	OWL Year 5 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

### Save the date(s)

In addition to the dates above, 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 p.m.

## You may also be interested in...

**From Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England:**

By now, I hope that you have seen my national campaign The Big Ambition. Children or parents can [complete the survey here](#). Further resources are available on our [website](#).

I want to ensure that the voices of the children in Bath and North East Somerset are fairly represented in the findings so that I can share their views with the most senior members of the country.

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

Yours sincerely, Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England

### Relate – the UK's most trusted provider of relationship support.

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[enquiries@relate-avon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@relate-avon.org.uk)  
21 Milsom Street, Bath, tel 01225 465593



Dear Parents,

It's less than a month to go until our DECEMBER CAMPS kick off!

Upcoming dates are: 20th – 21st December 2023

Keep your little ones active this Winter with our fun Get Sported multi-sports Camp or Get Serious Cricket Camp (you can choose your child's preference on Registration).

You can't beat our low prices: 1 Day: £27 or 2 Days: £50

There is a 10% SIBLING discount as we understand that more children means more cost. If two or more children are on the same booking, then all receive 10% off the total price. Make sure you don't miss out on this fun packed experience! All bookings must be made online prior to the Camps.

[GETsported.org/Bath](http://GETsported.org/Bath) or scan the QR Code above. If you have any queries, please contact us at: [info@getsported.org](mailto:info@getsported.org). And remember, if financial assistance is needed, please email [info@getsported.org](mailto:info@getsported.org)



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CHOIR LINK: <https://forms.gle/VFPiZX2tr5xYnN5p9>

### Classic Christmas Screenings at the Little Theatre

- We're bringing some classic cult Christmas films to The Little Theatre
- Tickets £8 / £5 for members



#### 1830, Mon 11th Dec 'The Muppet Christmas Carol'

Synopsis: *The Muppets reimagine Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol by adding a hilarious and heartfelt touch of Muppet magic.*

Booking Link:

<https://www.picturehouses.com/movie-details/003/HO00008902/the-muppet-christmas-carol>

#### 1815, Mon 18th Dec 'Elf' (20th Anniversary)

Synopsis: *One Christmas Eve a long time ago, a baby crawled into Santa's bag of toys... Raised as an elf, Buddy grows into an adult three times larger than the biggest elf and realises that he will never truly fit in at the North Pole.*

Booking Link: <https://www.picturehouses.com/movie-details/003/HO00013913/elf-20th-anniversary>



#### 1700, Fri 29 Dec 'Home Alone'

Synopsis: *Eight-year-old Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) is spending his Christmas at home. Only problem is, he's the only one at home: his chaotic family, helped by his mother Kate (Catherine O'Hara), have flown to France leaving Kevin as the head of the household.*

Booking Link: <https://www.picturehouses.com/movie-details/003/HO00011352/home-alone>



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Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

**WE CAN HELP**

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**DECEMBER 2023**

**2023**

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Book online at [supercamps.co.uk](http://supercamps.co.uk) or by phone on 01235 467 300

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from Bath Foodbank

**St. Mary's Bathwick School**  
for collecting  
**A huge 86.2kgs of food for Harvest**

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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.