



*Achieving excellence through  
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School

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Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



## Newsletter Five: January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Happy New Year!** I hope you had a happy and restful Christmas. During today's INSET, teachers have been further developing and improving the curriculum. We are all looking forward to welcoming children and families back to school and getting stuck into the new term. Year 4, 5 and 6 are looking forward to tomorrow's Egg Theatre trip!

Thank you to all who were able to support the events of last term. The Carol Service was a wonderful occasion with many children demonstrating their talents. On behalf of our staff team, thank you all for the kind comments, cards and gifts at Christmas; they were very much appreciated.



Well done to our fantastic children in Years R, 1 and 2 who performed their show 'The Angel who nearly missed it all!' in December. They worked so hard to learn lines and refine their acting and dancing skills. Thank you to all the staff involved in organising these wonderful performances and opportunities for our children.

As well as our Carol Service, our Year 5 and 6 Choir had the wonderful opportunity to perform at Bath Abbey for the 75<sup>th</sup> Rotary Carol Service in front of an audience of around 1000! Very well done to the readers (Joe, Lottie, Luca and



Mia) and both Sophie L (at the Abbey) and Ella and Sophie L (at Bathwick) who opened the services with stunning solos of 'Once in Royal David's City'. All children performed superbly at this event and should be proud of their accomplishments. Thank you to all parents and carers for their support.

### A heart (or hair) of compassion!

Florence in Year 5 has been determined to donate her hair for a long time, so after a lot of perseverance waiting for her hair to grow she has finally had it cut and just before Christmas donated 10 inches to the Little Princess Trust. We are all very proud of her!



### Five minutes of your time please...

As part of our safer routes to school initiative and to help with our parent-led working party, we would like to hear your opinions about how you travel to school and why. To help us collect [this important survey for parents](#), we would appreciate you completing [this important survey for parents](#). We would welcome all responses, which can be anonymous if you wish. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and would help us to build a better picture of the daily 'commute' to school for parents and children. Thank you very much.

### Respect for all in our community

Thank you to the vast majority of parents and those linked to the school who use Darlington Road and the roads near our school with courtesy to other road and pavement users and always adhere to the Highway Code.

Sadly, I too often need to speak with shaken or upset adults who have witnessed dangerous driving and parking near our school. Equally, some residents of Darlington Road are understandably getting increasingly frustrated when those dropping off or picking up children from school simply park in front of driveways – completely blocking access. This not only causes more congestion, but blocking pavements forces some families – especially those with buggies or wheelchairs – onto the road.

At Bathwick St. Mary, we always seek to be the best neighbours we can. **A reminder to ALL those driving to school to be courteous to other road and pavement users. DO NOT block driveways and DO follow the [Highway Code](#) – for our children's safety and community's benefit.** Thank you.

Please see below for the 2023/2024 Calendar AND the new **2024/2025 Bathwick St. Mary Calendar** on the final page. A reminder – do not book ANY holiday during term time. Thank you!

### OWL Change of days

From mid-January, we are planning to move OWL Adventure days to a Wednesday. Once this change has been confirmed, we will add the dates to the diary.

### Education Sunday – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30 a.m.

Annually we celebrate 'Education Sunday'. The 2024 service will be held at St. Mary's Church at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February. We are looking for some children to help with the Service and letters to these children will go out soon. All are welcome, so please do join us if you can!

### Parent Consultation Evenings (PCEs)

PCEs will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> (3.30-8.00) and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February (3.30-6.00). Booking details will follow.

### 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, 2, 3 and 6 who had 100% attendance** (which includes authorised absence) for the month of December.

### A reminder – bottle tops and corks!

Celebrations over the holiday? If you have any clean beer bottle tops and champagne and prosecco corks for school as you can please – we use them in OWL Adventures. Thank you!

### 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.

### 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 finally...

Please have a look at the key dates coming up in the term ahead. As ever, please do stop me in the playground or make contact to share ideas, concerns or questions. Bathwick is a great 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! Wishing all our families a blessed 2024.

Term 3 Dates for the Diary	
January 2024	
3	Y4, 5, 6 to The Egg Theatre (return 16.45)
8	OWL Year 1 Lifeskills for Year 6 (in school)
15	OWL Year R
26	Year 5 PTA Cake Sale
30	Bath & District Gymnastics Competition Y5/6
February 2024	
4	Education Sunday at St. Mary's Church, 10.30
5	PCEs: 3.30-6.00
7	Year 3 Trip to Bristol Museum (TBC)
8	Bath Primary Swimming Gala PCEs: 3.30-8.00
9	PTA 'Dare to be different' Day - Non-uniform for PTA donations
Term 4 Dates for the Diary	
23	Year 3 PTA Cake Sale
26	SARI Day (Stand Against Racism and Inequality)
March 2024	
8	Y2 trip to Mr B's Reading Emporium of Delights PTA Discos (TBC)
14	Book Fair arriving
19	Class Photos Day
20	Choir to Bridgecare Residential – Easter Service
26	Dance Umbrella @ The Forum (TBC)
28	Easter Service, St. Mary's Church, 1.30 p.m.

### Save the date(s)

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

- 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.

# 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.

# Bathwick St. Mary School Term and Holiday Dates – 2024-2025

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

AUGUST 2024						SEPTEMBER 2024						OCTOBER 2024						
M			5	12	19	26	M	2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28
T			6	13	20	27	T	3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29
W			7	14	21	28	W	4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30
TH		1	8	15	22	29	TH	5	12	19	26		TH	3	10	17	24	31
F		2	9	16	23	30	F	6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25	
S		3	10	17	24	31	S	7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26	
SU		4	11	18	25	1	SU	8	15	22	29		SU	6	13	20	27	
NOVEMBER 2024						DECEMBER 2024						JANUARY 2025						
M		4	11	18	25		M	2	9	16	23	30	M		6	13	20	27
T		5	12	19	26		T	3	10	17	24	31	T		7	14	21	28
W		6	13	20	27		W	4	11	18	25		W	1	8	15	22	29
TH		7	14	21	28		TH	5	12	19	26		TH	2	9	16	23	30
F	1	8	15	22	29		F	6	13	20	27		F	3	10	17	24	31
S	2	9	16	23	30		S	7	14	21	28		S	4	11	18	25	
SU	3	10	17	24	1		SU	8	15	22	29		SU	5	12	19	26	
FEBRUARY 2025						MARCH 2025						APRIL 2025						
M		3	10	17	24		M	3	10	17	24	31	M		7	14	21	28
T		4	11	18	25		T	4	11	18	25		T	1	8	15	22	29
W		5	12	19	26		W	5	12	19	26		W	2	9	16	23	30
TH		6	13	20	27		TH	6	13	20	27		TH	3	10	17	24	
F		7	14	21	28		F	7	14	21	28		F	4	11	18	25	
S	1	8	15	22	1		S	8	15	22	29		S	5	12	19	26	
SU	2	9	16	23	2		SU	9	16	23	30		SU	6	13	20	27	
MAY 2025						JUNE 2025						JULY 2025						
M		5	12	19	26		M	2	9	16	23	30	M		7	14	21	28
T		6	13	20	27		T	3	10	17	24		T	1	8	15	22	29
W		7	14	21	28		W	4	11	18	25		W	2	9	16	23	30
TH	1	8	15	22	29		TH	5	12	19	26		TH	3	10	17	24	31
F	2	9	16	23	30		F	6	13	20	27		F	4	11	18	25	1
S	3	10	17	24	31		S	7	14	21	28		S	5	12	19	26	2
SU	4	11	18	25	1		SU	8	15	22	29		SU	6	13	20	27	3

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

The 25/26 academic year begins on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

**ONE INSET DATE TO FOLLOW**

***You may also be interested in...***



**A new rainbows unit has opened in Bath!**

Once a month on a Saturday  
9am-12pm



Girlguiding HQ,  
Walcot street

For girls aged 4-7 years

**Rainbows**  
88th Bath City Rainbows

linko.page/88thbathcity

**Leaders:**  
Holly & Jess

**For more information please contact:**  
88trainbows@girlguidingbath.org.uk