Achieving excellence through the pursuit of good'

Bathwick St. Mary Church School
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www.bathwickstmary.org
Headteacher: Mr Kevin Purkiss

Newsletter One: September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all our Staff and Governors, whether you are new to school or have been here for some time - a **very warm welcome** to this new academic year. We hope that you have all enjoyed a great summer and children are looking forward to the year and term ahead.

Our staff team have been busy preparing the school and the curriculum for this new academic year and are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back. Thank you to our office team who have been working hard 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 including the complete refurbishment of the Year 3 and 4 toilets (Year 5 and 6 and Infants will follow!).

You will see in Dates for the Diary below there are already several exciting trips and visits planned for classes in the term ahead.

New Office IT systems

Please note, along with all Trust schools, several office systems (including ParentPay) have been migrated and updated over the summer. Despite a lot of work, inevitably there are a few teething issues. Thank you to the Office team who are working hard to get these resolved with technical support! If you are unable to book your child's lunch or pay yet – please do not worry – all children will enjoy the delicious menu from tomorrow. We will keep you updated via email on progress; thank you for your patience.

A great celebration of Sport at Bathwick St. Mary

During the last week of the summer term we all enjoyed a brilliant Sports Day – thank you to all who came and supported. It was a super day!

Welcome to new children!

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 – Zhirui (known as Max)
- Y2 – Safina, Edith
- Y3 – Benjy, Imogen
- Y4 - Agastya, Ilias, Xander, Zhiheng

We hope you will all be very happy here!

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. Our champions for the Summer Term (last academic year) are:

- **Respect**: Sydney, Year 3
- **Joyfulness**: Sylvie, Year 2
- **Fairness**: Orla, Year R
- **Love**: Hudson, Year 4
- **Forgiveness**: Hector D, Year 1
- **Perseverance**: Freddie M, Year 5

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

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 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.

Welcome to new staff!

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

- Miss Anya Hathaway joining the Year 1 team as Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Edith Moses running After School Wraparound Care
- Mrs Estienne Sheppard supporting in After School Wraparound Care

We look forward to benefitting from their expertise! Mrs Moses will be known to several of our children, having worked in the 23/24 Academic Year as Teaching Assistant in Reception who stepped down from her role to care for her husband, who sadly passed away earlier in 2025. We are delighted she has returned to Bathwick St. Mary and look forward to working with her once again.

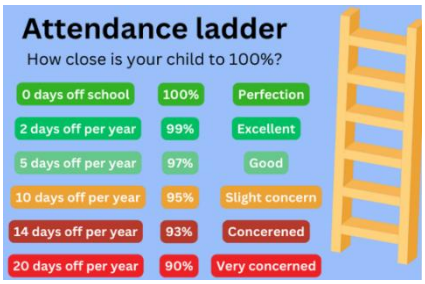
We also wish Mrs McHugh and her husband Steve, and also Mr Downing and his wife Mollie the very best of wishes as they are both shortly due to welcome a new baby to their families!

All day, every day, on time!

We all want the best for our children. We believe that regular attendance at school is vital for children as it promotes good learning, positive attitudes and maintains continuity in their education and in their friendships. Strong attendance at school positively impacts our children.

Expect school leadership to be seeking to work with you to understand and support families help their child attend well. Expect clear communication about your child's attendance if there is a concern. Thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers who strive to ensure their child is in school, 'All day, every day, on time'. The school day starts at 8.50 – please ensure your child is consistently here ready for 8.50.

The DfE state that parents, '*…have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.*'



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 2025 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.

KS2 (Year 6) results		School Result	National Result
Reading, Writing and Maths combined	**Expected** standard	65%	62%
Maths	**Expected** standard	85%	74%
	Higher than expected standard	41%	26%
Reading	**Expected** standard	82%	75%
	Higher than expected standard	47%	33%
Writing	**Expected** standard	65%	72%
	Higher than expected standard	15%	13%
Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar	**Expected** standard	74%	73%
	Higher than expected standard	56%	30%

After School Clubs for Terms 1 and 2

A final version of the clubs leaflet is attached. All will run from week commencing 8th September through to week commencing 15th December, other than the last day of the Autumn term.

Library volunteers needed

We are looking for more volunteers to join our library team and help with the school library. We ideally need help on Mondays and Fridays from 2:15pm until the end of the school day. This is a wonderful opportunity to help our children with reading for pleasure. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Turner on librarian@bsm.bwmat.org for more information.

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.

'Welcome to Class' – class information sessions

We are pleased to be holding 'Welcome to Class' 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: Monday 8th September
- Year 2: Thursday 4th September
- Year 3: Friday 5th September
- Year 4: Wednesday 10th September
- Year 5: Tuesday 9th September
- Year 6: Wednesday 3rd September

Bath Children's Literature Festival

Again this year we are delighted to be taking Years 1 to 6 to the festival to hear from amazing authors. The festival is always a super opportunity to inspire reading, writing and illustrating amongst our children! There will be more information to follow from individual classes.

Wraparound Care – bookings open

Our Wraparound Care service provides on-site childcare from 7.30-8.50 and at the end of the school day to 17.30 (Monday to Thursday) and until 16.30 on Fridays. The costs for each session are £6.50 (Breakfast Club; end of the school day to 16.30; 16.30-17.30). 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. Wraparound booking is now live for the 2025-26 academic year: Please use the this link to access iPAL.

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 8th 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 12th September.

The PTA Post

After several years of dedicated service to our school, Jess Westbrook is stepping down as PTA Chair. As such, we are seeking a new PTA Chair (or, Co-Chair?) to work closely with school to plan brilliant events and fundraising activities to help our children to continue to have a fantastic experience. More information will be shared in due course.

Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest Celebration service is on **Friday 24th October at 1.30 p.m.** at St. Mary'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.

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). It is crucial we have accurate and up to date records and contacts for all families.

Term 1 Dates for the Diary	
September	
3	School starts for children Welcome to Year 6: 3.30-4.00
4	Welcome to Year 2: 3.30-4.00
5	Welcome to Year 3: 3.30-4.00
8	Welcome to Year 1: 3.30-4.00
9	Welcome to Year 5: 3.30-4.00
10	Welcome to Year 4: 3.30-4.00
12	Year 6 OWL
15	Reception children in full time
19	Year 5 OWL
25	Open Morning for Reception 2026 starters Year 3 OWL
29	Children's Literature Festival - Y3 and Y4 p.m.
30	Children's Literature Festival – Y1 and Y2 a.m.
October	
3	Children's Literature Festival – Y5 (pm) and Y6 (am) Year 4 OWL
9	Year 6 to Swindon Steam (TBC)
10	Flu Immunisations offered (details to follow) Year 2 OWL
13	PCEs
16	PCEs
17	Year R OWL
21	Open Morning for Reception 2026 starters Year 1 OWL
24	1.30 pm Harvest Service (Collection from church)

Open mornings

Is your child due to start school in September 2026? You are warmly invited to our Open Mornings (25th September, 21st October, 20th 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

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.

BANES Music Tuition for Y4 / Y5 / Y6 children

If your child would like to continue or start individual music tuition, please contact music@bathnes.gov.uk.

Singing lessons at Bathwick for Y4, 5&6

We continue to offer a limited number of personalised private singing 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 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 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.

Save the date(s)

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

- Friday 19th December: Carol Service, 1.30 p.m.
- Thursday 2nd April: Easter Service, 1.30 p.m.
- Friday 10th July: Year 6 Show TBC (evening)
- Thursday 16th July: End of Year Service, 1.30 pm.

Year 5 and 6 – walking home

- 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 have completed this in previous years there is no need to do it again).
- 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.

Your questions, queries and feedback…

Please do read the important 'Annual Reminders' below and particularly make note of the term dates on the right. 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 best wishes for the year ahead.

Kevin Purkiss
Head Teacher

You may also be interested in…

Important 'Annual Reminders'

In order to keep our school being the best that it can be, please read through these polite reminders. **Thank you for your cooperation and support.** 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! If you have any questions, please do ask.

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. 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. Please contact the School Office if your child requires medication in school.

Attendance regulations

- The Government is very clear that **no holidays should be taken in term time**. Every day in school is 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.
- Morning registers close at 9.00. If your child arrives between 9.00-9.15 whey will be marked as LATE. If they arrive after 9.15 their absence will be marked as UNAUTHORISED.
- **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 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.

Snacks

- Any snacks brought into school for breaktimes must be heathy – i.e. no chocolate bars, packs of crisps etc. Fruit and vegetables are ideal.

'Dropping off' and 'picking up' routines

- **School starts at 8:50 a.m.** Please ensure your child arrives by then. 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.
- Dogs (other than Guide Dogs) must not be on the site – this includes the school drive. Please avoid dogs waiting by the main entrance gates.

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.

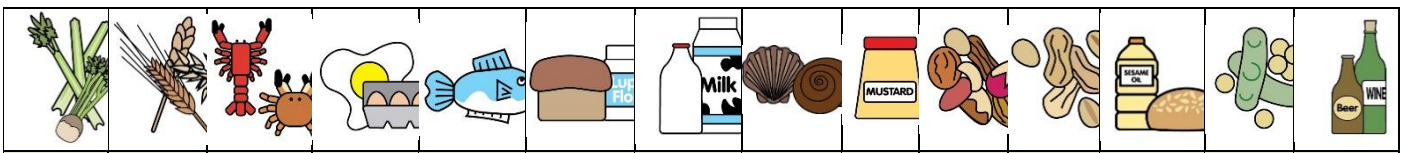
PE Uniform: Please ensure children have the appropriate clothing – the quantity and cost of which we aim to keep to a minimum:

- 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.

Autumn Term 2025 Bathwick Menu

	WEEK	MEAT FREE Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 1 Sept 22 Sept 13 Oct 10 Nov 1 Dec	**Option 1: Main Meal**	Roasted vegetable pinwheels (B, G)	Roast chicken	Homemade Cottage Pie (G)	Pork sausage casserole (B)	Jumbo cod fish finger (B, E, G)
	Option 2: Vegetarian Meal	Vegetable enchilada (B, G)	Cauliflower and broccoli bake & herby crumb topping (B, G)	Vegetarian Cottage Pie (G, M)	Quorn sausage casserole (B, D)	Cheese and red onion quiche (B, D, G)
	All the above served with	Herby diced potato (B) Salad bar	Roast potatoes, seasonal fresh vegetables and gravy	Green fresh vegetables and sweetcorn	Creamed mashed potato (G), peas and gravy	Oven baked chips, baked beans and sweetcorn
WEEK 2 8 Sept 29 Sept 20 Oct 17 Nov 8 Dec	**Option 1: Main Meal**	Macaroni cheese (B, G)	Roast chicken	Jacket potato with egg mayonnaise (D)	Pork and beef meatballs in onion gravy (B, I)	Jumbo cod fish finger (B, E, G)
	Option 2: Vegetarian Meal	Vegetable frittata (D, G)	Vegetable pie (B)	Jacket potato with beans and cheese (G)	Vegan balls in onion gravy (M)	Vegetable nuggets (B)
	All the above served with	Garlic bread (B) and salad bar	Roast potatoes, mixed fresh vegetables and gravy	Fresh salad bar	Wholegrain rice and fresh salad bar	Oven baked chips, baked beans and sweetcorn
WEEK 3 15 Sept 6 Oct 3 Nov 24 Oct 15 Dec	**Option 1: Main Meal**	Cheese and tomato pizza (B, G)	Roast chicken	Stick BBQ Pork	Sweet and sour chicken	Jumbo cod fish finger (B, E, G)
	Option 2: Vegetarian Meal	Vegetable and red lentil loaf	Vegetable Lasagne (G, B)	Butternut squash and spinach curry	Roasted vegetable chilli	Vegetable burger (B, I)
	All the above with	Jacket wedges and salad bar	Roast potatoes, carrots, green beans and gravy	Wholegrain rice and green fresh vegetables	Wholegrain rice and green fresh vegetables	Oven baked chips, beans and sweetcorn
Served Every Week	**Option 3: Alternative Meal**	Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese (G), or tuna (E)	Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese (G), or tuna (E)	Jacket potato with tuna (E), salad bar	Jacket potato with baked beans, cheese (G), or tuna (E)	Farm Assured Ham with Chips
	Dessert	Fresh fruit platter or organic yoghurt (G)	Rocky road (B) with fresh fruit or organic yoghurt (G)	Cake of the week (B, D) or organic yoghurt (G)	Jelly and fruit platter, with organic yoghurt (G)	Ice-cream (G) or fresh fruit or organic yoghurt (G)

Any food allergies or intolerances will be offered an alternative Main Course and Dessert to meet your child's needs. All meals are served with milk or water. Tinned Mackerel (E) available with Jackets on request (with 3 school days notice). Fresh bread is available daily.



Celery	Cereals containing gluten	Crustaceans	Eggs	Fish	Lupin	Milk	Mollusc	Mustard	Nuts	Peanuts	Sesame seeds	Soya	Sulphur Dioxide
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N

Bathwick St. Mary School Term and Holiday Dates – 2025-2026

NO HOLIDAYS CAN BE TAKEN IN TERM TIME

AUGUST 2025						
M		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
W		6	13	20	27	
TH		7	14	21	28	
F	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	
SU	3	10	17	24	31	

SEPTEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24		
TH	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
SU	7	14	21	28		

OCTOBER 2025						
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
TH	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		
SU	5	12	19	26		

NOVEMBER 2025						
M		3	10	17	24	
T		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
TH		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29	
SU	2	9	16	23	30	

DECEMBER 2025						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
TH	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
SU	7	14	21	28		

JANUARY 2026						
M		5	12	19	26	
T		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
TH	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	3	10	17	24	31	
SU	4	11	18	25		

FEBRUARY 2026						
M		2	9	16	23	
T		3	10	17	24	
W		4	11	18	25	
TH		5	12	19	26	
F		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	
SU	1	8	15	22	1	

MARCH 2026						
M	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24	31	
W	4	11	18	25		
TH	5	12	19	26		
F	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		
SU	8	15	22	29		

APRIL 2026						
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
TH	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		
SU	5	12	19	26		

MAY 2026						
M		4	11	18	25	
T		5	12	19	26	
W		6	13	20	27	
TH		7	14	21	28	
F	1	8	15	22	29	
S	2	9	16	23	30	
SU	3	10	17	24	31	

JUNE 2026						
M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24		
TH	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
SU	7	14	21	28		

JULY 2026						
M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
TH	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	4	11	18	25		
SU	5	12	19	26		

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

The 26/27 academic year begins on Tuesday 1st September 2026.