

Bathampton Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers

It's been an unusual start to the new academic year. However the children have been instrumental in helping school life feel as normal as possible in these uncertain times.

Classes have been enjoying learning as usual and the smiling faces we see in them each day is wonderful for us all to see!

I would like to thank the staff Team at Bathampton for their adaptability and efforts at the beginning of the year.

Best wishes

Mr Brewer
Headteacher

New Entrance

It gives me enormous pleasure to announce the opening of our new entrance from Monday. This coincides with the new staggered drop off and pick up times that I wrote to you about yesterday. Our new entrance offers state of the art safeguarding procedures and technology to ensure pupils and staff are safe.

Due to COVID please resist the urge to 'pop in' and have a look for the moment. We are still not able to accept visitors into the building without prior agreement. Instead please watch my video tour!

<https://youtu.be/AUpuux7Ktrs>

We will organise an official opening, in the future, to coincide with the official opening of the new library (more about this on the next page).

I would like to thank the following people who have been

Upcoming Events

October 5th – New Entrance open

W/B 9th October – Pupil Settling in Information sent home + optional phone calls (Separate letter regarding this will be sent home next week)

22nd October – Last day of term 1

23rd October – INSET Day

2nd November – INSET Day

3rd November – 1st Day of Term 2

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instrumental in supporting the school in securing the new entrance and library areas:

Fiona Powell, Cheryl Cook, Alison Deane, Lin King, Karen Wells, Nicola Lake, June Wagstaff, Dan Symmons, Hebe Alloun, Graham Lewis, Mike Rolfe and Hannah Findlay – all of these people have been involved over the last two years at some point.



Parking

A polite reminder that 'The George' car park is the designated parking area for the school drop off and pick up. The zone outside of the school is a 'no traffic safe zone between 08:30 – 09:00 and 3:00 – 3:30. We are pleased to report that there are so many parents using 'The George' car park safely in the morning. Please use the graveled area at the end to allow for customers of 'The George' to have spaces.

New Library

Our New Library is taking shape. The purpose of our new library may seem obvious as inspiring children to read and get excited about books is nothing new. However, the beauty of a bespoke, clean, well-resourced new space will have unlimited ability to inspire the next generation of readers.

We have a team of parents and staff working on the interior design and stock. We will give you regular updates to share the progress with you and there will be a 'Celebrity Author' official opening of the library with book signing when COVID allows in the future!

Safeguarding Update

Schools are responsible for keeping children safe at all times. This includes checking why and when children are not in school. If your child is not in school for any reason please notify the school office as soon as possible. If you wish to take your child out for another reason other than medical, please complete a request for absence form which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website. Only 'exceptional circumstances' are allowed to be authorised under government and BANES guidelines. Mr Brewer is always happy to discuss exceptional circumstances.

YEAR 6 Parents

Don't forget to submit your secondary applications by October 31st

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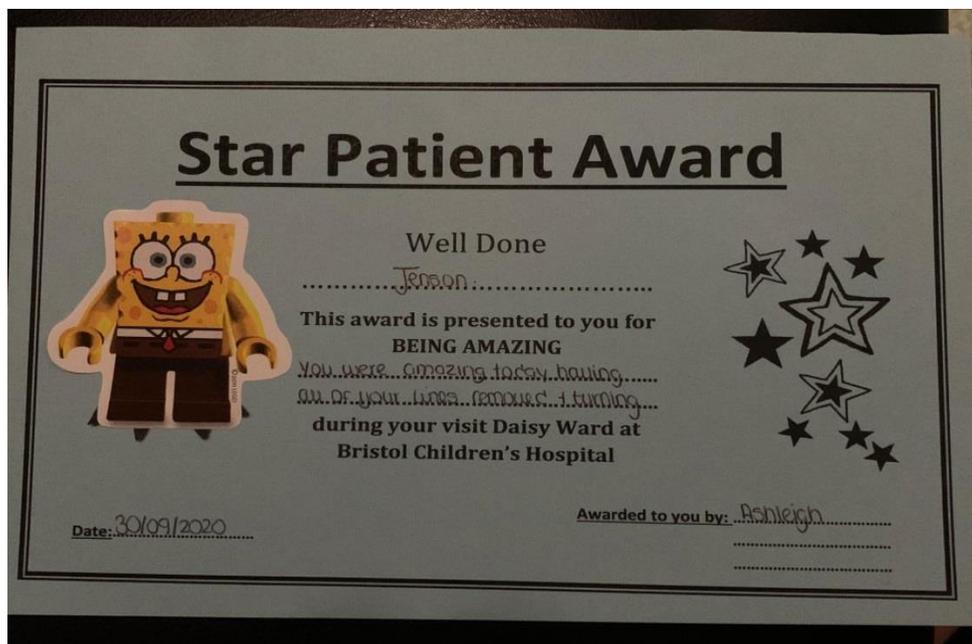
Bike Week

Next week is 'Bike/Scoot to school week'. Please note this is one week later than advertised due to the works outside school. Any children coming to school by bike or scooter that week may find a 'Golden Lock' on their bike/scooter, which can be exchanged for a prize the next day. Should your child receive the lock, please ask them to bring it back the next morning and Mr Brewer will get them a prize. Mr Brewer has already shown all the children the cool prizes in assembly today. **(Thank you so much to 'Take Charge Bikes' (a bike shop in Bath specialising in e-bikes) and 'Powabyke' (an e-bike retailer based in Bristol) who have donated the prizes).**

Get Well Soon Jenson

We're so proud of Jenson in year 5 who is making a remarkable recovery after undergoing emergency brain surgery earlier this week. His parents would like to thank everyone who has wished him well over the last week. We sent him some get well cards and gifts and I hear the card from his class is his favourite item of all. The Friends were also fab as usual by sending a treat bag to Jenson.

He's been spotted at the hospital for his bravery and determination.



Heads of House

The Year six pupils have written their letters of application to become Heads of House. Mr Brewer and Mrs Edmund will be interviewing children next week!

School Council

Each class in KS2 have selected School Council members. These members will be revealed next week and they will attend their first meeting on Thursday 8th.

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Extra-curricular clubs

We are delighted to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular clubs this term and have been so pleased at their popularity. The current after school clubs will continue until Christmas and then new spaces will be offered to all children for the spring term so please look out for an update in December.

Our free lunchtime clubs will rotate each half term as these are only open to one year group per lunchtime and therefore more spaces are available.

I will be asking our school council for ideas about future clubs, however if you have any suggestions please do let the office know.

Congratulations

Warm congratulations to our Year Five teacher, Mrs Reynolds who will be having a baby in spring. We will be advertising for a maternity cover teacher in the next few weeks to cover Mrs Reynold's leave.

Nut Aware School

As you are aware, we are a Nut Aware School. We do have children who are allergic to nuts and nut products and politely ask all parents/careers to not use nut products in any packed lunches or snacks, as contact could have severe consequences for allergic children. Thank you in advance.

Perform Drama

Perform Drama are offering all children an introductory free class which can be booked at this link - <https://www.perform.org.uk/free-drama-class>. Parents can also watch a video about their safety measures at [perform.org.uk/covidsafety](https://www.perform.org.uk/covidsafety)

They would also be delighted to offer any of your children a £40 discount should they decide to sign up.

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Friends Newsletter Update September 2020

A big hello (we are back - yay!) and a warm welcome to our new families! We hope that you've had a good couple of weeks settling back into school?

As you will appreciate, many of the usual Friends events can't run (mixing across class bubbles and non-essential adults in school are all a no go). However, this poses a huge challenge to us as pre Coronacoaster we committed to a £15,000 fundraising target to support the new school library. The funds raised last academic year have directly supported the build costs (thankyou) but we now have a room that needs to be furnished and filled with beautiful books that will capture our children's imagination and transport them to exciting places! Checkout the mockup of this fabulous space – 2 windows that bring in natural light, 6 bookcases filled with engaging goodies, a carpet area and extendable table brilliant for small group work, soft furnishings to make it fun and comfortable! There is a "but" though... we need to continue fundraising to make these things a reality.



We had great success with some online events in the summer term but we appreciate that everyone is a little Zoomed and Teamed out and we know how important it is, now more than ever, for the children to have fun and feel connected to the school. We are working with Mr Brewer to find ways in which we can fundraise within the guidelines and constraints, for example we may be able to run Popcorn and Movie Nights by class. We hope that you'll get stuck in and support our first event, running in conjunction with school and that is 'Grow a Pound'.

Grow £1

The Friends and teaching staff are setting a challenge to all our children to Grow £1! Friends will donate £1 to every child - can our budding entrepreneurs and hard workers turn it into £1.50, £2? £5? £20? All proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the new library, specifically fabric, rugs, paint, tables, stools, lights etc.

Could they:

- Hold a music concert for your family, friends or neighbours?
- Help out in your local community? Gardening or car washing?

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- Set themselves a sponsored challenge? A bike ride? Something at their sports club?
- Bake and sell some goodies?
- Grow plants from seeds?
- A sponsored silence (you are welcome...!)

The children may need to negotiate a loan from you to help them buy supplies for their plan, perhaps as an investor you'd want to see their business plan? The options are endless – please have fun with it. The class who raises the most money will be rewarded with Dunkin Donuts. There are also Headmasters Awards up for grabs in categories that include Most Innovative Grower and Team Work Makes the Dream Work Growers!

Teachers will talk to the children about our Grow £1 challenge next week, encourage them to discuss ideas and hand out the green Grow £1 envelopes (please keep your eye out for them). If you can't support this for whatever reason, please don't worry just return the envelope/£1 back to the teacher. The children may want to plan something with a friend(s) which is great but we must be mindful of the current government guidelines, for example groups no larger than 6.

We will ask you to return any money made/raised in an envelope via class teachers the week *after* half term (w/c 2nd November) so that the children have the rest of the month including half term to grow their money! Please take photos along the way, it will be great for the children to be able to share these in class and across the school.

Other Library News

We are pushing ahead with fundraising for the fit-out but in parallel to this the Teachers are defining the new books they need to support the curriculum and topics across the years. We will be working with local independent bookshops to establish a gift list that you can buy a book from if you wish, and donate it directly to the library. We will update you on how to do this in our October Newsletter. We have a group of parents on painting duty in the next 3 weeks. We need 2 roman blinds, cushions and a wall mural too, could you help? If so, please contact the office! We have been fortunate enough to secure a local author to help open and celebrate the library – we can't commit to a date but watch this space! A big shout out and thankyou to Sylvie (Mum in Class 1) who is leading this design.

Future Friends Activities

We hate to use the C word...yes – Christmas! The children have had the opportunity to draw their own designs in class over the past week and we'll be offering you the opportunity to get these works of art printed professionally onto cards/wrapping paper/tags/fridge magnets etc. Keep an eye out for the personalised order forms coming home next month.

Friends AGM

As a registered Charity, Friends of Bathampton has a statutory requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting and formally elect the statutory roles and body that will govern it. Our Friends Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 20th October, and we will be re-electing a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee. If you'd like to find out more about these roles or how to get involved (whether you have 15 mins once a year or more time to offer- any time is valuable!) then please contact our current co- Chair Claire Symonds (mum from Class 3 & 1) and Kim Acton (Mum from Class 4 & 1) or through your class reps. This year the AGM will be via a Zoom meeting due to current restrictions on meeting in groups.

We can't wait for the time when we can all enjoy being together at the face to face events, but until we can – we promise we'll do our best for our Library Fund. *The Friends Committee*

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