

Dream...Aspire...Achieve

Termly Newsletter – Friday 14th February

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe we are at the end of another term already and at the halfway point in the year – how is that even possible?

This term may have been one of high winds and heavy downpours on the outside, but it has certainly been one of creativity and excitement on the inside. The children's learning has ventured from the ancient lands of the Dinosaurs, to the Artic Poles and then on through to the bewildering African Plains with many tests and investigations along the way.

Our Twitter feed has been a non-stop celebration of the learning that has been taking place across the school and highlights the wonderful opportunities and activities that go on in all our classes. I am very much looking forward to seeing the children continue their journeys and finding out where their learning takes them next.

As always, many of the things we achieve in school would simply not happen without your support and we continue to be extremely grateful for everything that you do. It is fantastic to see so many parent helpers and members of the community give up their free time and come in as volunteers to help support our children's learning. We are also very grateful to the wealth of parents who join us on school trips and sporting events, none of which would be able to go ahead without this help. It has been so amazing to increase the number of after school clubs we offer because we are even lucky enough to have parents who either run their own club or help support others, enabling us to open up these enriching opportunities and experiences even further to more children. So on a day where love is in the air, we want to say from the bottom of our hearts a very big thank you!

Best wishes

Sally

Beyond the Classroom!

We are a school that loves to extend our children's learning experiences beyond the four walls of the classroom. Teachers are passionate about creating experiences beyond what can be done in the classroom to make learning more exciting and inspiring. Through this approach, we want our children to develop their dreams, aspire to work hard, learn from mistakes and overcome obstacles that may fall in their path to finally achieve and become the person they want to be.

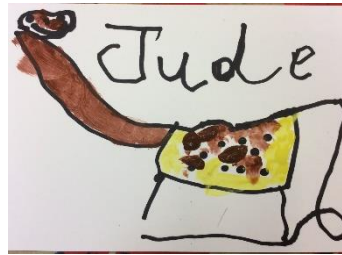


This term has been no exception and as we take a look back over the last 6 weeks, it is clear to see how these experiences start to enhance our child's understanding of the modern world. Cherry and Willow classes were very excited to see a large fire engine appear just outside of school. The children had already been told that there was no fire, but that the fire engine was here to teach them all about how to stay safe.



Apple class were extremely surprised to find a REAL dinosaur egg in their outside space one morning and were even more shocked when the egg apparently hatched overnight!!

One of my best moments as a teacher was walking into Apple class and being literally dragged by about 20 pairs of hands to be shown the remains of the egg and the damage caused by a rampaging Dinosaur that had obviously been through the school! There was even more excitement when the whole class trooped out to Mike's meadow on an archaeological dig and found Dinosaur bones. It has been an amazing term for Apple class culminating in their fantastic trip to Bristol Museum this week.



Elm class has been engaging in some Citizen Science and completed a survey on behalf of the Great British Bird Watch. They used Mike's Meadow as a good viewing platform and observed the different birds around them. Judging by their results, they were able to see a few different species of birds flying overhead.



I know that Maple and Oak class are both looking forward to their residential visits soon so we will be sharing their adventures in our termly newsletters later in the year.



Making the most of the space we have!

It has been lovely seeing our music pavilion finally come to life since the big clear out last year. Using some of the money we have raised over the last year, we have managed to turn this space into a fully functional learning zone where classes can enjoy participating in music lessons and having fun learning how to play a range of musical instruments.



We have also been busy developing other areas of our school to make valuable use of all the space available. Over half term we will be giving a new lease of life to the back of the lobby area which will become a woodland reading corner, and each of the classes have been working hard to ensure their learning environment celebrates a range of children's work by creating inspiring areas for the children to enjoy their learning. Our aim is to hold a big open school at



the end of next term to showcase all our new areas, all of which has been possible by your generosity, so watch this space.

Pond Life

We are still desperately trying to raise money to develop our outside area so if you haven't had a chance to donate, please do so, No matter how big or how small the donation, every penny counts and we really want to make this a very special area to help widen our experiences and understanding of the outside world. Just simply scan the barcode or click on the link below and it will take you straight to our page. Thank you.



<https://donatemyschool.com/batheastonchurchschool>

Read all about it!



As many of you are aware, our big focus has been on reading and we have worked hard to ensure that all our children are given the opportunity to become fluent and confident readers, as well as developing a love of reading. Lower down in the school we have invested in new decodable books for our younger readers and the impact can already be seen in how quickly they are developing their phonic knowledge and their



confidence. As mentioned previously, we are creating reading areas around the school where children can enjoy some quiet time and get lost in imaginary worlds of adventure and fantasy.

We use our knowledge and understanding of reading to link to other



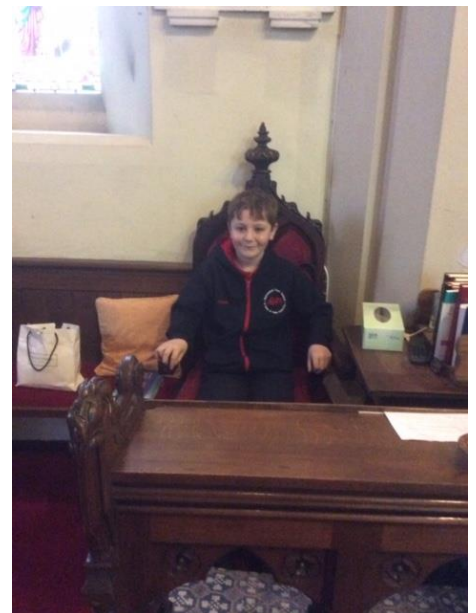
areas in our curriculum. Hazel class were using the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears to learn how to debate and give persuasive arguments as part of their writing unit.

We have recently introduced a new progressive programme to help develop the reading of our older children and we hope this will be fully up and running soon.

However, one thing we have learnt recently from a pupil questionnaire is that children love reading at home and this is brilliant news so well done and keep up the good work in supporting your child become a confident reader enabling them to open many doors in later life.

Nice to meet you!

We have really enjoyed getting to know our new vicar at St John's Church this term. Not only has Reverend Elizabeth visited us in school as part of our Collective Worship, but some classes have enjoyed going up to the church and learning about all the different aspects of Church life too. From services to weddings, christenings to funerals, the children have enjoyed finding out what a truly special place our church is.



Being prepared for life in the modern world.

At Batheaston Church School, we place high importance on preparing our children for life in the modern world and one of our new approaches is the recent introduction of our 5C's. Alongside our RECIPE school values, we believe the 5C's are the qualities and skills our children need to thrive and lead a successful life. We thought this would be a good opportunity to share this with you.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work that has been going on behind the scenes by all our staff. Building a new ambitious curriculum that is broad and balanced takes a lot of time, thought and energy and all the staff have worked relentlessly to ensure the children receive first class quality teaching at every opportunity. So to all the staff and children at Batheaston, a huge thank you for all your dedication and hard work, leaving only one more thing left to say.

Have a GREAT half term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 24th February.

Sally

 <p>Martin Luther King – 1929-1968</p>	<p><u>1. Communication</u> Sharing our thoughts, feelings and ideas</p>	<p>Listening actively, Reading, Speaking, Turn taking, Using technology, Writing, Social Communication</p>
 <p>Women's England Football team 2019</p>	<p><u>2. Collaboration</u> Working together to achieve a goal</p>	<p>Allocating resources, Brainstorming, Decision-making, Delegating, Evaluating, Goal setting, Leading Managing time, Resolving conflicts, Team building</p>
 <p>Mother Teresa – 1910-1997</p>	<p><u>3. Compassion</u> Having a deep awareness of and sympathy for others</p>	<p>Helping others, Self-Kindness, Common Humanity, Mindfulness, Generosity, Patience</p>
 <p>Albert Einstein – 1879-1955</p>	<p><u>4. Critical Thinking</u> Looking at problems in a new way and linking learning</p>	<p>Analysing, Arguing, Classifying, Comparing and contrasting, Defining, Describing, Evaluating, Explaining, Problem solving, Tracking cause and effect</p>
 <p>J K Rowling – 1965-Present Day</p>	<p><u>5. Creativity</u> Using our imaginations to innovate and invent</p>	<p>Creating, Designing, Entertaining, Imagining, Improvising, Innovating, Overturning, Adapting Questioning</p>