

Batheaston Church School

Termly Newsletter – Thursday 24th October



Dear Parents,

It was during the very first day of term, when the gates opened and the children skipped into school with big smiles on their faces that will be imprinted in my memory for a very long time. It was an absolute delight to see how happy the children looked returning to school after the Summer break as well as how happy the parents looked!

Back in September, we welcomed our new Reception intake to the school in Apple class. Nikki, Jenny and Sue are delighted to see how well they have settled since they have been with us full time. The one thing I have really enjoyed watching is the special friendships which have formed between Apple and Oak class. Seeing our year 6 children look after the youngest with so much care and attention really does tug on the heart strings. I could not be prouder of Oak class and the way they have conducted themselves around our newest members and how they have started Year 6.

New Ofsted Framework

This year OFSTED has launched their new education inspection framework (EIF) which has allowed all schools to look at their curriculum and review what is already in place. We started this process back in the Summer and since then we have launched our new curriculum programme with exciting topics such as 'Let the Sparks Fly' and 'Perfect Portraits'. We have changed the way in which we teach topics to ensure there is a clear progression of skills and knowledge between the year groups. Therefore each year will be taught on a two year rolling programme which can be found on our website. This has led to a fresh approach to delivering the National Curriculum and teaching in ways which build on previous learning. If you are a keen follower of our Twitter feed, you will already have noticed how much we have managed to pack into the first term alone. It has been creative, exciting and the children's learning is coming on in leaps and bounds. To learn more about the new OFSTED framework, the following link will take you to the DFE website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>. We will also be focusing a lot on reading and writing this year so we would like to thank all the parents who take time out of their day to listen to their children read at home. If children enjoy reading and are listened to regularly, it has a huge impact on their progress. It is just as important to spend time listening to a Year 6 child read as it is to listen to a reception child, so we will be introducing incentives to get children reading more at home and giving advice on how you can support your child.

Parent Voice Group.

As mentioned in a previous letter, we are always looking for new ways to improve communication with you so that you are aware of any changes that take place and more importantly the reasons why those changes have been made. Therefore we are trying to start up a Parent Voice group. A big thank you to those parents who have already put their name forward, but as yet we do not have representatives from every class. In the meantime, we are proposing to hold our first open meeting on Tuesday 12th November at 2:30pm which is open to everyone. It would be lovely to spend some quality time with you and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to come along and join in, please sign up in the office so we can see how many parents to expect.

After an exciting start to the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our children and families a happy half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4th November.

Best Wishes

Sally

Our new Curriculum in action!



Oak and Maple class launched themselves into the ancient worlds of Vikings and Saxons and have linked their learning in English with the grizzly story of Beowulf. Maple class enjoyed using drama to recreate and retell the story while Oak class have been comparing Anglo Saxon Britain with Roman Britain.



Elm and Hazel class focused on the topic 'Perfect Portraits' and have spent a great deal of time learning and improving their artistic skills by drawing themselves and others. Elm class honed in on their skills of observations and had a go at painting themselves in an abstract way. Hazel class have had a go at creating 3D models. Both classes enjoyed a trip out to the Victoria Museum in Bath and were really enthusiastic when they attended a workshop and had a go at creating their own portraits.



Cherry and Willow class have really enjoyed their topic around the Great fire of London. Under the heading of 'Let the Sparks Fly', children have been learning about how the fire started and what happened on that fateful night. Cherry class have enjoyed writing diaries about the event and, through their 'child initiated' learning, created town structures while Willow class were busy designing maps and looking at famous London landmarks.



Apple class have been learning about their bodies and using technology to actually look inside to see their bones and their organs. They have enjoyed recreating skeletons and thinking about how blood is pumped around our body.



All in all, it has been an exciting and busy start to the year and the children are looking forward to continuing with their topics next term while Apple class are about to launch themselves into Space.

'Hello Yellow'

On Thursday 10th October, we celebrated World Mental Health Day by raising money for the Young Minds charity who support young people with their mental health and wellbeing. All members of the school community wore yellow clothing and the school was a bright and sunny place despite the rain outside! We were able to make a welcome donation to Young Minds for which they were very grateful.



This year, we are really focusing on the issues surrounding the mental health and well being of our children and have made it part of our culture and ethos to ensure our children feel comfortable opening up and expressing their worries and concerns. During Wellbeing Week, we talked to the children about the **5 Ways to Wellbeing** and as a consequence, lots of activities and lessons were focused around these five areas. A big thank you to Alison for organising and supporting the school in celebrating Wellbeing week.

Welcome Apple Class



It was a delight to see Apple class arrive for their very first day at school back in September. With shiny shoes, smart uniforms and brand new reading packs, they looked amazing. They have had an fantastic few weeks getting to know their new 'special friends' and learning about life in school. I know Nikki, Jenny and Sue are extremely pleased with the progress they have made so far and they have already become a big part of our Batheaston Family. Well done Apple Class.

Exciting new areas

Although we have not yet officially launched 'Eve's Kitchen', groups of children have already been busy cooking up some yummy delights and have even sold their efforts in the cake sales after school. It's wonderful to see groups of children developing their cookery skills in a fun and inspiring way. The new decking area known as 'Nathan's Garden' has recently been completed and will be available to use after half term. We will be filling up the sandpit in the Spring when the warmer weather arrives but the children can still play in the trough with the wooden blocks and old tyres until then. The new space created in the Pavillion has successfully been used for a number of different reasons and plans are afoot to open up a reading area at break and lunch times. There are so many exciting new things happening at Batheaston and we can not thank you enough for your continued support. I am now looking forward to my first taste of Christmas next term and look forward to working alongside our new Parent Voice group which will be another way of communicating and sharing ideas to make our school the very best it can be.



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A term in the Life of Batheaston Church School



Have a lovely Half Term

With love from all the staff at Batheaston Church School