

Batheaston Church School



Dream...Aspire...Achieve

Termly Newsletter – Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful and busy term with so many fun learning experiences taking place across the school. We have enjoyed seeing lots of collaboration across classes and we have enjoyed some of the children going out on school trips once more. Although the current climate feels a little unsteady at present, we will continue to have high aspirations for our children and have booked residential visits for both Oak and Maple class next year and aim to take all our children out on experiences to enhance the curriculum even more.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help and support over the last few weeks. The Winter Fair was a huge success and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, but we know this could not have taken place if it were not for the army of parent volunteers who stepped up and helped out in the weeks leading up to the fair and on the day. We are so grateful. We managed to raise a massive £3300 which is just fantastic. Thank you!

In the new year, Nikki and Sian will be relaunching our Parent Voice Group (PVG) as an opportunity for our parent voices to be heard and to work collaboratively together on whole school initiatives. We are very grateful for the input given from our last set of PVG parents and look forward to working with a new set of parents next term onwards. If you are interested and would like to represent your class, we ask that you email the school, and we will send out information regarding our first meeting in January.



Some of the feedback we have received recently is the way in which the school uses Mike's Meadow. As a result, our inset day on Tuesday 4th January will focus on outdoor learning for all teaching staff to help support their planning around using this wonderful on site resource. The day will consist of lots of practical activities and games with two level 3 trained practitioners from Wild Woods, Wiltshire. Our aim is to tap into the educational potential that Mike's meadow provides on so many levels for all our children. The teachers are really looking forward to donning their wellies and layering up to spend a fun time outside!

In light of recent coverage regarding Covid, we feel it is important to be prepared for any eventuality. Therefore we are thinking ahead in terms of our online platform TEAMS and ask that you check your access to TEAMS is working. If not please email the school after the holidays so that we have ample time to reset passwords or solve any issues you may be experiencing.

We would like to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Best wishes

Sally and all the Staff

Little Wandle

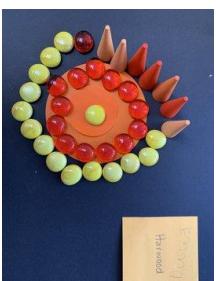


At the beginning of this term, we launched Little Wandle revised Letters and Sounds following a whole school inset day back in November. This new phonics programme delivers a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of phonics and has already had a huge impact on children's progress in reading and writing, particularly in Apple and Cherry class. Nikki, our phonics lead has already begun coaching KS2 support staff to ensure that interventions are matched with the little Wandle approach. We have invested, with financial support from the English hub, in new guided reading books, support materials and online training. The decodable books ensure that they are directly matched to the children's learning in class and their individual progress. I have had the privilege of watching phonics lessons take place, alongside Faye Bertham, the assistant director of education for the BWMAT, and I have been impressed with the way the children have embraced their learning and talk about digraphs and graphemes as if it was everyday conversation. If you would like to access the Parental support, please take a look at their website as you may find it useful to help support your child at home.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Bringing our Curriculum to life



There has been some great learning taking place across the school during the last seven weeks with children enjoying a wealth of learning experiences.

Apple class have been very excited creating beautiful firework pictures at the start of term and then became even more creative as they learnt about the sun.

Cherry class spent time learning about the purpose of a search engine in computing and had great fun exploring the CBBC website. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Guy Fawkes and created some amazing oil pastel drawings which they were very proud of.



It was great to see Cherry class join forces with Willow class to learn all about Road safety, and they all enjoyed a visit out into the community, practising their skills of how to cross the road safely.

In the meantime, Willow class spent some time thinking about "One Kind Word" as part of the Anti-Bullying initiative and came up with some lovely ideas. They also learnt about Chain Reactions and how the impact of negative actions can lead to negative feelings, symbolised by the use of dominoes. What was most surprising was the unexpected invasion of aliens in Mike's Meadow. Luckily for all of us. Willow class soon persuaded them to leave and sent them packing!

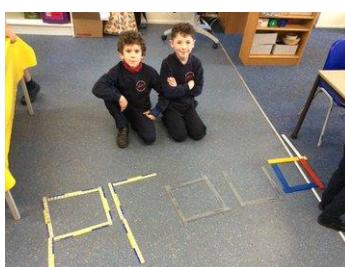




Inspired by the popular television series “The Great British Bake off”, it wasn’t long before Batheaston jumped on the same bandwagon and came up with the “Great Batheaston Bake off” Encouraging children and families to get together and bake, the amazing assortment of cake that came into school that day was impressive and we were incredibly impressed by the baking skills and creativity that had gone into all the cakes. It was an absolute pleasure to be a judge that day.



Elm class have been out and about this term in Mike’s Meadow writing prayers as part of our Collective Worship theme of Peace. They have also been thinking of “One Kind Word” and how this can make us feel.



After the alien invasion, we thought we were all safe until Elm class then found evidence of dragons using our playground. Whatever the dragons were doing in Batheaston, they certainly inspired Elm class to write some amazing stories and design these wonderful dragon eyes.



Its all about the science in Hazel class this term as they spent the day in Mike’s meadow investigating the type of trees we have on the school grounds and thought of ways in which to classify them.



They also enjoyed making their Christmas crafts for the Winter Fair using Chloe's and Hannah's posh craft machines, they produced some lovely bags.

Maple class have also been putting their scientific skills to good use. They have been learning about the properties of materials and as a result have been making some dinosaur eggs. Lets just hope that alongside the aliens and dragons, we do not have dinosaurs roaming around the school grounds at night!



Oak class have been kept very busy at breaktimes this term with their special friends who they continue to keep a watchful eye on, making sure they are ok. Recently they enjoyed getting together to hold a Christmas party with Apple class. Designed and budgeted by the children themselves, it was a fun afternoon and judging by the smile on their faces, everyone appeared to have had a great time.



Out and about

We have been very fortunate over the last couple of weeks to be able to get our children out and about to trips in our local town of Bath.



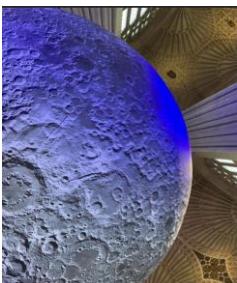
On Friday 3rd December, Chloe and I took the KS2 choir to the Bathwick St Mary to join a host of other schools in a very special carol service. It was a real pleasure accompanying the children who performed and sang their hearts out in a wonderful setting that felt very spiritual. The children were amazing and we all had a super time.



On Monday 13th December, Elm Class and Hazel Class visited The Holbourne Museum as part of their "Perfect Portrait" topic and by all accounts had a great time.

"This week we went to Holbourne Museum as part of our Perfect Portraits topic with Elm. We walked around doing some fun activities in the gardens, one of which I'd say was the trickiest of all, as we had to use our times tables and count the diamonds on one of the bridges it was so hard I couldn't even finish. Then we had lunch, after the lunch we headed off to do some art with Pip. She showed us how to draw our portrait in proportion and decorated it in a Georgian still. It was a great day out." Rocco (Hazel Class)

Apple class were so excited to be going on their first official school trip to look at the moon which is currently situated in Bath Abbey. By all accounts they had a super time and came back really excited.



A message from Our Chair of Governors

This term as governors we have welcomed our new parent governors Antony Jordan-Mayhew and Jonny Lunn (who has transferred from a MAT-appointed governor role). We also sadly say goodbye to our clerk to the governors Sheena. We would like to thank Sheena for all her hard work and wish her a peaceful retirement. This term the focus of the governors has been on phonics and it has been great to see the new phonics scheme "Little Wandle" get off to such a strong start. Although we now have our full complement of parent governors, we will have a couple of opportunities for parents to get involved in the new year. Firstly, we will be looking for parents to contribute to the Ethos committee in January, which feeds into the governors, and is concerned with student and staff wellbeing and the culture of the school as well as its Christian ethos. Secondly, we have

formed a working group to look at issues around road safety and active travel to school. We are keen to find a parent to join this group to help drive initiatives forward, particularly ModeShift Stars, which has been a great success with other schools in the area. If you are interested in either of these, please get in contact with me via the school office.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Christmas.

Kind regards,

Steph

All in all it has been an extremely busy and productive term and we are looking forward to seeing what the new year brings for Batheaston.

As always, your children have been a pleasure to teach and have in school. They have inspired us with their creativity, and we have been in awe of their attitudes to life and at what they have produced in class. They have worked their little socks off. They deserve this Christmas break, and we hope you all have a good rest so that they will be ready to start all over again on Wednesday 5th January when they return to school.

Happy Christmas

