

# Batheaston Church School



Dream...Aspire...Achieve

## Termly Newsletter – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents,

*I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the concerns and worries we have heard coming from our school parent community. Although on the whole, comments from parents are very positive, we do know that some of you are worried about bullying and behaviour. On the back of a recent monitoring visit from the Trust and our surprise visit from Ofsted last week, it is apparent that behaviour in the school is very good and any incidents are dealt with quickly and efficiently. The children themselves have also reported that behaviour is good, bullying is rare and adults are there to help and support them with any difficulties they may be having.*

*However, we do know that as a parent it is really difficult to understand exactly what is going on in school and sometimes, incidents are often heard second or third hand or is only one side of the story. Therefore, in response to this, we want to create more opportunities for you to come into school and see for yourselves what a real credit the children are to you and how well they respond to the staff. We would like to invite you back to our Friday assemblies if your child has been awarded the Teachers award to hear the teachers sing their praises and join us for Funky Friday afterwards. We will schedule in some more dates for open classrooms so you can view your child's work which is so proudly displayed on the classroom walls and in their books. We would love for you to come along one Monday to see how I lead the school through our weekly Collective Worship and we are working on plans to invite you in to have lunch with your child and see our children at play. By opening up more, we hope to share with you how proud we are of our children and what a special place Batheaston Church School continues to be. We will get a dates list out to you at the very start of next term.*

*Although this has only been a 5 week term, it has been astonishing to see how much we have managed to fit into such a short space of time. Both Willow class and Oak class have undergone their SAT's test in which they all worked incredibly hard and tried their best. Maple class enjoyed a one night residential to Folly Farm and were an absolute delight to be with. Oak class are currently on their week long residential to Bude and judging by the pictures, seem to be having a great time. Ofsted showed up and put us all through our paces however we are looking forward to the report being published sometime next term and then finally last weekend, it was great to see so many members of our local community turn up and support our magnificent Meadowfest. I think after all that, our children really do deserve a half term holiday and I hope the sun continues to shine, especially as we celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next weekend.*



*Just a reminder that Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June is an inset day where the teachers will be focusing on report writing and work around the curriculum. Therefore, we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.*

*Have a super half term.*

*Best wishes*

*Sally and all the Staff*

## **Staffing news**

*As many of you are aware, we sadly said goodbye to Trish who left us at the end of last term. It was great to see her back again for the Year 5 residential and she has also told us to get in touch as she would love to help out on future trips - so watch this space. We also reported that we would be losing Sue Trott, another one of our long standing TA's. However, we are delighted to announce that Sue still feels she has a lot to give and loves this school so much, she has changed her mind and has decided to stay on a bit longer, albeit on a shorter week. We are really grateful to have Sue staying with us as her experience and knowledge of the school is invaluable in helping us to support our children.*

*We also warmly welcome Clare Dando and Ruth Pengilly to our Teaching Assistant team for the next term. We are always really grateful when parents take such a keen interest in the school, they actually end up becoming part of our staff team, which is great. We hope all three ladies enjoy the Summer term and I know our children will really benefit from the support they will be giving.*

## **Living the Great Outdoors**

*This term we have been fortunate for the first time in three years, to have been able to take the children away on their traditional residential to Folly Farm and Bude. We know from experience, these trips are always something the children look forward to and it has been really disappointing that we have not been able to take the children away to these particular places since before the pandemic. However, this year has been a great success and we have managed to whisk the children away where they have enjoyed a great time away.*

*Residential tend to focus on the great outdoors and teaching the children vital life skills alongside understanding nature to help them really appreciate the natural World around them and experience activities they may never have tried before. Despite the wet start, Maple class enjoyed dissecting owl pellets, hunting for bugs, pond dipping and learning how to build a waterproof shelter in case they ever found themselves stuck outside in a storm. Bed time caused great excitement and judging by their weary faces in the morning, I am inclined to think that some of them did not manage to get much sleep the night before. However, they kept going and the Folly Farm staff commented on what a lovely group of children they were. Well done Maple Class.*



*Oak class, on the other hand, set off down to Bude last Sunday and judging by the pictures on Twitter they seem to be having the time of their lives and that's just the staff! From dragon boating, caving and surfing, the variety of activities on offer seem amazing. Having been in touch with the staff down in Bude, I was so proud to hear how well the children are behaving and how they are hoping to win the Super Group award as they have shown great teamwork, resilience and friendship towards each other. The staff could not be more proud of them and I am so pleased they have had such a great time. I think you will have some exhausted children when they finally return later tonight.*



**Our 5C's – Communication, Collaboration, Compassion, Critical thinking and Creativity.**

*Since the introduction of the 5C's, we have tried to ensure each and every child is given the opportunity to develop these important life skills as we prepare them for life in a modern World.*

*We know our children at Batheaston are great communicators and are very open in the feedback they give us. As a teacher, it is so special when a child is given the opportunity to put forward their thoughts and ideas to show you how much they are learning and how they are processing the information they have been given. It is very obvious that so many of our children enjoy their learning and it is great when parents tells us about the conversations they have with their children at home about their learning for that day.*



*We often try and encourage teamwork and partner talk as much as possible. As teachers, we know the importance of collaboration and the sharing of good ideas and we encourage our children to do the same. Listening in to children trying to problem solve and reach a solution together is often inspiring and rewarding.*



*We have spent much time this year talking to the children about kindness and showing compassion. A prime example of this has been seeing Oak class help and support their special friends in Apple class. An experience I am sure neither of them will forget. We also launched our kindness week earlier this year which is helping to get the message across that a little kindness goes a long, long way.*



*Problem solving can always be a tricky area of learning, whether you are trying to solve a problem in maths, or trying to create a design that works. Using critical thinking skills and building on what you already know, is very much encouraged with the children to help them independently find a resolution or an answer.*





*Creativity is always something we have encouraged at Batheaston and when I take a walk around the school and look at all the displays in and outside of classrooms, I am always amazed at how creative our children can be. Sometimes this is to do with their art topic and I have seen some fabulous cave paintings this term. However, creativity comes in many forms and I really enjoy it when a child knocks at my door to share a piece of writing they are proud of.*

### **Batheaston V Bathampton in Tagtails**



It was a beautiful sunny morning when Elm and Hazel class took a glorious stroll along the river, heading to Bathampton for a tagtail festival. There was great excitement and a little bit of moaning about how far it was!!, but we finally arrived, and the children geared themselves up to take part in their first competitive game. In total, the children played 22 matches, allowing everyone to play 5 matches each. The final score was 14 wins for Batheaston, resulting in 540 tags, 5 wins for Bathampton, resulting in 455 tags and 3 draws, crowning Batheaston as the tagtail winners. A big thank you to all our parents who came along and supported the event.

### **Paralympian Visit to school.**

*We were very excited to welcome Paralympian Rachel Lathan into school on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Although we had to quickly adapt the timetable due to our Ofsted visit, all the children had an opportunity to meet Rachel and take part in a range of sponsored physical activities. The visit athlete reported how wonderful the school was and how well behaved and polite the children had been throughout the morning. Jenny will send out more details next term, but we just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your support and for helping to support the children's fundraising efforts.*



## Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

This term has been a busy one for the governors! We are now back in school doing learning walks, the focus this term was on how maths is taught across the age groups, and it was great to see the new maths resources purchased by FOBS getting plenty of use. There was also the opportunity for Wendy, our safeguarding lead governor, to come into school to monitor behaviour at playtimes and see how the school's anti-bullying policy is being upheld. Our foundation governor has also been into school to see an assembly on the RECIPE value of Respect. Then of course we had the visit from Ofsted, who interviewed the governors as part of their inspection process and then feedback informally to governors at the end of their inspection. Over the two days of inspection, it was amazing to see the whole school working together. On behalf of the governors, I would like to thank all the staff for their commitment and we look forward to the publication of the report.

Finally, as a parent as well as a governor, it was fantastic to see the whole community enjoying Meadowfest and I know that the money raised will be so useful to the school.

Best wishes

*Stephanie Hanna*

***Wishing all our families a peaceful and restful Half term Holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June.***

