

Dream...Aspire...Achieve

Termly Newsletter – Friday 16th December

Dear Parents,

We have finally made it to the last day of term and what a fantastic term it has been. The lead up to Christmas has been very busy and we are thrilled that we were able to bring you our Christmas performances without a hitch this year. A massive thank you to all the staff and children who worked tirelessly to bring you Christmas shows to be proud of. A big shout out to FOBS who came and provided refreshments at the evening performances and a huge thank you to Adrian Cottle, Dad to James and Lydia who not only recorded the show as a keepsake for parents but who also really helped us out with the sound when our system decided not to play ball. We could not have done this without all the support of our wonderful parent community.



As we continue our drive to excellence, we have a planned inset day on Tuesday 3rd January where we will be launching a new professional development programme to help our teachers teach even better. As an outward facing school, we think it is important to give teachers high quality professional development training to help enhance their skills in an ever changing profession. Our vision will always place emphasis on giving teachers the skills they need to become excellent practitioners as our children deserve no less.

Over this last term, we have spent much time showing prospective parents around and the comments and feedback we have received about the school and our children have been overwhelmingly positive. We are very proud of the way our children conduct themselves in school and this has been noted by our Governors during their last visit and by the Assistant Director of Education (ADE) on her last monitoring visit in October. The Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust recognise us as a good school with areas of outstanding.

“With a unique curriculum offer, attractive environment and high expectations of the children, behaviours are likely to remain strong.” (Quote taken from our last note of visit in October)

It is also very pleasing to hear how well our ex-pupils have settled in to their new secondary schools this term. We have enjoyed having quite a few of our ex-pupils return to carry out voluntary work in the younger classes during their inset days. It is important that we seek to find out how our ex-pupils are doing to ensure we are being successful in our mission of providing children with important life skills to help them in their future and to settle well into their next phase of education



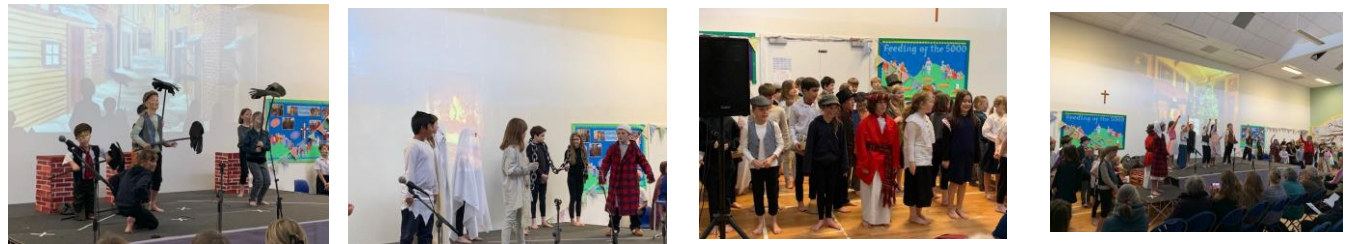
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Sally and the Batheaston Team

Christmas Performances

It has been an absolute pleasure being able to watch the Christmas performances this year without a hitch and without fear of cancellation. Last week, the audience were amazed by a soulful rendition of the Nativity Story, beautifully orchestrated by Apple class who all looked so angelic in their sparkly costumes. This was shortly followed by Willow and Cherry class performing "A Christmas with Aliens". It was very moving watching our Year 1 and Year 2 look so confident up on stage, bringing laughter and joy as they explained the Christmas Story to a bunch of intergalactic aliens. There were so many proud parents and grandparents in the audience and we could not be more proud of our little performers.



This week saw the turn of KS2 with their marvellous rendition of Scrooge. Once again, the audience were subjected to enthusiastic singing, talented acting and some beautiful soloists. The sheer joy in the faces of children performing was mesmerising and the bravery of so many of our young actors and singers was outstanding. Well done to everyone taking part and once again, you did us proud.



I also want to give a special mention to Sejla in Year 6 who has spent many hours creating this beautiful drawing of Scrooge to use as posters around the hall during the performance. The sheet detail and talent is amazing.



A big thank you to all our parents and grandparents for all your support and for your generous donations you gave at the end of each performance. It just helps our productions become bigger and better each year, leaving all our parents with a wealth of special memories.

Church Service

On Wednesday this week, we were fortunate to be invited up to St John's Church for our annual Christmas Church Service. This is always a special time for us at Batheaston and it was a lovely occasion where the children re-enacted the Christmas Story and the advent candles were lit. I think all the staff were very impressed with the Children's singing and it was great to meet Reverend Loretta who is taking over from Reverend Elizabeth in January.



Teacher Awards

We continued with our new approach to handing out our weekly teacher awards and it has been fantastic listening to the teachers choose children for a whole variety of reasons. Thank you to all our parents who have been able to join us each week. I am sure it is a very proud moment when your child has been recognised for doing something above and beyond everyone else in their class. We love having you on a Friday and we love sharing our Funky Friday Breaktimes with you.



Trip to the Roman Baths – Hazel and Elm Class

Children from Elm and Hazel class all set off one morning for their trip to the Roman Baths to help bring their topic "Swords and Sandals" to life. Having not done this trip myself for many years, it was great to hear of the improvements the Roman Baths have made to make learning a lot more fun and interactive. I know the children were buzzing on their return and had an absolutely fabulous time.



Our Curriculum through the lens



Message from our Co Chair of Governors – Jonathan Lunn and Wendy Jacobs

We are both pleased to be co-chairs, taking over from Stephanie Hanna, who has been so committed to supporting the school for the last few years. We decided that the 'chairs role' should be split so that it would give us both the time to support the school in whatever way it is needed. We know that our other governor colleagues are equally committed to the school, and all of us have been able to make visits to the school this term. It has been good to see Sally and



her team working with the children to move the school forward following the very good report it received from Ofsted last summer. There is a very positive and caring atmosphere in the school in which children can thrive. Both of us hope to be in and out of school over the next year so as to meet children and staff, and to see the children learning and enjoying their school life. We hope also to meet many parents and carers. In the meantime, may we wish you all a very happy Christmas holiday and a successful and safe 2023.

*Wishing all our families a Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year
From Sally and all the staff at Batheaston*



*We look forward to welcoming the children
back on Wednesday 4th January*

