

Dream...Aspire...Achieve

Termly Newsletter – Friday 10th February 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank goodness we can finally say goodbye to January, although it has been another busy term at Batheaston Church school. We have experienced some extreme weather conditions this term from either being soaking wet or freezing cold, resulting in a few wet plays, with children couped up inside. Never the best recipe for a successful afternoon. Let's hope Spring is only just around the corner.

During January, we said goodbye to Reverend Elizabeth who has retired and is hopefully enjoying a well-deserved rest. Therefore, we are delighted to welcome Reverend Laretta who has already been into school on a number of occasions, working alongside individual year 6 children supporting them with their maths learning. We are really pleased to have forged such close links with our local church as it is such an important partnership that benefits the whole community. Sadly though, we will be losing Serena, our church youth worker, in March who has been brilliant over the last few years, bringing bible stories to life and thinking of fun events for the children to attend in the local community. She was also brilliant at keeping us and the church connected during the pandemic, coming up with new and inventive ways in which we could still celebrate the major events on the Christian calendar. Serena is taking up a new post at St Luke's church in Bath so although we will miss her, we would like to wish her the best of luck as she starts her new adventure.

This term, we have also been busy reinvesting some of the money raised last year by FoBS. So far, we have managed to clear the pond area so we can now actually see it! (I must admit, I think I had forgotten how big it really is) We also salvaged quite a few bits of our Huff and Puff play equipment that had mysteriously ended up submerged in the pond. The next phase of the development is to build a safe seating area that will allow children to carry out activities like pond dipping and observational drawing. We have also managed to remove the straw from the Lapa roof, as over the years, the thatch has been battered by a number of storms, leaving lots of holes in the ceiling and a depleted roof. Again, the next phase is to add a new roof and build a seating area so it can become an



outdoor space where children can learn. We have also invested in some new IT equipment and purchased a new set of BeeBots with money raised. I know Apple class has already enjoyed using them to help develop their programming skills. We continue to have lots of exciting plans in place to improve our outdoor space as well as investing in some new resources. This is all thanks to you and the amazing FoBs team. Keep an eye on the weekly newsletters as we will keep you updated on our spending plans and how we hope to keep improving our educational offer.

Parent Survey Results (November 2022)

We would like to thank all our families for taking the time to respond to our questionnaire back in November. We had 52 responses in total and would like to take this opportunity to share some of the feedback with you.

- 88% of parents agreed the school's curriculum provides a good balance between academic achievement and life skills.
- 83% of parents felt the school has high learning expectations for their child to ensure they are adequately stretched.
- 92% of parents agreed that by looking at the website, they are aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 85% of parents felt their child is making good progress at school.
- 83% of parents felt they receive valuable information from the school about their child's progress.
- 79% of parents felt they were clear about the next steps their child needed to take to progress further.
- 92% of parents felt their child was happy at school.
- 96% of parents felt their child was safe at school.
- 90% of parents felt their child's mental health and wellbeing is supported effectively.
- 92% of parents felt their child had good friendships at school.
- 88% of parents agreed the school has a good standard of behaviour.
- 86% of parents felt the school deals with any incidents quickly and effectively.
- 85% of parents agreed their child can take part in a range of clubs and activities at school.
- 90% of parents agreed that our vision of 'Dream, Aspire and Achieve' accurately reflects the core focus of Batheaston Church School.
- 92% of parents agree the school is well led and managed.
- 85% of parents agree communication from the school is clear and effective.
- 100% of parents feel they are able to contact their child's teacher when they need to.
- 90% of parents find the school's website a useful source of information.
- 89% of parents felt comfortable raising any concerns they have with the school.
- 91% of parents agree that any concerns raised with the school are dealt with promptly and effectively.
- 92% of parents feel proud their child attends Batheaston Church School.
- 92% of parents would recommend Batheaston Church School to another parent.

What do you think makes Batheaston Church School unique and what are the school's greatest strengths?

- "The school is a really nurturing environment where our children thrive"
- "Being inclusive and encouraging growth"
- "The children are happy and well nurtured and the learning is excellent"
- "Cultivating a love of learning, enjoyment of life and confidence to be their own person"
- "Mike's meadow and the learning opportunities there are amazing"
- "Staff, they are incredible - Thank you"
- "Batheaston is a very special school with a kind and nurturing ethos"
- "Most importantly the children all seem very happy! The school has dedicated staff and embraces its role within the heart of the community"

Do you have any suggestions on improving the school further?

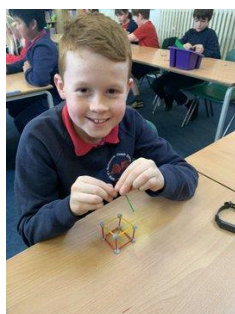
- "More regular brief reports would be helpful to support my child's learning"
- "More focus on emotional development, conflict resolution, child led learning"
- "Clearer homework timetable"

- "More opportunities for children to share their work with their class/others"
- "Perhaps a greater variety of sports clubs and perhaps more opportunities to learn musical instruments"
- "Increase in learning about the diverse world we live in, alongside the climate challenges we are facing"
- "Sign up to parent's evening, Christmas Nativity plays should be available online"
- "Increasing access to outdoor provision and maximising the benefits of Mike's Meadow for learning"

Thank you once again for your feedback which overall has been extremely positive and very helpful. Although I have not been able to list all comments and suggestions, I just want to reassure you that each and every response has been read and all suggestions have been taken on board and shared with staff.

Living life in all it's fullness – John 10:10

Despite the extreme weather, it has not stopped our children from living life to the full and enjoying their learning. From creating wonderful art work, now being displayed on the river path, to our mixed football team winning 5-1 against Bathford last night, it has been a busy term.





Teacher Awards

The highlight of my week is hosting our celebration assemblies every Friday. It really is a special time when the whole school community and parents come together to celebrate the achievements of our children. Each week, the teachers speak from the heart when presenting their teacher awards and the look on the children's faces when they eventually figure out the teacher is talking about them is amazing to see. Well done to all our teacher award winners this term and to all our children who just simply astound us every day.



Message from our our Chairs of Governors



This has been a busy but very cold term for children and staff. As part of our role in monitoring the School Development Plan, most of the governors were able to come into school this term to watch spelling being taught across all classes, with both children and teachers able to make some of our more difficult and peculiar English spellings accessible and fun. As governors, we are always impressed at how ready and enthusiastic the children are to learn. It is our



pleasure to speak to them and to see how confident and relaxed they are in the classrooms. Other things this term included a Trust led SEND review, and the governing body reviewing a new assessment tool for monitoring pupil progress across all subjects and classes, an initiative coming from the OFSTED recommendations.

The Governing Body are pleased that we may have four new governors joining us, all of whom have a wealth of different backgrounds and experiences. We hope that you will have an opportunity to meet them soon.

Have an enjoyable half term break.

*Wishing all our families a lovely half term
break*

From Sally and all the staff at Batheaston

*We look forward to welcoming the children
back on Monday 20th February*

