



NEWSLETTER NO 20

12 February 2010

Dear Parents and Children

We've managed to get to the end of Term 3 after a very 'stalling' and snowy start! Well done, and thank you to you all for your patience and understanding in those first few weeks.

Hopefully, as the weather gets better we can look forward to warmer weather and making the most of all the things on offer.

Soon after the holiday our Conservation Area will be getting a re-vamp (courtesy of the developers of the field next door) so that the pond can be host to the colony of Great Crested Newts they found there. The pond will have viewing platforms and periscopes (we hope). They will also be planting trees and bushes, with bird and bat boxes around the site to encourage and support wildlife. Just one of the many things happening soon—see below for just some of the details.

Philip Pope

Dates for Your Diary & Forthcoming Events

Holiday Dates

School starts back on
Monday 22 February

Easter Holiday

Friday 1 April (Good Friday) until Friday 16 April

Summer Half Term

Monday 31 May until Friday 4 June

INSET Day Friday 9 July

Summer Holiday

Monday 26 July until 31 August

Bike It Project



We have an exciting new Bike It! project starting on 1 March.

You may remember that last year we cycled the world (only just).

This year we're cycling around Britain, but it'll be much tougher, each journey will count for

far fewer miles. Last year about 10% of our children (plus adults) cycled, this year we need twice that to finish.

Each journey will count, no matter how far, so over the holiday get your bikes out and oil them off from their winter hibernation.

The 'race' will run for the whole of March.



Theatre Visit

Travelling Light are visiting the school on Wednesday 24 February. Please remember to send in your contribution towards the cost.

Cricket Club

Cricket Club will be starting for KS2 children after school from Monday 1 March—further details to follow

Street Sense—Child Pedestrian Training

We are hoping Year 2 children will be able to start road safety training on Tuesday 23 February. However we still need more volunteers to help on the 2nd, 9th and 16th March between 9.00-11.00 am. Training cannot take place unless we have enough volunteers. If you are able to help please contact the school office asap—many thanks.

Healthy Lunch Box Workshops: Wednesday 10 March

The Healthy Lunch Box workshops are designed to be an informal and fun way to give you ideas for preparing healthy packed lunches for your children—there will be information and discussion about healthy diet, food labelling, salt, fat, sugar content, demonstrations, food samples and a "Ready Steady" packed lunches preparation session.

A Creche will be available in the Children's Centre for the morning workshop but we need to know numbers—if you would like to come along please let the school office know asap—tel: 832112 or email stmartins_pri@bathnes.gov.uk

Valentines Disco

The PFTA raised around £100 from last evening's disco. This quote from Jack Osborne sums it up: "Thank all the PTA for the disco you are the best because you all did a great job thanks soooooo much I will never forget that time at the disco".

Teachers Doing The Write Thing Competition

Look out for the "Writings on the Wall" next term and have fun guessing which writing belongs to which teacher.

Entry forms available from Mr Turvey and there will be great prizes for the winning entries.

LIBRARY NEWS



This Monday saw the start of awards for new free readers across the school. From now on all children reaching Reading Recovery Level 26 and moving on to become free readers will be awarded a book and a certificate.

In the first special assembly to celebrate these awards we listened to a poem about words and reading – read by the school's youngest new free reader – Molly Hanson (aged 5) in Year One.

Twenty-one new free readers from throughout the school have been given the new awards and more are expected by the end of March!

These awards were made possible thanks to the efforts of Mrs Bowman and the generosity of the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. Huge thanks are also due to the team of Better Reading Partners who volunteer their time to read with children during the week.

Homework Review

Many of you took part in the survey and meeting that we held, earlier in the school year, on homework. Since then I have been doing surveys of the research and other publications, as well as interviews with sample groups of children. We are being this thorough as we really want to get things right when we reform the present system.

The review is almost complete, and will be presented to governors for the first time on Monday at the Curriculum Committee meeting. We plan to hold another meeting for parents soon, to announce the findings, as well as making available the final report for those who wish to see it. So watch this space. *David Turvey*

School/Home Communication



Thank you to those who have returned the Parent Mail reply slip and our questionnaire about school/home communication. We would very much like to hear from those who have not yet replied - could you please return your replies to the school office after the holiday—copies are available from the office.

We are intending to start trialling ParentMail next term. **Many thanks** *Janette Skinner*

Finally—have a great half term everyone and we'll see you back in school on Monday 22 February DON'T FORGET to check out what's going on in Bath Museums and Galleries over the holiday—Pick up a leaflet at your local library, tourist information, most Council reception points and the museums taking part, or please visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/

St Philips & St James Church are running a free "Doctor Who" Holiday Club on Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th February 10.00 am– 2.00 pm. To book a place phone 01225 835228