

Batheaston CEVC Bulletin, 18 July 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope that you are all looking forward to some summer holiday family time after a really busy and successful year! Thank you so much to all the parents who have returned reports which include your contributions. Please do send in your contributions so that we can send out completed reports by the end of this week.

Please also find attached our Sporting Newsletter which is a lovely 'round up' of an active sporting season for Batheaston children. Thank you to Jenny for all her enthusiastic organisation of this varied provision.

I would also like to remind everyone (especially as this is a text only letter!) that you can keep up to date with Batheaston events and busy days by looking at our website homepage. We are on Twitter but you don't need to be – just look at the homepage to see lots of photos and news.

Thank you and goodbye!

We will be saying goodbye to Sue Rosser at the end of this week and wishing her well in her retirement. Sue has worked at Batheaston for many years and we are really grateful to the incredible commitment and loyalty she has shown to everyone within our community.

Goodbye to Tom Richmond too. We would all like to say a big thank you for Tom's hard work this year and wish him well for the future. We've learned lots from Tom and hope he leaves with happy memories too.

We are sad to say goodbye to Julia Butler who has been our Forest School teacher for many years. Julia is starting a full time job in September but will be available to help us with ideas and planning resources. We wish Julia lots of best wishes for her new venture! We remain very committed to providing all our children with outdoor learning and Forest School and are planning our next steps.

Congratulations to Kate Symons who is getting married to Ben during the summer holidays. We know that they will have a wonderful day and wish them well for their future! Kate will be Kate Meynell by the time we return in September.

A very fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children too! We have enjoyed being here for their journey through our school and are very confident that they will all continue to dazzle and shine in secondary school. It is an emotional time for all of us as we say goodbye but we also know that the children are ready – confident individuals who have developed excellent learning behaviours, social skills and the resilience to help them flourish! If you are coming to this evening's performance of Mystery at Magpie Manor, at 6.30pm, you will certainly have the opportunity to see how the children shine.

Huge congratulations to all our Oak Class children for their achievements in their Y6 SATs (statutory national tests taken in May). Taught by skilful, hardworking staff and supportive parents, the children all tackled their tests very confidently and with a positive attitude. SATs results are only a part of the

children's primary school story and they certainly don't define the journey but it is important to celebrate their success.

Below are our 2017 SATs results compared to the national results:

	Reading	Writing	Maths	Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
Batheaston	96% (41% at Greater Depth)	89% (22% at Greater Depth)	93% (37% at Greater Depth)	96% (48% at Greater Depth)
National	71%	76%	75%	77%

Building Works scheduled for the summer holidays:

We have finally qualified for LA funding so our Victorian school building will have an overhaul during the holidays. The windows and ventilation will be improved with the plan to decrease the amount of condensation in the old building.

The Creative Space is also being given a new lease of life! Insulation and heating changes will make this a much more pleasant learning space for next year. A sliding partition door is also being installed which will make the space more useable for small group work as well as big groups. New storage, sinks and decoration will also be very evident. Most of the funding has come from our very small 'pot' of money ring-fenced for building improvements but we have also managed to increase the budget thanks to FOBS hard work at Meadowfest. We can't stretch – yet – to new furniture but that is our next plan!

School Dinner price increase

We are sorry to announce that we have been told to increase the school dinner price to £2.60 from September. This is a BANES wide change. The good news is that free school meals will still be available to infants thanks to a change of government policy. We understand that this increase will cause difficulties for our families but are unable to absorb the extra cost as a school. The school governors plan to look at this issue early next year and we will also be investigating other possible catering options for the next financial year.

We hope that you all have at least some time to relax over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 5 September. To help prevent what is known as 'slippage', (children's basic skills regressing during the long break), please do keep reading with your children. Using maths skills like times tables and measuring while having fun are all great strategies too!

Thank you all for your enthusiastic support this year,

Sarah

