

Our vision is for every child to...Dream...Aspire...Achieve

Termly Newsletter – Thursday 17th December

Dear Parents,

We have finally made it to the end of term and by some miracle have managed to keep all our bubbles open for the entirety of the Autumn term. This has mainly been due to your vigilance, getting children and families members tested as soon as symptoms appeared and by keeping us informed - so thank you. Although there appears to be light on the horizon, we are not out of the woods yet. We need to continue to keep our additional safety measures in place, continue our staggered start and end times of the day and keep our children in bubbles for the foreseeable future. We've come this far but there is still more to be done. So keep up the good work and thank you for all your support.



Despite everything, school has in many ways felt completely normal. The children have worked incredibly hard throughout the last two terms and show signs of making good progress, catching up from where they left off in March. Teachers and Teaching assistants have supported the children well, adapted their teaching to allow for more flexibility within the curriculum and have put in place targeted support at the right time. All of which has allowed the children to start to fill the gaps in their learning and increase their confidence and self esteem. It is a joy to watch the children run into school every morning, knowing they will have a good day ahead.

Our Twitter feed has exploded this term as we try and share as much as possible about the learning taking place in each class. From seeing our youngest children in Apple class bonding and forming close relationships, to our eldest children in Oak maturing and becoming more responsible as they look towards their onward journey. With outdoor learning being one of the safest ways to teach, we have optimised our outdoor space and visited Mikes Meadow on many occasions this term, even as the weather gets colder.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and a massive thank you to all our wonderful children that make coming to work everyday a real pleasure. I hope you all get a chance to spend some quality time as a family over Christmas and would like to wish you all a ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.***

Sally x



Amazing News!!

We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Zachary Meynell who was born on Thursday 10th December. Both Kate and baby are doing well and I am sure you will join me by sending all our best wishes to this new gorgeous family and wish them a very happy first Christmas and a happy new year. Well done Kate, we can not wait to meet him xx



Christmas Celebration Week

This year, more than ever before, we felt the children deserved something magical to start our Christmas Celebration week and I do not think we disappointed on that score. When I arrived at work On Monday 7th December, I was greeted by a Winter Wonderland. The place looked like something out of Charlie and the Chocolate factory with giant lollipops and candy canes adorning our entrances and flower beds. Lights were strewn up across the playground, a beautiful Christmas tree had appeared and our rainbow of hearts just sparkled as it was illuminated on the wall. Every classroom had been touched by the Christmas spirit and we knew the children were going to be so excited. As we opened the gate that morning, the heavens opened and snow came tumbling down to squeals of joy and wonder. It had started snowing in Batheaston and the children (and parents!) could not wait to walk in through the gate, walk through the snow and catch a glimpse of all



the wonderful decorations. And it didn't stop there. The children enjoyed a whole week of festive activities both in and out of class. Yvonne and the kitchen team did a super job of providing all the children with a hot Christmas dinner. Through sponsorships with local companies, each child received a chocolate coin, a candy cane and a juice drink to accompany their meal. The hall was lit up with disco lights and Christmas music played throughout. Many children came out saying this was the best party ever. After



Christmas lunch was cleared away, each class held its own Christmas party. From playing pass the parcel to dressing up like a Christmas tree, the children all seemed to have a super time, judging by the shouts and screams coming from beyond the classroom door. Although lessons continued throughout the week, many activities lent themselves to being creative yet festive. All classes spent time making Christmas cards to share with our community and some classes even made their own Christmas decorations. By the end of an exciting week, every class received a special visit from Santa's elves and were awarded with a present, all the



way from the North Pole. All in all it was a fantastic week and we can not thank our sponsors and our generous FOBs team enough for all their hard work and support. This will be one Christmas Celebration week to remember.



Christmas Celebration Week

Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, the children will be getting a magical Christmas!

Special Christmas Lunch
Visit from Santa's Elves & Gift
Craft Making
Class Parties
and more...it might even snow!

To All Our Supporters 'Thank You'

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HOME CENTRE

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Creativity takes courage

We pride ourselves on providing lots of opportunities for the children to be creative with their learning. This is where we encourage the children to use their own imagination to create something new, something different. Creativity is one of our 5C's and we feel strongly about delivering a broad and balanced curriculum where our 5C's are at the heart of every choice we make. Communication, collaboration, compassion, critical thinking, and creativity is developed each and every day to help shape our children with the confidence to be curious and thrive in modern Britain. Creativity does not always relate to the artistic subjects. We encourage children to be creative with their thinking and their problem solving. This lends itself to Maths, while others love to use their creative skills to help investigate aspects of science and ideas for writing.



Apple class this term have used their creativity to fully immerse themselves into their 'Into the Woods' topic. This amazing display created

by Nikki in our lobby space shows a montage of creative ideas across each and every subject and the children have obviously enjoyed their learning to produce such fabulous work.



As part of their History topic learning about the Egyptians, Hazel class had to be very creative when they investigated the Egyptian invention for moving water. They soon discovered that building their own Shaduf, needed more than creativity so had to use their critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills as well.



Sometimes it's not just the children we encourage to be creative but teachers too. I am always astounded by the different ideas they come up with to really inspire learning and to bring it to life as much as possible. There was great excitement in Elm class when the children suddenly came face to face with a sarcophagus which was revealed in a dramatic cloud of dust!



As the quote suggests, I do think creativity takes courage. As adults we know it can be difficult to share our ideas with others for fear of getting it wrong but at school we instill a strong belief in our children that sharing their ideas, their designs, their understanding and their thinking will give them the confidence to have a go, make mistakes and persevere with their learning and this term has seen opportunities for the children to be creative in abundance.

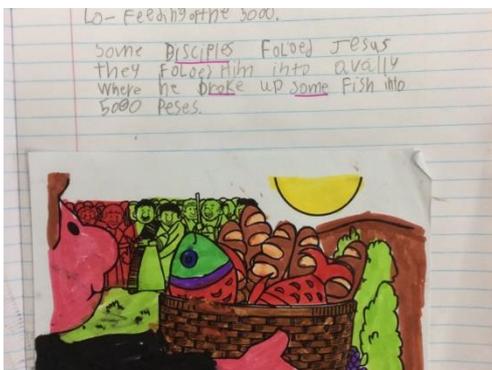


Feeding

the 5000



I have always loved the ethos of a Church school, having attended one myself as a child and then sending my own children to the local church school in our town. It's not necessarily to do with my own beliefs but more about the strong commitment of being inclusive. We have always prided ourselves here at Batheaston of being that inclusive school where anyone and everyone is welcome into our family. We have recently chosen the Bible story of Jesus feeding the 5000 with five loaves and two fishes to represent who we are as school. The children enjoyed taking part in a themed RE week of learning about the story and then interpreting the story in ways which could relate to



our school. The children linked our RECIPE values and gave examples from the story of how people showed respect, included others, enjoyed their time listening to the teaching of Jesus and protected each other. We also learnt how our 5C's linked to the story which showed great compassion and collaboration. We feel this is a great story to really show who we are and what we stand for. By the end of the week, all the children created something to add to our whole school display in the hall which is in the process of still being finished.

The children have also enjoyed learning about the story of the very first Christmas in the last two weeks and I know Apple class did an amazing production of the Nativity which has been shared with all our families this week. Well done Apple class for reminding us



the true meaning behind Christmas.

So, there is only one thing left to say:

***Wishing all our children
and their families a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year xx***



***Please remember Monday 4th January is an
inset day. We look forward to welcoming
the children back on Tuesday 5th January***