



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL

THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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08 February 2019

Newsletter No. 17

Dear Parents/Carers

Snow Closure

Thank you for your support with the closing of the school today as a result of the heavy snow. It is always a difficult decision to make, but with half the class teachers struggling to drive safely from their homes in the villages and with the forecast for more heavy snow later in the day, it seemed to be the correct decision on this occasion. Many of you will know that I am always reluctant to close the school because of snow as I know it can be a real inconvenience for some parents and carers and so I apologise for the fact that some of you will have had to make alternative arrangements. I also apologise for the fact that the Parentmail message was later than we would have liked. Although we informed parents on the homepage of the website and on the BSA Facebook page at 7.15, we had difficulty accessing ParentMail until a little later. This is likely to have been a result of the volume of schools sending out messages at the same time.

Indoor Athletics Success

Congratulations to our Upper Junior Indoor Athletics team for winning the Witney Schools' Sportshall Athletics event for the fourth year in a row. Competing against ten other schools, the boys and girls each took part in 12 varying field and track events such as speed bounce, jumps, throws and obstacle relays. It was a great team effort and there were also some notable individual performances, particularly from Will, Dylan, Olivia and Kacy. We now progress through to the West Oxfordshire finals where we are also reigning champions. Well done to everyone involved, including Mr Baker!

Boccia Success

A group of our children took part in the West Oxfordshire Boccia tournament in Carterton yesterday. Boccia is a sport similar to French Boules, but played from a seated position. We entered a Lower Junior and Upper Junior team. The Lower Juniors played three round robin games, winning one of them and finishing 5th overall. Our Upper Junior team played in a group of 5 teams and having won three of their games, went through to the winners' pool where they won two matches and were crowned overall champions. Well done in particular to Ben, Harry, Josh K and Josh B for winning the trophy and progressing through to the County finals in April.

Memorial Service for Jon Sheppard

Most of you will have heard the deeply sad news of the passing of one of our parents, Jon Sheppard, during the Christmas holiday. Having had a private funeral two weeks ago, there will be a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Jon at 12.00noon on Saturday 9th February at St. Mary's Church, Witney. This is open to anyone who wants to pay their respects; children are very welcome. The service will be followed by refreshments in the church. Ruth, Ben and Jacob would like to thank everyone for their support over the last few weeks, it has meant a great deal to them all.

Safeguarding Newsletter

Your child will bring home on Monday our second safeguarding newsletter. You will see information about subjects including 'Stranger Danger', bullying, attendance, internet safety and use of mobile phones, as well as useful websites for families. I hope you find it useful.



Governor News

The full governing body meeting last night was the final one for Toby Wright as Chair of Governors. I am pleased to say that he will stay on as a governor. The role of Chair has now been taken on by Mrs Marilyn Trigg. Marilyn joined the governing body last year, was previously Headteacher of The Blake School for eight years and has been interim Headteacher at several other local schools. I would like to thank Toby for all his hard work, commitment and support during his time as Chair.

Parents' Evenings

Parents and carers of Junior children will already have received a letter with details of the forthcoming Parents' Evenings. Please ensure you return the slip at the bottom of the letter by Tuesday morning. It would help if you could circle as many time slots as possible please. Year One and Two letters will be distributed next week, and parents and carers will be asked to add their names to the sign-up sheet outside the Infant classrooms.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is National Children's Mental Health Week and we will be using this to discuss in class how children can look after their body and mind. Please free to talk to your child's teacher about what they have or will be discussing and any activities they might have done. You may be interested in the website www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk where you will find information and ways to get involved.

Earrings

As I have said on previous newsletters, the school policy is that earrings should not be worn at school and I would appreciate parents' support with this. We, like other schools, have had incidents in the past whereby children's ear lobes have been damaged during physical activities such as PE lessons or break times, and I would hate this to happen again. Thank you.

BSA Movie Nights

You will have seen the letters about the BSA Movie Nights for Lower Junior and Upper Juniors on the next two Wednesdays. Please return the slips and payment as soon as possible to enable the organisers to make the necessary arrangements in terms of refreshments etc. I am sure it will be a lot of fun for the children.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Chris Payne
Headteacher

