



THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Executive Headteacher's Bulletin January 2023

Welcome to the Spring Term. I hope that you all had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends over the holiday.

Before moving onto updates on strategic priorities in school, I'd just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all children and staff that were involved in our Nativity, Carols By Candlelight Concert and Christmas Service at the end of last term. I'm sure those of you who attended will agree that these were joyful events that showcased our children's enthusiasm and talent and really got us into the Christmas spirit. I would also like to thank our caterers and staff for managing to prepare and serve 300+ Christmas dinners and to the BSA for their wonderful contribution of Christmas hats for the children.

Site Maintenance

It made me very happy to finally see the windows to the front of school replaced during the Christmas holidays - it has really improved the look of school as well as ensuring more effective heating and ventilation in the hall and classrooms concerned. This is the first tranche of planned replacements to the older windows in school and I hope it will also stimulate further improvements to the condition of the hall in general.

Our next improvement project is to replace the rotten decking behind the Year 1 and 2 classrooms so all of our infants will have access to outdoor learning spaces separate from the main playground. Plans and contractors for this have already been selected and I will keep you updated as to when the work will go ahead.

Curriculum

Work continues on developing the School's curriculum and we are beginning to re-develop the curriculum subject pages under the learning tab of the school website. You can find our new Curriculum Statement [here](#) and we have recently made additions to Art, DT and Music - with more subjects to follow over the coming terms. We are also working on introducing Class Pages to the website where you will be able to find specific curriculum information for each year group as well as other information specific to your child's class - so do keep a lookout for these.

School Vision

This term we hope to develop our overarching vision for the school. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), who inspect Church of England schools in addition to Ofsted, require schools to have an inclusive and distinctive vision that it lives out in all its relationships and partnerships. For several years now children have been familiar with the aim that they 'love the adventure of learning' and we want to bring together this learning focus with our Christian values of love, friendship, respect and perseverance. The school has also long had an association with the parable of The Good Samaritan and we hope to somehow encapsulate these inspirations within a vision with love at its centre. This will also reinforce our relationship with St Mary's CE Infant School whose vision is well established and centres on 1Corinthians 16:14 'Do everything in love'. We will be sharing our ideas with staff, children, parents and governors as they develop.



Attendance

Thank you to all those of you who have been working to support your child's attendance through another difficult winter in regards to illness and infections. It won't have escaped your notice that these have also impacted on staff attendance too! Nevertheless, despite seasonal infections, attendance rates have improved with average attendance currently standing at 94%.

As at the end of Autumn 1 we will be contacting parents in the coming week, if their child's attendance is currently below 90% (which the DfE terms as 'persistent absence'), However, in light of the national picture of winter infections we will only be seeking meetings with parents where attendance is below 80% at this time.

I know for some parents receiving a letter advising you of your child's absence rate can be upsetting, however we are very keen to understand where there are genuine reasons for absence and to support families in improving on this where we can (or supporting learning where long term absence is unavoidable) so please do contact me or Mrs Harding-Jones if you have any concerns. We have also deliberately chosen to write to parents and not raise attendance as an issue with children in school (for example through rewarding 100% attendance, as some schools do) because we are aware that in a primary setting, children are never responsible for their attendance.

Our [Attendance Policy](#) and my [previous letter](#) with regards to attendance can be found on the school website if you require further information.

Staffing

We have welcomed Mr Whittaker taking on Year 5 and the leadership of English at The Batt this term. However, we are aware that children in Foxes Class miss him and unfortunately, Mrs Cantwell, who will be working with them, was ill at the start of term.

Start and End of Day Procedures

As part of our ongoing review of safeguarding in school, we have reviewed our Start and End of Day Procedures which ensure we keep children safe during the daily transitions in and out of school. These will be sent to you separately and I ask that you take time to read them and return the required information as soon as possible.

Residential Visits

My apologies that I did not get questionnaires out to you with regards to Residential Visits at The Batt last term as I had hoped. These will come to you this term and will be two-fold. A questionnaire to Year 6 parents about their child's residential experience this year and another to parents with children in Years 3, 4 and 5 with regards to how we might plan residencies in the future.

I would very much appreciate your responses as these will help inform our future plans.

Reception Parent Questionnaires

As part of our ongoing monitoring processes we will be sending a questionnaire to all reception parents with regards to their child's transition into school and your experience of the educational provision in reception.

Again, I would very much appreciate your response.

Looking forward to a productive term.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Seccull
Executive Headteacher
The Batt CE Primary School



