

A photograph of three children in school uniforms standing outdoors under a large tree. The girl on the left is wearing a blue and white checkered dress. The two boys on the right are wearing white polo shirts and dark shorts. They are all smiling. The background shows green foliage and a blue sky.

# Bathampton Primary School

Join us on a learning adventure





# Bathampton Primary School

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# Welcome

Dear Parents

I would like to welcome you to Bathampton Primary School. We aim for our school to be a place where children find learning exciting and irresistible. I believe that children thrive in a happy, welcoming atmosphere and I want them to feel that being at school is their own personal 'learning adventure'.

This idea of learning as an adventure suggests a purposeful journey of discovery which can be challenging and exciting, with the possibility of unexpected discoveries and encounters along the way.

Across the school, our teaching styles encourage children to develop the confidence to try new activities and experiences. We like to offer choices, where possible, to develop independence. We want each child to feel that there can sometimes be more than one right answer and that life is full of possibilities.

Our goal is that children will flourish both as individuals and as members of a community. The school is known for being friendly; it's somewhere that children achieve high academic standards and each child is valued as an individual.

Yours faithfully

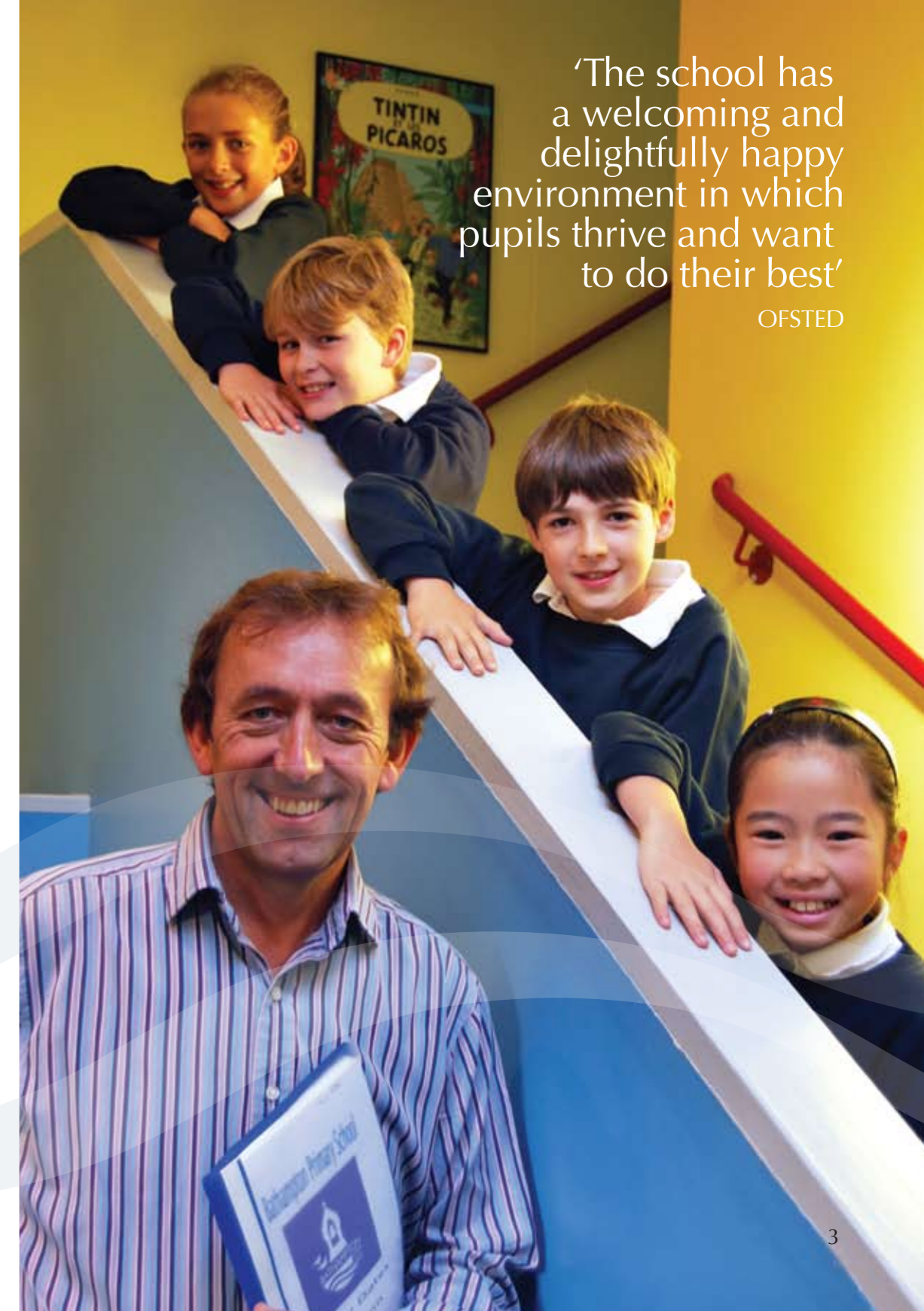


Paul Falkus  
Head teacher



'The school has a welcoming and delightfully happy environment in which pupils thrive and want to do their best'

OFSTED





# Location

Bathampton Primary School was established on its present site in 1896 and has been described as a 'hidden gem'. From the outside people see a Victorian village school in an idyllic setting by the canal. Once inside you can see it is a modern school with attractive colour schemes and excellent facilities. Visitors are often surprised by the light and airy classrooms and the sense of space.

The school's wonderful grounds give the children generous space to play and the freedom to explore the seasons and nature. All year round the children use the large playing field, playground and wooded area for play and learning adventures. We have an outdoor learning hut and a pond which help focus learning about birds, insects and other local wildlife.

Our outside spaces are exceptional and the natural areas are complemented by equipment to promote imaginative play, including a tepee, a pirate ship and an assault course for the older children.

## Buildings

Although we are a village school we like to think big. We make good use of technology to enhance teaching and learning, including interactive whiteboards, visualisers and ipads. We have well equipped classrooms, a Learning Zone for small group work, and a Discovery Room with computers, books and artefacts designed to inspire children to learn about the wider world. All of the teaching staff create opportunities for arts and craft activities and we even have our own Kiln Room.

The school continues to grow and develop. In 2011 an additional classroom was built for Reception children, with an inspiring and child-friendly design which won a national environmental award. The classroom has a glass wall with bi-fold doors, looking out over the school fields and woods. In good weather the doors can be opened to enable free-flow play and outdoor learning opportunities.



UK Green Apple Environment Awards  
Silver Winner 2012



'Well-planned sessions enable children to explore productively for themselves as well as experiencing high quality teaching from staff'

OFSTED



# Learning and the Curriculum

Learning is an adventure, a personal and collective journey of discovery. At Bathampton Primary we want to offer children lessons which are engaging and at times challenging. We want children to be knowledgeable about the past and about the world we live in and ready for life in the 21st century.

*'The curriculum is tailored extremely well to meet the needs of different pupils and groups.'*

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Children enjoy topic-based learning and we have a programme which covers all National Curriculum subjects including History, Geography, Science and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). We aim to give children rich experiences with interesting visits and visitors to bring learning to life.

## Literacy

Children have daily literacy lessons, which may be topic-based. We want children to read, write and speak fluently, using language accurately. Children learn both technical and creative writing skills, including synthetic phonics skills, spelling and handwriting, through studying a variety of traditional and modern stories and texts. We hope to inspire them with engaging lessons so that writing is both purposeful and enjoyable.

## Mathematics

We want children to enjoy maths and to become confident mathematicians. Every class has a daily maths lesson, including mental mathematics. Children learn key basic skills and a variety of calculation methods. We like to use maths games, real-life problem-solving and outdoor maths to make maths meaningful and stimulating.

*'Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and high expectations of pupils' involvement and achievement. The majority of teaching is outstanding ... [with] very effective support from teaching assistants.'*

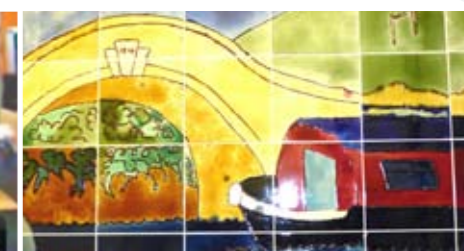
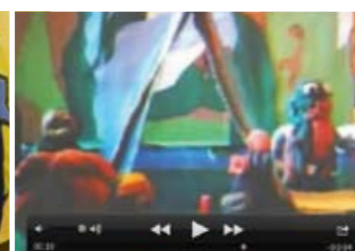
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## Music

All classes enjoy regular music lessons, which cover listening skills, composing and performing, both with instruments and voices.

## Arts, Crafts, Design and Technology

The school has a strong record in the creative arts and crafts, with its own kiln and a small craft room. The children's work is displayed in the corridors and public areas to allow us all to enjoy them.







'We enjoy sport,  
get fit and have fun!'

#### **Physical Education**

The children all have two hours of PE each week, which can include gymnastics, dance, athletics or outdoor and adventurous activities. The children have many opportunities to enjoy sports including netball, football, hockey, tag rugby, athletics, rounders, short tennis and basketball. The older children have swimming lessons at Bath Leisure Centre. We have several specialist coaches who come in to provide additional coaching in sports like cricket and tennis.

#### **Religious Education**

This is taught from the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus and we learn about all the main faiths. Religious education is enhanced in our school by special events, visits and visitors and by our links with St Nicholas Church.

#### **Modern Foreign Languages**

The older children have either French or German lessons, although everyone can join the lunchtime French Club. We have a strong link with The Lime Tree School in St Etienne des Oullieres, France, and many of our children have a French pen pal.

#### **Educational Visits**

Often the learning about a particular topic will include a visit, such as to the Steam Museum at Swindon, Bristol Zoo, Warleigh Lodge Farm, or Westonbirt Arboretum. For the older children there are also residential visits, which they greatly enjoy. All of the classes take advantage of our canal-side setting and the outstanding countryside around Bathampton village for visits.



'We feel like  
"free range" children!'





# My Personal Best

We have high expectations of everyone, regardless of their background or ability. Children are encouraged to achieve their 'Personal Best' and are given clear 'next steps' guidance.

## Milestones

The school has developed a set of clear targets, which we call 'Milestones', for the core skills in key subjects. Milestones for Maths include a focus on number bonds and times tables, while Milestones for Literacy include handwriting and spelling. From Year Three onwards children learn to provide evidence to demonstrate they have developed key skills in order to achieve a Creative or Technical Writing Milestone.

The Milestones also help to motivate the children and reward their effort, as they receive a certificate for each one they achieve. The children certainly like them!

*'One parent's comment was typical of the views of others: "My child gets lots of individual attention and help, tailored to his particular needs." '*

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## Tracking Progress

We use a variety of systems to ensure that children maintain their progress. These include 'Writing Progress' books, Pupil Profiles and computer-based tracking. Teachers work closely with each other at key transition points such as moving to the next class to ensure that children continue their good progress.

*'Teachers have a detailed and accurate understanding of pupils' attainment and plan lessons with appropriate challenge ... A robust tracking system identifies those pupils not making good enough progress and allows timely interventions to improve their learning.'*

OFSTED



*'Milestones make you feel good when you achieve your target'*



*'Milestones help me to recognise the things I have done well'*



*'Milestones encourage us to "Go for Goals"'*





‘There is a very strong commitment to equal opportunities which results in pupils of all abilities, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, achieving very well’

OFSTED

# A School for All

Our aim is to ensure that all children are valued, respected and welcomed to the school, whatever their additional educational needs. In 2011 the school was proud to achieve the Inclusion Quality Mark. This recognises that our school is an environment in which:

- **children feel safe, secure, valued and respected**
- **children are confident to talk openly and are sure of being listened to**
- **the curriculum is used to provide opportunities for increasing self-awareness, self-esteem, assertiveness and decision-making**
- **we work with parents and outside agencies to ensure the welfare of all children**

Our procedure for identifying and assessing the special needs of individual children involves the child as well as parents, teaching staff and (if necessary) external support agencies.

‘Each child is made to feel special and important. Confidence is encouraged and nurtured by the excellent teaching staff.’

PARENT

We are able to provide an environment which enables access for all pupils. The school has a stair lift and a disabled toilet.

### Gifted, able and talented

Our school has, at any time, a number of able, talented and gifted pupils. We recognise academic and practical performance as well as outstanding artistic, musical or physical skills and creative talent. We ensure that children are always encouraged to work to the best of their ability and to take advantage of every learning opportunity, both in school and elsewhere.

‘Bathampton is a great school due to its diversity, playfulness and attention to each and every personality.’

PARENT





# Extra-curricular Activities

*'The school buzzes with a vast array of opportunities, and pupils are keen to contribute to everything that happens.'*

OFSTED

## Music Activities

All classes have music lessons as part of the curriculum. In addition, both group and individual lessons are available for instruments such as the recorder, flute, clarinet, oboe, violin and cello. The school has an orchestra and a choir and takes part in local primary school music events and festivals.

*'We love the fact that the children are challenged in every aspect from academic to social skills and celebrating extra-curricular success – the teachers really do see the children holistically and they care for them too.'*

PARENT

## Sports Clubs

In addition to PE lessons and outside play, children can take part in other sports such as cricket, football, tag rugby, fencing and table tennis, either at lunch times or after school.

It's important that children get a chance to discover what they are good at and can enjoy. Bathampton Primary School offers a wide range of additional activities, which vary from year to year and season to season, but they can include:

**Art Club**

**Cookery Club**

**Dance Club**

**Digital Animation Club**

**Drama Club**

**French Club**

**Guinea Pig Club**

**Lace-making Club**

**Story Club**



*'Pupils are very aware of how to keep healthy and the take-up of sporting activity after school is high.'*

OFSTED





# Health and Wellbeing

Our care for the physical and emotional wellbeing of our children is a key feature of the school. Independence is promoted throughout the school by giving the children responsibility and guidance in many aspects of school life.

Children are encouraged to show care for others:

*‘Outstanding behaviour is evident in pupils’ politeness, kindness towards each other and in the concern they spontaneously show to visitors.’*

OFSTED



## Healthy Lifestyles

We strongly promote healthy lifestyles for the children. Alongside the many opportunities to learn in our fantastic outdoor setting, all children have PE lessons and regular physical activity times.

## School Meals

School meals are cooked at a local school which has the Healthy Schools Plus award and they are served in our hall here in Bathampton. Children can choose school meals or bring in sandwiches, or range between the two.

# The School Community

## School ‘Buddies’

When they first start school at the age of four, Reception children are paired with a Year 6 child who becomes their ‘School Buddy’. The older children look out for the little ones and it is a pleasure to see them playing together.

*‘A major strength is in encouraging and developing social and emotional skills and encouraging friendships and inter-year links.’*

PARENT

## School ‘Families’

All the children belong to ‘families’ which include all ages, from 4 to 11. This promotes good relationships between the whole range of age groups, so that the younger children gain confidence, and the older children develop a sense of responsibility.

## Home-School Partnership

Parental support at home is invaluable in a child’s education. As a school we aim to involve parents in school life in a variety of ways. Throughout the year there are information sessions for parents, to tell them about individual class routines or developments in subjects, and to encourage them to ask questions. Teachers build positive relationships with parents, welcoming them in the morning and being available to chat after school. As a school we strongly believe in communicating and addressing any issues quickly and effectively.

Parents are encouraged to offer their help in school, by listening to children read, or accompanying class trips. Sometimes, parents or relatives may showcase a particular skill to inspire children to learn.

## School Council

Two children from each class are elected to serve on the School Council for one year. The Council meets twice a term to discuss issues which affect the pupils and the school. For example, pupils helped choose the playground structures and the colours for the redecoration of the school.



*‘The school is small and friendly and puts a strong emphasis on building friendships and independence’*

PARENT

*‘You can make lots of good friends who are kind and thoughtful’*



# Bathampton Primary School and the Local Community

Bathampton Primary School is well rooted in the community, with strong links to the local population.

**St Nicholas Church** – the school celebrates Christian festivals within the church and the vicar regularly visits school to lead lively, engaging assemblies.

**Playgroup and Nursery** – the Reception Class teachers visit the local playgroup and nursery so that the children there get to know them and make an easier transition to school. The Reception teachers will also make home visits (on request) for children who don't attend the local nursery or playgroup.

**Dry Arch growing project** – the local growing project, led by a parent volunteer, is within easy walking distance and the children visit in class groups. They are encouraged to plant, cook and eat produce grown there.

**School events** – local businesses and residents are encouraged to support and attend our fairs, fêtes and evening socials.

*'The school is a lynch pin of the community here. It is an inclusive school, bringing together children and parents from disparate backgrounds.'*  
PARENT

## Wraparound Care

### Breakfast Club

We run a Breakfast Club in school each morning from 7.45 to 8.40am. This provides a safe and enjoyable start to the day and includes a choice of breakfast food, such as toast, cereal, yoghurt and fruit.

### After School Clubs

After school, many children are collected from the site by one of the local 'after school' clubs, which offer a high quality service.

# Friends of Bathampton Primary School

The Friends are an enthusiastic, friendly group of parents, who meet regularly throughout the year. They organise social and fundraising events, which are an enjoyable way of meeting other members of the school community. Both parents and children look forward to events (which vary each year) like the Easter Hat Parade, the Summer and Christmas Fairs and the cake sales. New ideas are always welcome!

All parents are encouraged to join in and support the committee. The Friends are a very informal group, with toddlers and babies welcome at meetings. Each class has a Friends representative, who liaises between parents, staff and the committee. The representatives form an approachable link to the school, keeping parents up to date with key events and opportunities to help.



*'The school most certainly has an air of community, care, personality and a feeling that pupils are the priority.'*

PARENT



*'This is a fun, happy and family-orientated school'*

PARENT



# Admissions

Bathampton Primary School is a combined infant and junior school and takes children until the school year in which they become eleven, when they move on to secondary school.

The school year starts in September. Children who start in Reception (in the school year when they become five) attend the School for at least four weeks part-time before they join full-time. This can be extended if the child is not yet ready for a full day, after discussion with the class teacher.

The school's admissions policy is set and administered by Bath and North East Somerset Council and its website is the best place to look for the latest guidance: [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)

It is recommended that, whenever possible, parents apply for a place for their child within the standard timescale, making Bathampton Primary School their first choice, in order to optimise their chances of getting a place for their child.

Parents are of course welcome to apply for a place at other points in the school year; for example, if the family is moving into the area. In that case, it is recommended that parents enquire both at the school and the Local Authority about any places that may be available. Teaching staff will always make newcomers welcome and support them in adjusting to their new school and integrating with the rest of their class group.

Parents and their children are always welcome to visit the school. Please ring the office (tel: 01225 465229) to make an appointment to talk to the Head teacher or for a look around.

## Secondary Schools

From Bathampton Primary, children go on to a range of secondary schools. These include local single sex state schools such as Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield and mixed state schools such as Ralph Allen, St Gregory's and St Mark's. Some children go to independent schools such as King Edward's, Prior Park, Kingswood and the Royal High. A small number of children go on to schools in Wiltshire.

Children from Bathampton Primary School tend to do very well in their secondary schools, and it is always a pleasure to hear of their successes.







Join us on a learning adventure

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