

# Newsletter – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022



We're proud to announce our Stars of the week:

- [Duckling](#): Israh-Sue, Ivor and Mimi
- [Dragonfly](#): Isaac and Jimmy
- [Otter](#): Emily and Emlyn
- [Kingfisher](#): Clara and Dylan

And our headteacher award winners are: Mimi, Isaac, Amelia and Alfie S

## A message from Mr Barton



It was a little while ago now, but I wanted to thank all our parents and carers who took part in our end of year survey back in the summer. The survey closed at the start of this term. The number of responses probably covered about 60-70% of our families, and the survey was done anonymously.

I wanted to share the key outcomes from it, as well as some action we are taking on ways we can make things even better at Pensford.

We based the survey around our core HEART! Values. I've added an exclamation mark there to represent an (upside down) letter i. That way, the acronym can represent all six values of Happiness, Excellence, Ambition, Respect, Togetherness and Independence. The questions were about how well parents feel the school supports these values.

Here are the headline results from the survey:

	Happiness	Excellence	Ambition	Respect	Togetherness	Independence
Positive response	88%	91%	97%	94%	94%	100%
Neutral response	6%	6%	0%	6%	3%	0%
Negative response	6%	3%	3%	0%	3%	0%

While I found this encouraging, we do want to do even better. The responses did represent almost two-thirds of our *families* but there were just 35 in total; the 3% and 6% therefore represent just 1 or 2 parents. The survey was anonymous, but if you are one of those two, and would like to talk to me further please do get in touch!

It was helpful of parents to leave some comments too. The majority of those relating to what we could do better referred to more inclusive wider opportunities for sport, music and after school clubs. We do work hard as a small school to offer a range of opportunities, but will redouble our efforts and continue to work on this.

One very positive aspect was the response to the key question that Ofsted always ask schools: "Would you recommend the school to other parents". Responses to this question are usually in the low 90%

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range when Ofsted ask, but it was great to see that 100% of our respondents said they would, even where they had identified areas for us to improve.

What was really lovely about the survey was to see so many comments from parents about what we do well. This was lovely for us to hear too, and I've put a selection of these comments below.

Many thanks again to all parents and carers who took the time to give us this feedback. As I said above, if any of you (especially the ones who were less happy!) would like to discuss it further with me then please do get in touch.

Warrick Barton

### What Pensford School does well (parent feedback)

A word cloud of parent feedback. The word 'child' is the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'rounded education', 'opportunities progress of my child', 'parent', 'communication we as parents', 'community', 'school is so friendly', 'quality of teaching', 'staff', 'care', 'school', 'sport', 'child's needs', and 'we as parents'.

"Acceptance and welcoming. Every child seems to feel very happy to be there. [My children] are confident and comfortable, and that comes from the support and acceptance they have received from the school."

"The teachers have been very understanding and supportive and I've been very pleased with the communication we as parents have received from them, as well as my child's relationship with them. They seem to genuinely care about the kids."

"Creating community, high academic standards, sport. Pastoral care. Highly engaged staff."

"Our school is a secure welcoming unit with great values and results"

"The school is so friendly and welcoming. I think the children are supported to be themselves and I love that they do lots of interesting things around topic, nature, art asides from the standard maths, phonics etc"

"Pensford is a very friendly and open school. The staff are both deeply professional and accessible when required. Any concern we have had so far has been handled faultlessly. Any feedback to us has been given kindly. The quality of teaching has been excellent. It's clear the school makes a big effort with sporting events and its PE offering - helping children archive a well rounded education."

"Focusing on the whole child's needs not just their academic ability."

"Creates a community feel, communicates well with parents and gives children plenty of opportunities to develop."

"Friendly - everyone is lovely. it's nice that everyone knows my child's name and they are not just another pupil."

"Care for each other and support each other. Creates a space of nurturing that not seen elsewhere"

"Communication to parents, sense of community, progress of my child in reading and writing. Love the depth of discussions that come home - Rosa Parks, environmental issues etc. Staff are consistent and appear to really know and champion my child"

"I think the school provides all children an opportunity for a well rounded education. I couldn't wish for more for my child."

Would you like to find out more about joining the PTA or being a governor at the school? Please let the office know.

## Upcoming Events

Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="#">Dragonfly trip to the Bath Children's literature festival</a>			NO_swimming for Kingfisher Trips for <a href="#">Otter</a> and <a href="#">Kingfisher</a> to the Bath Children's Literature festival Cross country event (Y5/6 team)	

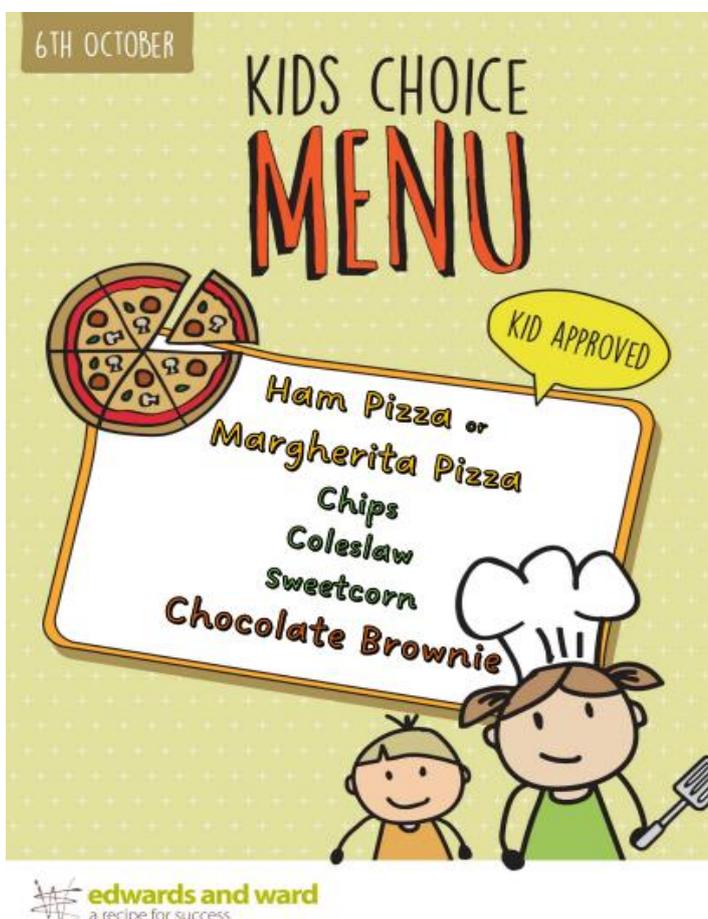
Week beginning 3rd October

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>
			<a href="#">Kingfisher swimming (Week 4 of 4)</a> Census day menu (see below)	

## Census day menu

On certain key days of the year, a census is taken in schools. This includes the number of children who take up free school meals. This number, on this particular day, is taken (instead of an average) when determining a part of the funding that goes to schools. It's therefore in the interests of all children that as many of possible take up that offer on that day, as funding for the school overall will be a little bit higher. Edwards and Ward provided us with a choice of popular menus, and children have voted on these. The winning choice for the next census, on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, was the menu shown here.

Of course, while the aim is to have as many children take up the option of a meal on that day as possible, parents must not feel under any obligation to do so. We just want you to be aware of the census day and the fact that the menu will be a little different then.



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## School Attendance – a reminder

The impact of the pandemic is still with us in some ways, and all schools have been given refreshed guidance on attendance by the Department for Education. This guidance comes into force this year, and puts even greater emphasis on schools working with parents to ensure very high rates of attendance now.

We have sometimes had queries from parents about when they should or shouldn't send their child to school with certain illnesses. We have a standing item in the newsletter each week (below) on absence reporting, which should be helpful. The rule of thumb is that they SHOULD attend unless they feel so unwell that they will not be able to cope in the classroom. However, there is also some guidance about specific illnesses, and this can be found [here on the NHS website](#). We will follow this guidance when advising parents, and it is very useful if parents are familiar with it too.

Please also remember that if a child is unwell in the morning, but improves later in the day then they should come into school later on. Similarly, if a child is a little under the weather first thing then do let us know and we will keep a special eye on them and contact you if they need to be collected early.

## Important PTA news – a reminder

The positions of secretary and treasurer on the PTA will be coming up this term. Anyone interested can attend the next AGM, the details of which will be sent out to parents shortly. If anyone would like to chat about the positions prior to the meeting they can contact Nik Cogan on 07792568330.

## Useful links and reminders

As usual, we're leaving a couple of links that could be useful to you in our newsletter.

If you need to book or cancel a **breakfast club** place, please [click here](#), or look up Breakfast Club under the Parents tab of our website.

**Amazon wish list.** If you would like to support our school by buying any books from our Amazon Wish List, please [click here](#).

## Absence reporting

If you know your child will need to be **absent for school**, such as for a music exam or dentist appointment, or if under exceptional circumstances you need to request authorised holiday in term time, please [click here](#). You can also find this form under the Parents tab of the website. Note that it should NOT be used for unplanned absence (illness).

In the case of illness, this is our usual reminder to please be specific when leaving a message or reporting absence due to illness to the office. Below is a list of things that do **NOT** require your child to be off from school.

- They are tired
- They have a cold / mild stomach ache
- They are feeling 'unwell' but with no specific symptoms / pain.
- They are worried about something (but do let us know, so we can support them)

We hope this link provides some help as to when to keep your child at home and when not to: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Would you like to find out more about joining the PTA or being a governor at the school? Please let the office know.

Remember that if you need to notify us of any planned absence, please do this via our [online form here](#). Many thanks to all parents for working with us in ensuring that your child gets their full entitlement to their education by attending school as often as possible. If you do need to request a short absence for a term time holiday, be aware that this can only be granted in truly exceptional circumstances. Any such requests must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance.

Although the vast majority of requests cannot result in authorised absence, we very much respect parents' honesty in telling us about any term time holidays.

## Community News

**BRISTOL CITY** **SUN SEP 25 3PM** **BARCLAYS WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Ashton Gate**

USE CODE **GROUPOBCWFC** FOR 50% OFF TICKETS  
BCFC.CO.UK/TICKETS

### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**Here's what is happening in your Libraries this week**

**w/c 26 September** For any ticketed events, the link will be online via Social Media or via the blog.

**Bath Central Library**  
**Storytime Sessions, Family Fun**  
 Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00 am 27 September

**Banned Books Week Display**  
 Monday - Saturday 24 - 30 September

**Bath Children's Literature Festival Venue**  
 23 September - 1 October  
 \*Book Tickets Directly with Lit Fest

**Nature Tales in the Park with Foxglove Forest School Sydney Gardens - Climate & Biodiversity Fest**  
 Friday 10.00 - 12.00 pm 30 September  
 \*For Under Fives, No Booking Required.

**Special Mermaid Storytime, Family Fun**  
 Saturday 10.30 - 11.30 am 1 October  
 \*No booking required

**Keynsham Library**  
**Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Family Fun**  
 Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00 am 27 September  
 10.30 - 11.00 am

**Midsomer Norton Library**  
**Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Family Fun**  
 Monday 11.00 - 11.30 am 26 September

**Storytime Sessions, Family Fun**  
 Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00 am 28 September

**Digital All Social Media**

**NHS Better Health August - September**

**Banned Books Week, 24 - 30 September**

**Climate & Biodiversity Festival, 24 September - 2 October**

**Fun Palaces Weekend, 30 September - 2 October**

**Children's Book Review 1 October**  
 Bathnes Libraries Blog

Facebook @BathnesLibraries1

Instagram @bathnes\_libraries

Twitter @BathnesL

Pinterest @BathnesLibraries

Blog bathneslibraries.wordpress.com

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# Food On Our Doorstep (FOOD) club

## Good-quality food at a low price

Bright Start Children's Centre Services run a weekly  
**Food On Our Doorstep (FOOD) club**  
at Keynsham Children's Centre,  
providing local families with good-quality food  
at a low cost, while also reducing food waste.

It costs just £1 a year  
for your family to become  
members.

Once you've joined,  
you can purchase  
a bag of tasty food items  
every week  
worth approx. £15  
for just £3.50!

To become a member,  
you must live in  
Bath & North East  
Somerset and  
have a child aged 0 - 18.



### Where and when

Keynsham Children's Centre  
65 West View Road  
Keynsham  
BS31 2UE  
Thursdays  
1.00 – 3.00pm

### Find out more

01225 395400  
brightstartcc@bathnes.gov.uk or  
Hayley\_Smith@bathnes.gov.uk

 BrightStartChildrensCentres  
[www.bathnes.gov.uk/childrens-centres](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/childrens-centres)

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

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