

## Colston's Primary Newsletter 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009



### Mathletics.co.uk



Why not get your child to show you around mathletics next week? Mathletics is a fun way of improving maths skills and can be accessed from any computer connected to the internet. Children from Years 1 to 6 have their own personal login details.

### School News

Thank you to all children, parents and staff who helped keep the school open during the heavy snow falls last Thursday. 'Snow modelling' was the main activity of the day and photographs of the many snowmen/women/bunnies that we constructed are on the school website. There are more to view on the Bristol Evening Post website. BBC Radio Bristol also visited and enjoyed some time in the playgrounds with Year 6.

Friday was disappointing and so I apologise to all members of the school community who found themselves inconvenienced by the school closure. The two most frequently asked questions on Friday morning were: 'Why was the school closed?' We were unable to guarantee sufficient staff to offer a satisfactory level of supervision for the day. Most staff were unable to reach the school by opening time; my car was abandoned in Central Bristol and the access roads to Cotham were treacherous. 'How can we find out if the school is closed?' To prevent 'hoax phone calls', I have an emergency contact with Bristol City Council. They were contacted at 7.40am and they then contacted the local media to advertise the closure. BBC Radio Bristol announced the school was closed as did the school website at about 7.45am.

Mr Walker, our school caretaker, has been extraordinarily busy. Playgrounds have been swept clean of ice and snow, pathways have been gritted and repairing frost damage to our playground drinking fountains has been a full-time job. Thank you Mr Walker.

Cotham School 'A' level Drama students have visited the school recently as part of their studies. Children have provided a demanding audience for performances of 'Alice in Wonderland,' 'The Elephant and the Bad Baby' and 'Wolf Boy'. It is always rewarding to see ex-Colston's pupils returning and I am also amazed with their confidence and performance ability. How many of our current children will return in a few years time with a drama performance?

### Term and Holiday Dates 2008/2009

Term 3 Monday  
5 January to  
Friday 13

February 2009

Term 4 Monday  
23 February to  
Friday 3 April  
2009

Term 5 Monday  
20 April to  
Friday 22 May  
2009

Term 6 Monday  
1 June to Friday  
24 July 2009

### Inset Days

Mon 23

February 2009

Friday 3 July  
2009

Friday 24 July  
2009

School closed  
for election 4  
June 2009

### First ever Basketball Tournament!

Colston's Year 4 Basketball squad took part in a Primary Schools Basketball tournament at Cotham School on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. Great enthusiasm and energy were evident in all games. Excellent defending by Seamus and long-distance shooting by Rhys helped Colston's to a dramatic draw in our first match. Two defeats forced the team to adopt quicker passing and determined movement off the ball, particularly by Georgina and Maddy. This helped set Cato on his way for some dazzling dribbles partnered by Kieran in attack. Colston's victory in their final match lifted our spirits and gave us 4<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament.

### Year 3 Tea & Cakes



This event has been rearranged to take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

### Languages Week

Thanks to all children, staff and parents who made this week a success. Jane Hunt came in for four afternoons to introduce us to Bristol Sign Language and Miss Robins spent some of the week teaching in Maori.

### Would you like to get involved with our Inclusion week?

We are planning an exciting Inclusion week for the pupils of Colston's School at the end of March. We would welcome some more parents/carers to join our small friendly group to help us plan the week. Our next meeting is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in Mrs Goldhawk's room (next to 1D).

If you would like to come along to hear what we are doing, then we would love to see you. Either come up to Mrs Goldhawk's room or ask for her at the office and she will come down and meet you.

### PTA and Local Events

**Barn Dance:** The PTAF is holding a Barn Dance on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, in the Elmgrove Centre, from 6pm to 9pm. Tickets will be on sale from 9<sup>th</sup> March - bring your family and friends, a fun evening for kids and adults. **Art Week & Summer Fair:** Art Week will be from 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July, with the Summer Fair after the parade on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>. The PTAF is looking for a lead co-ordinator for Art Week. This person need not be responsible for leading any classroom activity, but should be responsible for co-ordinating planning meetings, ensuring that communication and planning with the teachers runs smoothly, that parents and helpers understand what they are doing, and that expenditure is monitored. Please let Rob Davies know if you can help.

### Saturday Morning Playtime 21 February 9.30-11.30

Toys, crafts and storytime for children (from babies to approx 6 years with their carers). Cooked breakfast. £1 for adults, 50p for children. St Matthews church, Clare Road, Kingsdown. **Guitar tuition**, children or adults, written or by ear; plus songwriting and improvisation coaching. Paul Bradley: [polobrolochain@ireland.com](mailto:polobrolochain@ireland.com) 07811 676218. **Kingsdown Sports Centre:** Please see window by school office for a timetable of half term activities.

**Fundraising in support of Performing Arts**

This year Colston's PTAF is not selling the Invitation Book but Compas (Parents Group for Performing Arts at Cotham) would like to offer the **Invitation Book** to all Colston's parents at the reduced price of **£19.99** (rrp £29.99) .

Children in Years 5 and 6 at Colston's benefit from all the performing arts opportunities at Cotham including drama, dance and music brought to Colston's Primary and any money raised goes directly to help these. If you haven't seen this book have a look at the website link below. A great book for family days out, Legoland, Bristol Zoo, Explore, farm parks and Wookey Hole Caves. Lots of two for one offers, and offers for children to get in free with an adult. Also for adults discounts of between 10% to 50% for a range of goods and leisure activities. These include restaurants, café and takeaways, activities such as cinemas and bowling, ice skating, health clubs and a Cabot Circus shopping card. There are great ideas in here for the School Holidays and if you use the vouchers you should be able to get the money back in discounts so please have a look at the website which gives details of what is in this book:

<http://www.invitationbook.co.uk/index.asp>

**Please consider buying this book through COMPAS. To order fill out the form and hand into the school office, cheques should be made out to COMPAS for £19.99**

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Telephone .....

Alternatively you could ring us with your order phone 9425318 or email your order to [kidwells@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kidwells@blueyonder.co.uk) and we will contact you.

The books will be available within two weeks and arrangements will be made to see that the Invitation is sent to you, probably via your child at school, or delivered to your house if you include your address.

**Yet More Curiosities of Bristol and Beyond**

*Presented by Glyn Duggan to raise funds for a group of charities including RNIB's Talking Books Appeal and SightSavers International.*

**Broadmead Baptist Church, Bristol**  
*(entrance in Union St)*

**Thursday 19th February 2009 at 7.30 pm**

Curiosities have been an interest of Glyn's for many years -- indeed, he describes himself as 'a most curious fellow' -- and some of you might have seen the booklet 'Bristol Curiosities' with his text and Reece Winstone's photographs which was published by Redcliffe Press in 1979 (*not to be confused with the recent more substantial book by Julian Lea-Jones*).

If you have been to one of Glyn's previous talks, you will know that they are interesting and entertaining, and much appreciated by his audiences. The material in the forthcoming talk will be different from that he has previously used at the same venue, so if you've been before you needn't hesitate on that score about coming to this one.

The show, which will start at 7.30, will be in two halves; the first will consist of curiosities old and new within Bristol, while the second half will feature curiosities a little further afield, though within day trip distance. Refreshments will be served during the interval, and there will be an opportunity to look at displays presenting the work of the supported charities.

Admission is **£3.50** including refreshments. You can pay at the door (doors open at 7.00) or if you prefer you can buy tickets in advance by sending a cheque payable to **Broadmead Baptist Church** and **SAE to: Slide Show, Broadmead Baptist Church, 1 Whippington Court, Bristol BS1 3HY**. Your tickets will be sent to you soon after the beginning of February.

*Please note, if you do buy tickets in advance, you should be sure to take your seat by 7.20 pm, as after that time any unoccupied seats may be made available to any cash customers awaiting admission.*

You can visit [www.broadmeadbaptist.org.uk/curiosity.php](http://www.broadmeadbaptist.org.uk/curiosity.php) to see some of the images likely to be used on the evening.