

Bernards Heath Junior School Newsletter

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Mrs Mary Liming

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Mrs Jean Wharton

Mrs Pat Hague

Office Assistant:

Mrs Catherine Breen

Site Manager:

Mr John Albone

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Carol Concert
13.12.16
13:45 and 19:00
- ◆ Year 5 Play
19.12.16
19:00
- ◆ Term Ends
21.12.16
13.30

Bernards Heath Junior School PTA

I am delighted that our PTA has gained an exciting new momentum. There is a full programme of events planned for the children. In my view there needs to be a healthy balance between fundraising and activities to enhance our children's enjoyment of school. I think we have the correct balance. We are indebted to Catherine Rutter for galvanising a team of parents. Please do look out for their letters which are always clearly labelled PTA and archived on the website for reference.

MINI MARATHON 2016

We are delighted to tell you that with your very generous support and sponsorship we have raised over £4,700. This is a fantastic joint effort on behalf of our school community. Please thank all the Grannies, Grandpas, Aunties and Uncles for their donations. Some individual children have raised significant amounts on their own, and this is much appreciated. We will be sending part of this money to Nanyuki Prep, our link school in Kenya. Rose Mourhu, Headteacher, and her team are building some new premises for their boarding children.

DEFIBRILLATOR

We are also intending to use some of the **Mini Marathon** money to buy a defibrillator for our school community. There is a big move now nationally to place defibrillators in shops, stations and public places, and I think it would be appropriate for us to have one.

The rest of the Mini Marathon money will be spent on our own children to enhance provision for them. Schools budgets are being squeezed from every angle, as I am sure you are aware. Over the coming year there will be a financial impact from the removal of the Education Services Grant (ESG) to Local Authorities, the Apprenticeship Levy, increase in National Insurance and Pension contributions for staff, inflation on all costs and services to schools and the impact of a duty on employers (the school) to pay the National Living Wage to staff such as cleaners, canteen staff and mid-day supervisory roles.

SPORTS AND MUSIC BLOGS

Just a reminder to look at the Sports Blog on the website to keep up with events, competitions and results. Likewise, the Music Blog informs you of choir and orchestra updates from Mrs Erlandsen.

SCHOOL MOSAIC

The Bernards Heath Junior School Mosaic is now complete and in situ at the entrance to our school. This has been a tremendous project, involving Miss Taylor and the pupil council. The children ran a competition to choose the design of the mosaic, and they had the final say on the design. Mrs Montet, one of our parents has very generously given her time and talent to produce this beautiful piece for our school. We owe her very big thanks.

Safety in school car park:

Now that it is dark by 4.15, I am becoming concerned at after school club collections in the car park. Please ensure you drive in and out of the car park slowly. Please take special care when reversing out of the space as parents are allowing young children to run across the back of reversing cars in the dark. Children must stay close to parents at all times in the car park. I am aware that it is much more convenient for parents to drive into school for after school club collection (after 4.15pm) and I can only allow this to continue if children are safely supervised by their parents. Thanks.

