

St Briavels Primary School

Newsletter

Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be



No. 75, 18th December 2020

Dear All,

Well done for making it to the end of the year. We have managed to stay safe and well and hopefully this will remain so over the Christmas period. We have thrown ourselves into Christmas celebrations safely at school, although not the usual way, it has, nonetheless, been an enjoyable time as we have prepared throughout the advent period. Thank you to everyone who has supported, contributed, helped out, cheered us on. It has been a challenge but with the support of our fabulous community we have retained a rhythm and routine that has enabled us to immerse ourselves in our learning. Everyone is ready for a well-earned break so we can come back refreshed and ready for whatever the new year brings.

I would like to express my delight and thanks for the fantastic community nativity walk that the children of St Briavels experienced last Friday. This was a beautifully thought out and well put together event which not only celebrated Christmas in the Christian tradition of a nativity but gave the message of hope from a committed and supportive community. It was fabulous to see the involvement of so many willing to give up their time to act and sing and dance to ensure that our children's experience this year was not lessened by the restrictions placed upon us by the pandemic. Our children recognised the contributions they themselves had made to the event and it felt 'hope-full' that our community came together at such a special time. Huge thanks to everyone who put so much time and effort into this event, it was enjoyed very much by all and is a joyful celebration of our working in partnership with the different communities in St Briavels.

It is with sadness that in this final newsletter of the year we bid a fond farewell to Mr Le T as he moves on to new challenges and adventures over Gloucester way. We know his new school is lucky to have him as headteacher and we look forward to hearing from him once he has settled in. Our interim inclusion leader, Tanya Haigh, has come to the end of her contract working with us. We have really appreciated her expertise and positive impact. We wish her well in her future endeavours. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Leanne Griffin who has been at St Briavels for many years. She will be missed by the staff team and we wish her all the best in her new school.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Amy Davis (Inclusion leader), Mrs Isabel Woods (Foxglove) and Mr Alex Gooding (Daisy) into school this week so the children have had a chance to meet their new teachers. I know you will also give them a warm welcome and enjoy getting to know them in January. It is a very exciting time at St Briavels.

It remains for me to wish all of our children, staff, families, community friends and supporters a very Happy Christmas. Stay safe and we very much look forward to welcoming you all back on January 4th 2021.

**Sarah Helm, Executive Head Teacher,
The Wye Forest Federation**

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COVID Holiday Communication

Please contact the school at:

covid@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

up until end of 20th December if your child / children test positive within 48 hours of last being in school even if symptoms are not shown.

Between 21st and 24th December please contact

COVIDschoolenquiries@goucestershire.gov.uk

Tel 01452 426015

After that if anyone in your family has symptoms please contact NHS track and trace.

Parents must then follow tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

No other email addresses will be monitored from Friday 18th December 2020 3pm to Monday 4th January 2021 8.30am

PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY TERM TIME CLOSURES

In the event that we have to close the school the school website will be updated. We will also send out an email via eschools to all families and post on facebook. The status of the school will be shown on the Gloucestershire County Council website:

<https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/closures/>

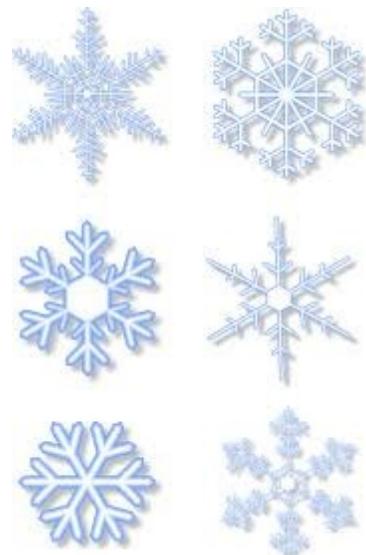
Sarah Helm
Executive Head Teacher

Bad Weather Term Time Closures

In the event of bad weather the school closure will be put on the GCC website as above and the school website.

We will also e-mail all parents via e-schools, and put it on our Facebook page as quickly as we can. Please can you all help out by letting other parents know as soon as you find out. Please bear in mind the decision may not be made until early in the morning - we will let you all know as soon as we can but please check the Gloucestershire website before you phone us.

If we have to close in the middle of the day we will use email and Facebook - if you could all help with spreading the word that would be a great help as we may not reach everyone by email.



Reminders / Thanks

Parent / Teacher communication reminder

Whilst it is not possible to catch your teachers to chat at the end of the day due to our covid safe measures, if you have a query or message, please ring the office in the first instance. The office team may be able to help answer your query. If not, then the team in the office can ask your child's class teacher to give you a ring at their earliest convenience. The use of teacher emails enabled us to remain connected during lockdown but now we are in school, please may I politely request that you no longer email your class teacher directly. Many thanks for your support with this.

Internet Safety

Children are accessing the internet and having their own phones at younger and younger ages. This can bring many benefits, but also dangers. This is a website containing advice guides to give you the need to know information about the most common activities. such as using apps, social media and gaming. There are separate sections about protecting children online for 0 to 5 year olds, 6 to 10 years olds and 11 to 13 year olds:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>



Reading Thanks

Many thanks to **Mrs. Sheraton** who has now stepped down from coming into school to hear the children read after many years. She has been coming into school for over 25 years and in that time has helped hundreds of children learn to read. What an achievement! **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**



Christmas Dinner Thanks!

Thank you also to our tree surgeon who donated the costs of the tree surgery to enable all our children to have a **free Christmas Dinner**. Thank you very much!



Hope Banners

Thanks to those who helped reposition the fabulous hope banners and inn signs at the front of the school. The pupils thoughts on 'Hope' are lights that shine during the darkness of the uncertainty brought by the pandemic and it is great to be able to share them with our wider community.

Thank you from Staff!

We have been humbled by your generosity in sending cards and kind gifts for the staff team. There is never any expectation or obligation to send cards or buy gifts and we thank you so much. We love teaching your children and we are grateful we have such fantastic support from our parent community. Thank you also to the PTA elves who made our staffroom a delightful place to spend time over this last week. We have enjoyed the decorations, loved the messages and, of course, eaten all the chocolate !

St Briavels nativity

The whole of St Briavels School would like to say a HUGE Thank you to Rosie, Heidi and Lexi for organising such a fabulous Nativity for all of us to enjoy. We would also like to thank all the other adults who gave up their precious time and homes to bring so much joy and hope to our day.

Here are some quotes from the children:

"It was really fun and embarrassing because I saw my mum as an angel!" - Eliza.

"It was super, duper, wuper brilliant!" – Olive.

"It was brilliant!" – Dora.

"I liked to see Jesus." – Ava.

"I saw my poster and it said Hope." – Romilly.

"I loved King Herod's sword" – Todd.

"I enjoyed seeing the three wise men" – Tabby.

"I liked the angels dancing - it was funny!" – Livvi.

"It was awesome!" – Seb.



St Briavels Congregational Church

At the Chapel, we would like to invite you to celebrate Christmas with us:

Sunday 20th, 10:30 am Instant Nativity, come in costume and help us tell the Christmas story.

Sunday 20th, 3pm Outdoor Carol Service on St Briavels Playing Fields. Please bring a chair, warm clothes and a thermos!

These events will be Covid-secure in line with current guidance.

We hope you have a very Happy Christmas and wish you every blessing in the New Year.



Speedwell



Over the last 2 terms, Speedwell having been having violin lessons. Here is a picture of their final performance playing, 'On top of Old Smokey', 'Can can', 'Underneath the coconut tree' and 'Trick or Treat'.

Below that are some pictures of the science experiment last week where Speedwell made their own poo while learning about the digestive system.

Mr Ford



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Primary School Applications for 2021

If your child was born between **1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017** they can start school in the school year starting 1st September 2021. You need to apply for a place by 15th January 2020.

<https://www.glos.nhs.uk/schooladmissions/>

Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested! Thank you!

Dec 2020

Dear St B families

No long rambling message from me in this newsletter – it's been a long term and we're all a bit tired – so just a few festive shout outs to round off the year.

Firstly, a huge thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm and good will towards the projects we've been able to pull off. I'll get a total of funds raised this term and let you know how we got on at the beginning of next term. (In case you don't know, alongside the smaller requests our fundraising this year will concentrate on updating the ageing Trim Trail in the playground). It's also been great to meet some of the newer families! Really looking forward to seeing more of you in the new year.

So against adversity, this term we've managed to achieve:

- A Rags2Riches day;
- A Crazy Hair and Outfit Day;
- Christmas decorations made by the children;
- A brilliant raffle (congratulations to the winners and thanks again to all of you who contributed prizes and bought tickets!)
- and an online Panto for the classes

So applause all round!

Secondly, there are not enough words for the team behind the Roving Nativity...what an absolute ball that was – Heidi, Rosie and Lex we salute you! The volunteers were amazing, the village community threw themselves into it, the children loved it and the staff didn't have to do anything except enjoy the spectacle. Hopefully you've had a chance to read the write up in The Forester by the time this comes out....I'm expecting rave reviews!

And lastly the biggest thanks of course to the school staff for going above and beyond to keep our little ones safe and able to enjoy a bit of normality. You are amazing. Enjoy your break spending time with YOUR loved ones and thank you for looking after ours this year.

Lots and lots of Christmas love from the PTA team. Here's to 2021!



Angel Hunt!

Deb Orriss, Pioneer Evangelist, Gloucester and Forest Centre of Mission, is organising an Angel Hunt (no, not a Bear Hunt!)

During December there will be some knitted angels hiding in the shops in Coleford for you to find. There will be prizes for whoever finds the most, and look out for the Angel Record Sheet.



Happy hunting!

Primary Times

We usually send out a copy of Primary Times to all families before the holidays. Due to COVID the next print issue will not be out until February Half Term. In the meantime there is plenty of information on their website:

www.primarytimes.co.uk

The screenshot shows the Primary Times website homepage. At the top, there's a yellow header bar with 'Log In / Register' and 'Visit Ireland Site'. Below it is a banner for 'LEADERS & READERS' with 'Ofsted' logo. The main navigation menu includes 'What's On', 'Term Dates', 'News', 'Competitions', 'Make & Play', 'Offers', 'Contact Us', and 'About PT'. A large section titled 'Things to do with kids in Gloucestershire' features an image of a magazine cover for 'primary times' with the headline 'Children's flu vaccination - get the facts!' and a photo of a medical professional. To the right, there's a 'Keep up to date' sidebar with a 'Sign Up' button and social media links (Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter). Another sidebar on the right lists services like 'Saturday Schools', 'Summer Schools', and 'Winter Schools', along with age groups for various activities.



Tel: (01452) 422712
(Mon – Fri 10am to 1pm)
info@gloscreditunion.org.uk
www.gloscreditunion.org.uk
Gloucester Library, Brunswick Road
Gloucester GL1 1HT

If you or your family are experiencing financial difficulties during the pandemic, Gloucestershire Credit Union is here to help you get through to better times.

We can provide short term loans at affordable rates so that you will have no need to go to expensive payday lenders.

Check out our website and apply online for a loan www.gloscreditunion.org.uk/loans.

Gloucestershire Credit Union Ltd is authorised by the Prudential Regulatory Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulatory Authority, Firm Reference Number 214254. Affiliated to ABCUL.

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Family Learning Classes for Parents on Zoom in January 2021

There are 3 Wellbeing courses:

Calming the Mind- a focussed mindfulness course for 5 weeks on Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:30

Happier and Calmer :Wellbeing at Home - this course looks at the science behind wellbeing

Yoga and Guided Meditation—Find new ways to relax fully. Parents don't need any experience or special equipment- just space to lie down in.

Supporting Children's Maths:

Give Your Kids A Boost in Maths in the Infants focuses on how children learn maths skills in Reception, Year 1 and 2

Keeping Up With the Kids Maths in the Juniors focuses on supporting children with maths in the Juniors. Will give parents support with helping their child to learn their tables, and complete specific numeracy tasks, such as fractions.

For more information look at:

<http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/adult-education-in-goucestershire/>



Coronavirus has placed a huge strain on families who were already vulnerable, including those already isolated, those facing financial hardship and those facing mental health challenges.

We want to be able to support as many families as possible through these difficult times but we can't do it without you.

We are looking for people who can give 2-3 hours a week to provide practical and emotional support to a family.

We offer free, high quality training that provides our volunteers with new and transferrable skills as well as ongoing support.

Our next courses start in January 2021

To find out more please visit our website:
<https://homestartnwglos.org.uk/volunteering/>



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TERM DATES For January—April 2021

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| First day of term | Monday January 4th 2021 |
| INSET day | Friday February 12th |
| Half term | Mon 15th-Fri 19th Feb |
| Term starts | Monday 22nd Feb 2021 |
| Good Friday Bank Holiday | April 2nd |
| Easter Holidays | Monday 5th—Friday 16th April |
| First day of term | Monday 19th April |



Child Friendly Gloucestershire

On Monday 7 December 2020, the leaders of Gloucestershire launched the county's first Children's Coalition. The aim is simple: to create a single vision which builds a brighter future for the county's young people. To find out more watch their video at:

<https://youtu.be/vo6I4L2SR5M>

The Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Revd Rachel Treweek, is planning an event to hear the thoughts, views and feelings of as many young people as possible, in and around Gloucestershire. To help the conversation, she would love young people to tell her in one sentence what worries or concerns them. She would also like to know what makes them really happy and gives them joy. Please email responses to Lucy Taylor on ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk



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