

St Briavels Primary School Newsletter

Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be



No. 76, 1st April 2021

Dear All,

We have arrived at the Easter break after an unusual year so far. We have all demonstrated our resilience as a community, as a school and as learners. The outlook is feeling more positive with the spring weather, and the celebration of Easter brings the feeling of hopefulness. We can plan, with the dates given, to broaden our experiences and enrich our learning as we look forward to our new enquiry questions. If you feel you have any expertise or skills that will enhance the learning in any of our enquiries please get in touch, we'd love to collaborate with you to deepen our experience, knowledge and skills.

Bluebell will be exploring the question 'What can I do now'? Daisy and Poppy are investigating 'What makes a good structure?' with local and, fingers crossed, exploration further afield, of castles.

Have a safe and restful Easter break. We look forward to seeing you all to continue our journey in learning on Monday 19th April.

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

Thank You



Parent Forum News

Big thanks to **Kelly Leech** who has been our very successful chair of the Parent Forum for a number of years. Kelly is now handing over the role. You have done a great job and we are all really grateful for your time and commitment to running this forum

I would like to introduce our new co-chairs. Please give a warm welcome to **Dr Angharad Watson** and **Mr Piers Cardiff** who will share the role of chair of this group. Thank you so much for putting yourselves forward to take on this role and I look forward to working together to ensure that parents are consulted, informed and have a voice as we strive together to be the best we can be.



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

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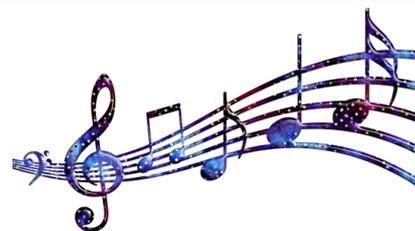
www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk



Concert Pianist

In March both schools were privileged to have a concert pianist—Clare Hammond—visit us and perform for the children and teachers. This was organised through Wye Valley Music by our Governor Mike Haines—thank you to both, as you can see much appreciated!



Here are some reviews from the children:

'When I was introduced to the idea of listening to a piano recital in the Church, I was expecting an amateur pianist but I was shocked to be greeted with a pianist that was comparable to the likes of Mozart! This wonderful recital will truly stay in my memory forever. When you close your eyes, you indulge in a range of vivid colours, picturing running away; a stroll through a summer field; to feeling like a soldier on a battle field. So you can imagine the range of music Claire Hammond played.

It is impossible not to be amazed by the range of music she plays – she is the most interesting, unusual and charming pianist. If I had to go to a music concert, there would be no doubt that I would attend one with Claire Hammond playing the piano. Her sharp fingers dart across the keys so naturally. When she plays, all that fills your head is her lyrical music, enchanting you into a world of symphony.' **(Finn)**



Clare Hammond playing at Redbrook Church

'Claire Hammond is an extremely talented woman - even the hardest pieces she can learn off by heart. If she were to play any other instrument, I would be sure to listen. I would recommend her to anyone with a wild imagination and a love for music. Her style is vibrant, dramatic and full of wonderful sound. I would say she is of as high a standard as Ludivico Einaudi.

When she played two songs, she asked us to imagine what was going on. They were quite long pieces but when you let your imagination flow, it was amazing what could happen. Sometimes it was peaceful, other times it was dramatic. If you ever see her play then be sure to cherish that memory forever. I would give her a 5 star rating.' **(Evie)**

You can find out more about Clare and listen to and watch her play at: clarehammond.com

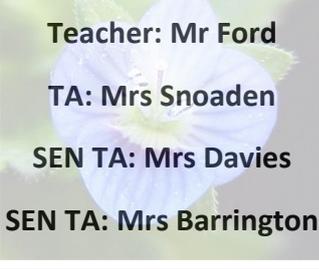


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Class Structure for September

 <p><i>Bluebell Class</i> Teacher: Mrs Arnold / Mr Gazzard TA: Mrs Watkins</p>	 <p><i>Daisy Class</i> Teacher: Mr Gooding TA: Mrs Morse SEN TA: Miss Thompson</p>	 <p><i>Poppy Class</i> Teacher: Mrs Kear TA: Mrs Hill</p>
<p>20 Children</p>	<p>20 Year 1 Children 10 Year 2 Children</p>	<p>10 Year 2 Children 20 Year 3 Children</p>
 <p><i>Speedwell Class</i> Teacher: Mr Ford TA: Mrs Snoden SEN TA: Mrs Davies SEN TA: Mrs Barrington</p>	 <p><i>Foxglove Class</i> Teacher: Mrs Woods TA: Mrs Parsons</p>	
<p>20 Year 4 Children 10 Year 5 Children</p>	<p>10 Year 5 Children 20 Year 6 Children</p>	

The year one class going into year two will be split in equal numbers between Poppy Class and Daisy Class. The older children will form a class with the year group above and the younger children will form a class with the year group below. The year two curriculum will be taught to all children in year two in both classes. Our enquiry learning is organised to ensure equal access to the curriculum across the two classes.

Parents will be informed of the classes in T5.

The class split from year two will remain the same for the future split in year five to ensure curriculum coverage. The year five curriculum will be taught to all children in year five in both classes. Our enquiry learning is organised to ensure equal access to the children across the two classes.

Children new to school will be placed where a space exists.

Where there are exceptional circumstances (eg safeguarding issues, children from multiple births, access issues) the Head Teacher will work with parents to ensure the policy is adhered to where possible.

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Thank You



for your Kindness

Front Garden Project

Thanks to Mr Gazzard for his design and planning, Mrs Watkins and Mrs Arnold for their organisation and support and to all the parents who have kindly volunteered once again to support us with this. We really appreciated all this work that is over and above our expectations as a school and supports providing a better learning environment for all of our children. Thank you!



Adult Education
in Gloucestershire

Adult Education Zoom Courses for Parents

Adult Education in Gloucestershire have a number of Zoom courses open to parents / carers / grandparents after Easter. They include:

- **Calming the Mind**- a focussed mindfulness course for 6 weeks on Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:30, or Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30
- **Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home**- this course looks at the science behind wellbeing
- **Everything You Ever Want to Know about Numbers But Are Afraid to Ask**- a 4 week course giving parents an understanding of the building blocks of numeracy, looking at decimals, fractions and percentages. This course will help anyone overcome their fear of numbers! Parents can use this course to progress towards a Functional Skills Maths Qualification if they choose.

* These courses are free if you are over 19 years old, have lived in the UK/ EU for 3 or more years, or have a valid Residence Permit, and are one of the following: Unemployed or earning below £17,000 per year; Qualified below a Level 2 (less than 5 GCSEs); Have mental health challenges, Have a learning difficulty or disability

To find out more go to:

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

Or contact Fay Tucker, Family Learning Coordinator, Adult Education in Gloucestershire tel **01452 583567**

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PTA NEWS

March 2021

Another term over! Thank you so much to everyone who has engaged with the PTA during this trying period. We managed a virtual balloon race, a (very muddy) treasure hunt and a Rags2Riches haul plus a couple of successful Zoom meetings which wasn't too bad all things considered.

A big thanks to Amy Hag for taking over the 2nd hand uniform project. Please get in touch if you have donations or are looking for any uniform (there is an abundance of smaller branded blue polo shirts if any Bluebells need to stock up!). We'll have a table sale at the beginning of next term – confirmation on a date to follow.

We've remained active, albeit at a slower pace, and continue our dialogue with school to ensure we're as proactive as the times allow. We've recently donated £2k to school which enables the unlocking of further funds to be used for the upcoming building works. It was interesting to read in the 'Hope' posters that the children made before Christmas, how many of them 'hoped' for their school building to be 'mended'. It's clearly important to them so we think it is a great use of the money we raise. If you weren't aware our current project is raising money to update the Trim Trail, another important part of the children's school lives! We're really looking forward to being able to get back to what we do best - putting on events, raising money for the extra school projects that are so essential, while helping to pull our community together. I'm very conscious of the new families having missed out on the opportunities to meet not just parents and carers of children in their class but up and down the school years. The Back to School BBQ is always a good ice breaker; volunteering at PJ parties or discos or coming to the legendary Mum's movies nights...can't wait to get these back in the calendar!

Hopefully we can run a couple of fundraisers as the restrictions ease and things become safer for all. There's a Scarecrow trail in the May half term to look forward to; St Briavels Pamper Hampers will be going on sale for a limited period next term; the Book Fair is coming to school in May so we'll be looking for willing volunteers to help run that after school and don't get me started on the Very Merry Un-Birthday Party for everyone who has missed a birthday party over the last year (which is EVERYONE!) later in the summer. More details on all of these plus more as circumstances become clearer.

So thank you if you've taken part in one of the events; logged on to a Zoom meeting; donated bags for Rags2Riches or 2nd hand uniform; registered us for your Amazon Smile donations; donated using the Rocketfund page; suggested an event or even just read this to the end. We have a lovely school with fabulous children, supportive families, great staff and a PTA proud to be part of it all.

Have a great Easter break and see you in April!

The PTA team x

E: pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk

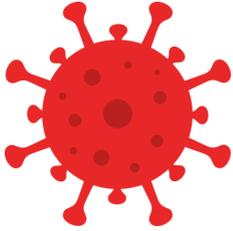
Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> (Look for St Briavels Association)

<https://www.rocketfund.org/fundraising-run-in-to-easter> (If you'd just like to donate!)

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COVID Holiday Communication



Please contact the school at:

covid@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

up until end of Saturday April 3rd if your child / children shows symptoms or tests positive within 48 hours of last being in school.

After that if anyone in your family has symptoms please organise a test through:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If positive, please follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

No other email addresses will be monitored from Friday April 2nd to Monday April 19th.



The keyworkers at St Briavels created a hearts of love mural to express the school's continuing love, support and hope for all our community.

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**COMIC
RELIEF**

**We raised £132.95 for Comic Relief this year!
Well done everyone!**

YOUNGMiNDS

Young Minds are a UK children and young people's mental health charity. Their website has a vast range of information for young people, their families and practitioners, including tips, advice and guidance for support during the Covid-19

Pandemic such as anxiety about returning to school; struggling with self-isolation and social distancing and for those who have lost a loved one due to coronavirus. They also provide a parents' helpline, which can be contacted by phone, webchat or email. To find out more, please visit:

www.youngminds.org.uk



The ADHD Foundation is an integrated health and education service offering a strength based service to support the 1 in 5 people who live with ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Tourette's Syndrome.

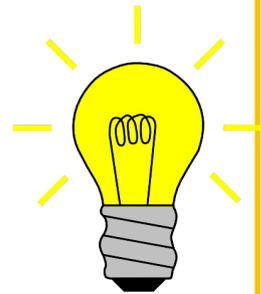
Their website has a range of information and useful resources for children, young people, adults, parents and professionals. Topics are wide ranging but include: returning to school after lockdown; coping with feelings of anger; boundaries; mental health; conflict resolution, top tips for effective self-care; 10 tips to support your teenager; EHCP and transition.

Further information, along with downloadable resources can be found by visiting the ADHD Foundation's website -

www.adhdfoundation.org.uk



**Top tip to help your children learn
to and practise reading - turn on the
subtitles on the television!**



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Online safety at home: parents and carers newsletter

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

With the majority of children still learning from home, they will be spending more time online doing their school work, playing games or watching videos. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety during this lockdown, and always. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Sharing pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Watching videos

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parent's website](#) and download their [home activity worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

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TERM DATES For April—July

Last day of term	Thursday April 1st 2021
Good Friday Bank Holiday	April 2nd
First day of term	Monday 19th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May
Last day of term	Friday 28 th May
Bank Holiday	Monday 31st May
INSET	Monday 7th June
First day of term	Tuesday 8th June
Last day of term	Wednesday 21st July

Dates for your diaries

(Please also see website and letters home for updates)

Tues 4th May	Year 6 PGL day trip year 6
19th-25th May	Book Fayre
Monday 7th June	INSET day
Monday 14th June—Fri 18th June	Japanese week
Friday 2nd July	Sports day
Friday 9th July	Reserve sports day
Please note: The Year 4/5 PGL trip scheduled for May 2021 will now take place in April 2022	

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