

St Briavels Primary School

Newsletter



No. 63 March 1st 2019

Dear All,

Welcome back to Term 4 and all the excitement that an improvement in the weather brings. It's getting noticeably lighter in the mornings and we have been lucky to enjoy some unseasonably warm and sunny days. I hope you all managed to enjoy some of the half term break, although for some of us the cross border mismatched half terms have been tricky to negotiate. There are some brave daffodils joining the snowdrops and life is just a bit brighter for it.

Our enquiry-led learning is driving forward this term, continuing our work to embed the 'states of being' and with some interesting questions to be delved into. If you feel that you are able to share any of your experiences, hobbies or passions we would love for you to come and be part of this term's learning. Just let the office or the class teacher know.

In collective worship this term we will be using the resources from the Church of England education team 'Shapes for living' to explore the period of Lent in the run up to Easter and then, due to the unusual dates for the Easter break, our church service at the end of the term will reflect on our learning about Lent with our Easter service being held in school following the break.

As part of the work that the Governors undertake we have been working to agree our vision and mission statement for the federation. In discussion with Diocese we have agreed that our mission statement is:

"Our federation is a safe place where we embrace and enjoy challenge, take ownership of our own learning, collaborate and support each other whilst striving to be the best we can be."

Included in this mission statement is our vision: **"Striving to be the best we can be"**. Both the mission statement and the vision apply to our whole community and we will be continuing to look for ways to work in partnership to support everyone in this endeavour.

We will be continuing our aim to become single-use plastic free. If anyone has time to support us with this, any help would be greatly appreciated. A fresh pair of eyes and new ideas are always most welcome.

In order to help our children **to be the best they can be**, it is important for them to attend school every day that it is open unless they are unwell. We really appreciate you getting your children here on time, every day. It makes a huge difference to both their learning and to setting up patterns of good school attendance for their continued school career. Thank you so much for your support with this, it means a lot to us.

Finally, just a reminder that the next Parents' forum is scheduled for Thursday 14th March at 2pm. We look forward to seeing you there. If you can't make it but have any items you would like discussed, you are welcome to email Kelly Leech at kelly_hoare2005@yahoo.co.uk to add items to the agenda.

Have a great weekend!

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

Daisy Class



This week Daisy class have been looking at maths stories.

We read The Greedy Triangle and talked about polygons.

Each child made their own polygon person focusing on the properties of 2D shapes. We used mathematical vocabulary to name the shapes.

We also read The Lion's Share, a book about fractions. We used a cake to help us understand fractions and how to record them.

I would like to say a huge thank you for all of the well wishes from both children and parents this week as I leave for my maternity leave. I have loved teaching Daisy class and wish them all well for the future.

Mrs Griffin



Poppy Class



Poppy class had a great time on their trip to Stonehenge. We were able to look at a Bronze age burial, some artefacts from the time and then had a tour of the stones. A huge thank you to Mrs Beresford, Mrs Bishop, Mrs Naylor, Miss Warr and Mrs Morse for their support.

Mrs Kear

Poppy's learning enquiry:

'What does a plant need to make it grow?'



Bluebell Class



Bluebell's learning enquiry:

'Is the big bad world really big and bad?'

Speedwell Class



Speedwell's learning enquiry:

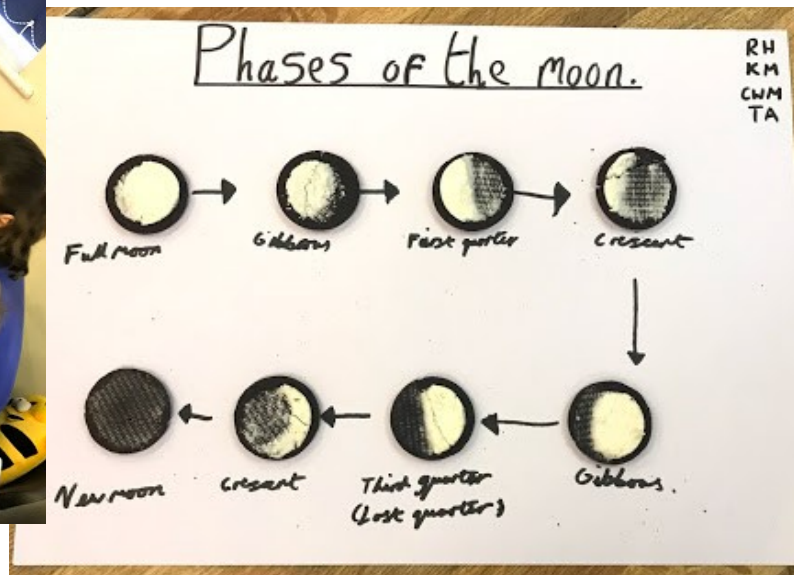
'Are robots better than humans?'



Foxglove Class

To end our Space enquiry last term, we were studying the phases of the moon. We learned the terms for the different phases throughout the month. To demonstrate this Foxglove produced their own Moon Phase posters using Oreos to represent the moon – careful scratching (and eating) had to happen to produce the correct shape for each phase!

Mrs Ricketts



Foxglove's learning enquiry is :

'How is North America different to the UK?'

New School Governor required

The Wye Forest Federation governing body are looking for a new parent governor to join our team and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a governor.



The role of a governor is vitally important to the smooth running of a school but does require some commitment to attend regular meetings in the evenings and also complete school visits during the day. If anyone feels that they have the time and is willing to commit to becoming a governor please contact the chair of governors at chair@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

Philip Hall
Chair of Governors

Office News

Parents' Evening Thursday 21st March

Our Parents' Evening will be held on **Thursday 21st March** from 3:30pm-7:30pm for Bluebell, Poppy, Speedwell and Foxglove classes. 5 minute appointments are available; please contact office to book. If your child is on MyPlan, please contact the office to make separate arrangements in this regard.

After School Club—Self Defence sessions

Each Monday from 4th March until Easter our student teacher, Mr Field, would like to offer children attending After School Club the opportunity to learn self-defence. There would be no further cost on top of the normal club fee. Please let the office know if you would like your child to participate. Normal afterschool activities will be running alongside these sessions.



School Gates - pick up time 3.15pm

Please can we remind parents that we will be locking the school gates at 3:15pm for safeguarding purposes and we require all children and their parents/carers to leave the school site by this time. We run clubs after school and we need to ensure the safety of the children who are remaining on site after normal school hours.

Big Battery Hunt: Battery recycling

St Briavels school have signed up to take part in the Big Battery Hunt; a nationwide battery recycling challenge from Duracell. Children will be sent home today with a small box to fill with as many used batteries as possible. Duracell will arrange for collection of the boxes from school once you have returned them and we will be entered into a draw to win a number of useful resources. Further details can be found at <https://nationalschoolpartnership.com/initiatives/bigbatteryhunt/>



Lunch booking

Please remember to continue to book your childrens' meals on ParentPay. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, we still require you to make the booking for ordering purposes. Should you have any queries, please contact the school office.

E-schools e-mails

We have been informed by eSchools that the "Reply" function is not currently working within Letters Home. Please contact admin@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk directly if you need to respond to an email from us (or call us in the office). We hope this issue will be resolved in the very near future and will update you when it has been. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause you.

The Admin Team

Parent Forum Meeting Date Thursday 14th March 2pm

Please note the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th March 2pm. If you want to put anything on the agenda please email Kelly at:

kelly_hoare2005@yahoo.co.uk



The Giving Machine™

Help raise money for the school when you shop online!

The Giving Machine is a unique registered charity that enables us to generate sales commissions with every online purchase. These are then converted to free donations for St Briavels School which will allow us to purchase the special extras for our children that the budgets don't stretch too.

It is very easy to sign up if you log on to www.thegivingmachine.co.uk and use our ID code 56422.

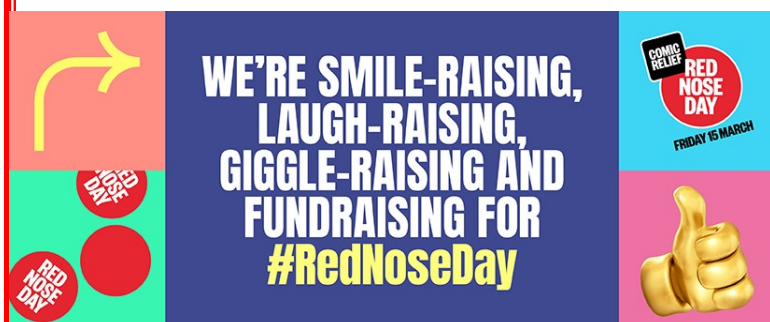
<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/giver/join/?pbid=56422>

If you have any questions, please contact Nicola Dutton in office. Thank you so much for your continued support.



World Book Day

We would like children to dress up for world book day this year. Using the theme of recycle, reuse and reduce we would like children to **make their own costumes** and **bring the book their chosen character is from** to talk about over the day.



Red Nose Day Friday March 15th

Please be advised that we will be holding a non-uniform day on Red Nose Day Friday 15th March. Donations will go to the Red Nose Charity. Children will be allowed to wear red and red noses if they have them.

Online Safety: Momo Challenge

It has come to our attention in school today that a small number of children have been discussing "Momo Challenge".

We have contacted **Darren Peters**, the 'Digital Harm Reduction Officer' for Gloucestershire who has said this:

'I understand that you are trying to get hold of me re the Momo Challenge - an alleged social media game that takes place on WhatsApp. **We are of the opinion that this is a hoax** akin to the Blue Whale challenge seen a couple of years ago.

Understandably, parents and schools are becoming increasingly concerned due to the intense media coverage and the story being further fuelled by 'YouTubers'. Unfortunately this has led to some individuals adding doctored videos to YouTube and YouTube for Kids which have then been spread across social media as "proof" that the challenge exists.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the need to discuss internet safety with their children to ensure they know not to add / talk to strangers and that usage is supervised. Many of the stories seen have involved young children (mostly between the ages of 6-9) who have used WhatsApp or come across videos whilst using YouTube, an app rated for 13 year olds and over, unsupervised. We are also aware that some doctored videos have been added to YouTube Kids but the platform is working to get these taken down. WhatsApp has an age limit of 16years of age.'

There is more information here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47393510>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/momo-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

Birthday Reminder!

Please remember that we do not distribute birthday cake. There are a number of reasons that we cannot distribute them including allergies/medical reasons. This has been discussed at the parent forum and we now have 'Birthday Medals' for children to wear in school on their birthday. Birthdays are also celebrated in our Celebration Worship on a Thursday where children are given a sticker and are sung to.

If cakes are sent in, the office will hold onto them until home time when they can be given to the parent to distribute should they wish. Please remember this, we don't want children to be disappointed!

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

Forest School Site Vandalised



We are very upset that our Forest School site has been vandalised **again** and left in a state too dangerous for our children to use. This area is valuable to the childrens' learning and we want to keep it as safe as we can.

Please can we ask you all to be vigilant and let us know immediately if you notice any further damage being done to the site. Thank you!

New Website Address!

Our new website now has a user friendly address:

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

Class pages will be being updated in the coming weeks. Let us know if there is anything you would like to see that isn't there or have any other feedback.



Brass Instrument Tuition



Kerry Ford is an experienced brass player and teacher. She recently visited St Briavels school and showed the children some of her instruments: trumpet, horn, cornet, baritone and trombone. She is offering music lessons of 20 minutes long either in small groups or individually.

Lessons cost from £3 (for a child in a group of 3) to £9 for an individual lesson. To find out more contact Kerry at:

kfordfamily@btinternet.com
tel 01594 530 886, 0755 4540469

It is possible to hire instruments from www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk tel 01452 330300

PTA NEWS

I hope everyone had a great half term break and a chance to enjoy the lovely weather. It's definitely helping us focus on our **big project this term – revamping the playground!** The plan, devised by Mr Gazzard and Mrs Watkins, is to make the best possible use of the outside area starting with replacing the tables and benches (you've probably noticed that the old picnic tables have long gone). This space will be used for the children to have lunch in the warmer months; as an outside classroom and as part of the play area during breaks. The tables will have games stencilled on the tops ie snakes and ladders, chess/draughts board, backgammon etc. to increase their scope. The furniture is currently being made at Reseiclo in Newport and will be paid for by funds raised this year (so a big thanks for that!). We would like to partition the area with planters and would love it if any handy families out there could volunteer to make one – we'd provide the dimensions and resources.. let me know if you're able to help. There are a few other opportunities to be involved as there will be painting and planting to get on with too. Please do shout if you'd like to be part of it. We're planning a 'Ground Force' style weekend on the 23/24 March to get it all in place so if you have a spare hour to help that would be much appreciated. Fingers crossed it'll all be done in time for a little launch party on Friday 29th March at pick up.... I'll keep you updated on the progress.

There are a couple of other fun events going on this term – see below for dates and details. Have a good weekend x

Claire Gilmour

PTA EVENTS SPRING 2019

Friday 1st March 730pm Mum's PJ Party School Hall £3

Bring your favourite tippie and nibbles and enjoy a child free evening – we're showing Magic Mike..... (the mats will be out for lounging so bring blankets etc or a camp chair if you prefer)

Thurs 7th – Wed 13th Mar 310pm BOOK FAIR School Hall

Browse the extensive collection of children's books on sale and with every book you buy help the school earn rewards to stock the library full of new titles and add to classroom resources!

Friday 15th March St Briavel's Got Talent/Disco School Hall £3

Hot dog and drinks included

KS1 515pm – 630pm / KS2 630pm – 745pm

Back by popular demand! The children need to write down their act and pop it in the box in the office, letting us know about any songs or props they may need and then get practising.

Sat 23/Sun 24 Mar GROUND FORCE WEEKEND School

Details TBD

Friday 29th Mar Outside Area Launch Party School

Details TBC

Book on the St Briavel's Information FB page or by emailing me:

clairevgilmour@btinternet.com

Update on investigating expanding the school building

Those of you who attended my parents information meetings last year may remember I talked about looking to expand our school. At the end of 2018, I met with the Diocese along with staff and a governor from St Briavels. We discussed the idea of expanding the building and the Diocese considered this and have refused any expansion at the current time.

In order for us to make our building match our current needs, specifically those of our Early Years children, more appropriately they suggested working with an architect to explore the options of remodelling the interior layout. We have engaged an architect to undertake this work and have begun this process.

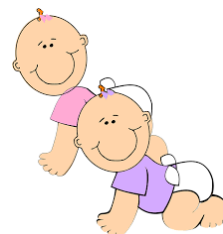
We will keep you informed should this proceed any further.

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

St Briavels Baby and Toddler Group

This is held on a Tuesday in
the school hall,
9am –11am

Please note babies are
welcome at the Tuesday
morning group here. There
are plenty of toys for very
small ones so please do bring
younger siblings along!



There is a small charge.

After School Club

Chess Club

**3.10 –4.30 £5
3.10-5.30 £10
(per child)**

**New Monday After
School Club running
now!**

Art Project Club

**Snack Available,
Tea available after
4.30PM**

Term 4 - March 2019—St Briavels Primary School



Day	Date	Class	Event
Friday	1/3/19		Open the book 2.30pm
Monday	4/3/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	5/3/19		
Wednesday	6/3/19	Bluebell Whole School	Forest School pm Book fair 3pm
Thursday	7/3/19	Year 3 Whole School	Swimming WORLD BOOK DAY Book fair 3pm
Friday	8/3/19	Whole School	Open the book 2.30pm Book fair 3pm
Monday	11/3/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm Book fair 3pm
Tuesday	12/3/19		Book fair 3pm
Wednesday	13/3/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	14/3/19	Year 3 Parents	Swimming Parent Forum 2pm
Friday	15/3/19	Whole School	Open the book 2.30pm Red Nose Day PTA—School Disco
Monday	18/3/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	19/3/19		
Wednesday	20/3/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	21/3/19	Year 3 Parents evening	Swimming 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Friday	22/3/19		Open the book 2.30pm
Monday	25/3/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	26/3/19		
Wednesday	27/3/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	28/3/19	Year 3	Swimming
Friday	29/3/19		Open the book 2.30pm
Monday	1/4/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	2/4/19		
Wednesday	3/4/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	4/4/19	Year 3	Swimming
Friday	5/4/19	Easter service LAST DAY OF TERM	2pm St Briavels Church (parents welcome) 5pm PTA Pyjama Party
Tuesday	23/4/19	FIRST DAY OF TERM	