

St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School Newsletter

No 85 December 15th 2022

Letter from Mrs Frey

Dear Families,

I can't quite believe that we have come to the end of the first term and that Christmas is almost upon us. As you will read in the class updates, there has been so much wonderful work going on at St Briavels this term and the children are flourishing in their learning and their care for themselves and one another. We are so blessed to have Mrs Hill our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistance) TA who works with children to explore their feelings and when life gets challenging, she gives them a space to talk and explore what is happening. She has made a huge difference to many children over the past term and we are hugely grateful to her for all she does.

We have also loved welcoming you all into school for a number of events as the term has progressed. We started the year with welcome meetings in each class, then a harvest festival which we celebrated with the children's grandparents, parents evenings, a phonics and reading morning and of course our Christmas performances. Later this week, I hope that you will also be able to join us for our Christingle services. I know this is a particular favourite of staff, children and families as it prepares us for Christmas in such a beautiful way in our local church.

As the children break up, I hope that you are all able to spend some time together as a family. Christmas can be difficult for some and whilst many of us celebrate joyfully, others find the time of year overwhelming. However you choose to spend the next couple of weeks, please know that you are all held in my thoughts and prayers and that I look forward to seeing you all again at the beginning of January ready to embrace a new term together.

With kindest regards

Natalie Frey

Sunflowers Autumn Term



We would like to congratulate the Sunflower children with their participation, determination and perseverance when carrying out their sponsored bike/trike/scooter ride. The children really were amazing and with their extremely generous families, we have raised a fantastic amount of money. Thank you so much.



This week we have started reading the book Owl Babies. The children have really enjoyed this story and been engaged with creating their own owls in many different forms. We would also like to thank Mr Hills for bringing Whispa in to meet the children; it was wonderful to have a real baby owl to hold and stroke.



The children have also been busy at forest school making clay art as well as new friends and learning skills to keep us safe in the woods. In other out and about news the children have been searching their environment for letters which occur in their names, they were so observant.

The children have also been very active in making crafts for the Christmas Fayre such as candle table centrepieces and Eco / Biodegradable wrapping paper. If you would still like to buy some of the wrapping paper, please pop into Sunflowers and ask a member of staff.



Bluebell Class



Bluebell Class have been thinking about Christmas and the Nativity. The children have been rehearsing their songs and their lines and they are very excited to share it! In Forest School, we have continued to plant our native tree saplings to form a hedge around the school perimeter and have added some to our forest school area. We have lots of surplus trees so if you would like to buy any, they are a £1.00 each for a sapling, cane and tree protector. We have hazel, beech and hawthorn available.

Daisy Class



Daisy Class have been gearing up for Christmas for some time now. The children, working together with the Bluebell Year 1s, have put in lots of hard work to learn the songs, as well as all the speaking and acting parts. We really hope that the performances spread that lovely, warm Christmas feeling.

This term we have also been busy polishing our writing skills creating sequels to the familiar story of Rapunzel. The published versions will be ready perfectly in time for the holidays and the children cannot wait to share their adventures with everyone at home!

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone!

Miss Lindqvist and Miss Wilson



Poppy Class



Poppy class have written some amazing stories based on Hansel and Gretel this term and have come up with some really innovative ideas. We have also been working hard to learn our Christmas song for the performances and we are really looking forward to sharing it with you.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mrs Kear

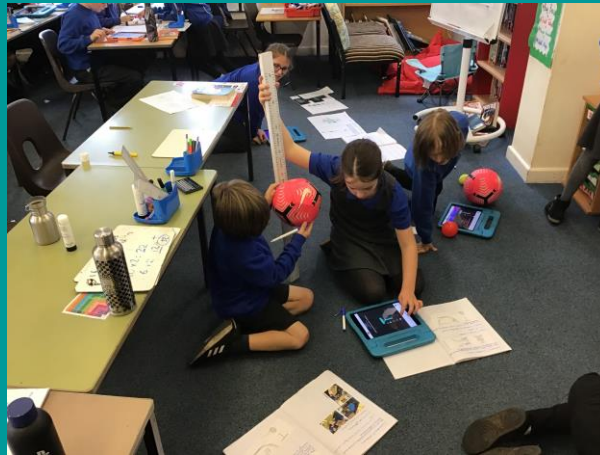
Speedwell Class

Speedwell Class have really enjoyed an excellent term back in school. They've loved building toy cars in D&T, coding games in Computing and creating their own maps in Geography. In Science the Year 4's have been learning about Sound and I've attached some pictures of their experiments while the Year 5's have been learning about wonders of Space.

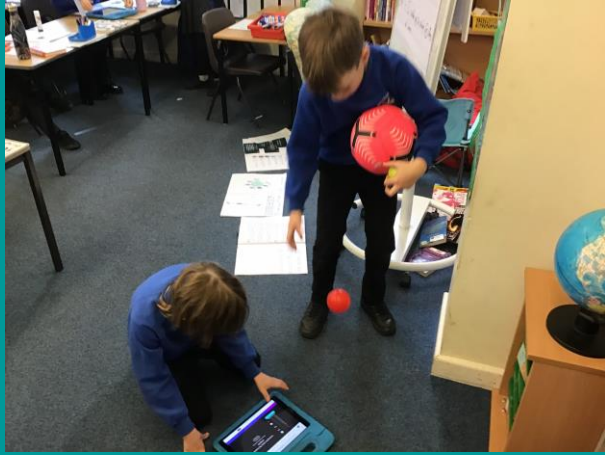
In English, we've really enjoyed reading the Nowhere Emporium where our imaginations have run wild. They created some great stories based on their own trip through a mysterious portal. Next term, we'll be looking at Kensuke's Kingdom where we head off on a seaborne adventure.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

Mr Ford







Foxglove Class

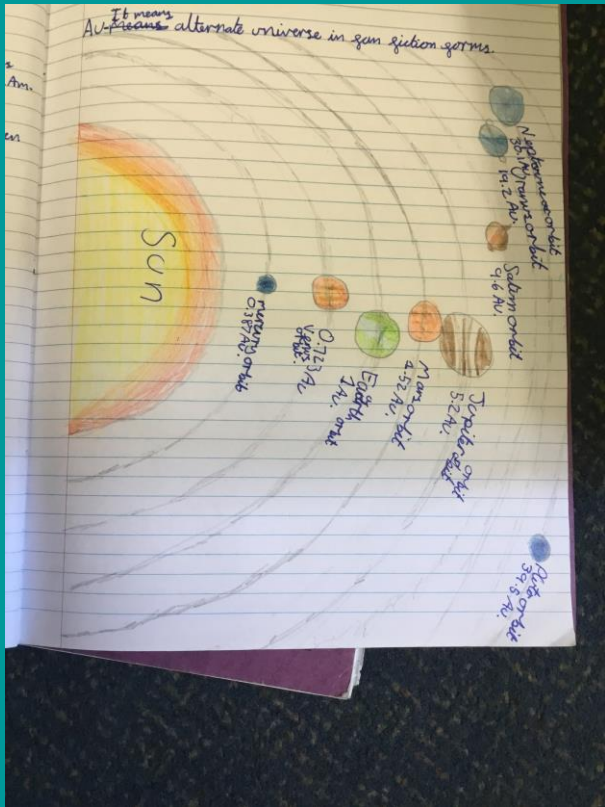


Foxglove Class have had a great term looking at WW2 from a Geographical perspective, exploring maps and creating their own with symbols and a key. In science the Year 6's have been learning about electricity and creating circuits and the Year 5's have been exploring space, discovering the solar system and how the moon rotates around the earth.

In English we have been loving *The London Eye Mystery*, finding out how a boy who went up didn't come back down. We then wrote our own endings to the story and newspaper reports about the missing character Salim.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Mrs Critchley





ELSA news





(ELSA is 'Emotional Literacy Support Assistance')

This half term I have welcomed some new students, who I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know more. Some students have been looking at coping strategies for when they have strong emotions, and it is great to see these being used in the classroom and at home. It's important for them to remember we don't deal with our emotions, we manage them.

Some ELSA children were lucky to have a bit of time with Wispa the Little Owl recently who was a big hit among them, and everyone enjoyed giving her strokes and cuddles (Although I'm pretty sure Wispa was enjoying herself too).

I hope all the children enjoy the festive period!

Lorna Hill

Trip Packed Lunches

We do provide packed lunches for children on trips when requested. If you do request one, please don't send your child in with their own packed lunch from home as well. It takes time and effort to make the lunches and wastes food when they are not taken. For one trip we had 12 packed lunch requests, only one of which was taken. If you can't remember if you have asked for one please contact the office. Many thanks.

PTA

PTA NEWS

Thank you so much to everyone involved in our fabulous Christmas Fayre. It took over 30 people to make it happen from creating all the decorations and artwork to setting up the rooms and running them to taking incredible festive photos and creating amazing face painting to dealing with the external stallholders to sorting the food and drink! And a special thank you to Santa for turning up during his busiest period! Phew! Including the raffle we made almost £2,000 so I think we can all agree that it was a resounding success and I hope that it's now firmly cemented into the St Briavels calendar. Last weekend in November... see you there in 2023!

I'm looking forward to handing over to a new PTA Chair and committee next term. I have now stood down but am around to help and talk through the admin which comes with events etc. It

really is a lot of fun and will be great to have some new faces to lead it in to 2023. I've 'done' the PTA the way I wanted to but every Chair and committee have their own take on how to run it – there are no hard and fast rules. We are so lucky to have a great team of families here at St Briavels and I'm very happy to play my part in the PTA team for my remaining time at school!

So have a great Christmas everyone and will see you in the New Year! xx

Claire Gilmour

National Online Safety

National Online Safety has a range of guides for parents about keeping children safe online, including information about specific apps (eg TikTok) and also more general topics such as "social media and mental health". You can find out more here:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

Forest Foodbank



The Forest Foodbank will be closed for Christmas from Friday 23rd December 2022 and will reopen again on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

If you need a food parcel between 27th and 30th December please contact Emma at the Salvation Army 07551855712.

Dates for your diaries

Please check letters home for more details about events. Dates may change.

- Friday 16th December - last day of term
- Tuesday 3rd January - INSET
- Wednesday 4th January - first day of term
- Friday February 3rd - maths morning
- Tuesday 14th February - years 3 and 4 visit Gloucester Cathedral and Mosque
- Friday 17th February - last day of term

- Monday 27th February - first day of term

We update key dates on our website. Next term we have been promised that the website calendar will work through an app so you should be able to see dates on your mobile as well as through a laptop / PC. We will let you know as soon as this is available.

Term Dates 2022-2023

There is a downloadable version of this on our website at:

https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term_dates/372930

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		4	11	18	25		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thur	1	8	15	22	29		Thur		6	13	20	27		Thur	3	10	17	24		
Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	3	10	17	24			Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		
DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28	
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22		
Thur	1	8	15	22	29		Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23		
Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		
MARCH							APRIL							MAY						
Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tues		7	14	21	28		Tues		4	11	18	25		Tues	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31	
Thur	2	9	16	23	30		Thur		6	13	20	27		Thur	4	11	18	25		
Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	4	11	18	25			Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	7	14	21	28		
JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tues		6	13	20	27		Tues		4	11	18	25		Tues	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thur	1	8	15	22	29		Thur		6	13	20	27		Thur	3	10	17	24	31	
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Sat	3	10	17	24			Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET days	