

St Briavels Primary School

Newsletter



No. 40 5th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the start of what promises to be an exciting year as we continue to work to make our school even better! I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our staff, to thank you all for your very kind Christmas gifts. It is not expected that you give gifts and we have been overwhelmed by your generosity. It is nice to be appreciated!

We have been working hard to get our school improvement plan in place and now have both long term aims in the form of a five year strategic plan as well as specific goals for this year. Our main priorities for the remainder of this year are:

To raise standards for pupils by improving and further developing the quality of teaching & learning across the federation and;

To enable children to be accountable for, and take ownership of their learning through the teaching of a range of learning skills (metacognition).

(Google '*Building Learning Power*' by Professor Guy Claxton if you can't wait to find out more about this.....)

These objectives are planned in conjunction with our local authority advisor, the diocesan board of education and with input from our governing board and we will be reporting back on our successes regularly supported by a range of evidence. We will be working towards these objectives through identified achievable termly milestones and will continually evaluate and measure the impact of our actions towards meeting these. We will be asking for both your and your children's input and feedback as we progress through our plans and will keep you informed and updated. We look forward to doing things differently....and better!

If you want any further information about our improvement plans feel free to contact Mrs Helm, Mrs Kilty or Mrs King.

Staff Federation Responsibilities- The names of the teachers who have responsibility for a subject area across the federation should you need to contact anyone for information or support. More to follow in the next newsletter!

Maths Leader – Anna Ricketts

English Leader- Nadia Arnold

Science Leader- Leanne Griffin

Inclusion Leader (Additional learning needs and pupil premium provision)- Bernie Kilty

Assessment Leader- Clare King

We are looking to increase parental involvement across both of our schools. We realise there is a wealth of talent out there within our parent community and would love you to come and share it with us in one or both schools if you have some spare time. Speak to your child's class teacher or email our admin team to let us know how you feel you could get involved. You could come and hear readers, help out in the forest, teach us a new skill, share your hobby, lead a project, tell us about your adventures.....

Sarah Helm

Executive Head teacher

The Wye Forest Federation

Daisy and Poppy Class

Poppy class and Daisy class have had a fantastic day exploring our new Polar topic. A huge thank you to Mrs Bishop for bringing in Malik the husky dog for us to see.



Speedwell Class

Speedwell class were introduced to their new topic 'Who us inspired by the forest?' by a trip to forest school. The children were asked to think about how the forest inspires us. The children then created a piece of art work to show how the forest inspires them. The children then had some fun exploring the forest and discovering how fun it can be!



Foxglove Class

Foxglove had an exciting start to their topic by choosing natural tools from outside to chip away at a frozen message in a bottle. When they retrieved the message it was in Japanese! It's lucky that our class book this term is Kensuke's Kingdom that has a Japanese character, maybe he'll help?

Foxglove then designed and created boats that had to float and carry weight using only limited materials, we were hoping they would be safe and sturdy like the boat in our new story!

Mrs Ricketts

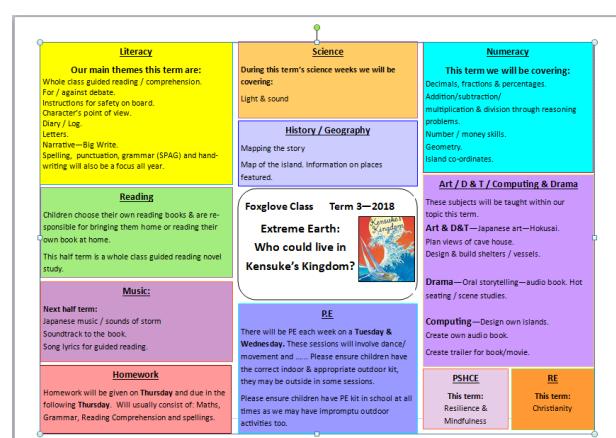


Topic Webs

Topic webs for each class will be emailed out early next week.

You will hopefully notice that they are in a similar format. Following feedback from parents we have formatted the topic webs so that the positions of the subjects are in the same place and colour, so that you can easily identify the information for example about PE on the same place for each class.

We hope that this makes it easier for you.



Dates for your diary:

Sunflowers Closed

Monday 8th Jan 2018

Daisy & Poppy Class—Bristol Zoo

Monday 29th January 2018

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 2nd February 2018

Half Term

Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February 2018

Inset Day -

Monday 19th February 2018

Back to School -

Tuesday 20th February 2018

Our Value this Term

Please continue to help the children to understand the importance of showing courage.



Governors

At the Full Governing Body meeting on 5th December, the annual election for chair and vice-chairs was undertaken by the new clerk.

We are really pleased to announce that we have a new Chair of Governors—Mr Phil Hall. The vice chairs remain Mr David Rees and Mr Chris McFarling.

Thanks were given to Mr Jerry Maltman for the huge amount of time and effort undertaken as Chair to the Governors, especially in light of no clerk.

We hope to be able to put more information from the Governors in forthcoming Newsletters.

If you wish to contact the governors then please email

clerk@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

chair@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

Parent Council

I am thinking of setting up a 'Parent Council'. This would be a group of interested parents who would meet termly with me, Mrs Helm to have input into school plans, both long and shorter term, to enable feedback to be shared from parents and to answer any questions. Ideally this would be at least one parent from each class who would come along to represent and share information from and with the parents of their child's class. Parents would put forward items for the agenda as would I. It is anticipated that the meetings would be approximately 1 hour in length, tea and coffee provided! If enough people are interested in opening this as a channel of further communication please leave your name at the office. Should the interest in this mean that it is to run then we will look at days and times to suit the majority and plan to begin early in the new term.

Facebook/Social Media

It has come to our attention that there have been posts on Facebook which either name individual staff members or are detrimental to the school. We are a small community and we all take pride in our fantastic village school. Criticisms are natural—sometimes things go wrong but we would far rather parents and community members approached us directly with any concerns rather than post them on social media where we have little control over how far and wide these messages are spread. Other schools have been in the unfortunate position where they have had to take action to stop malicious content being spread as it is hugely damaging to the school community and its wider reputation as well as being deeply upsetting for everyone who strives to make our school a happy and safe environment for the children.

We will be issuing some guidelines in the coming weeks over the safe use of social media but in the meantime if you have any queries please contact us on admin@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk.

PTA News

Happy New Year everyone! Christmas whizzed by, and here we are heading for Spring. The PTA had a fantastic Christmas Term, with two PJ parties for little ones, a PJ party for mums (hilarious!), the Bring Your Parents To School Restaurant, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas Medley, aprons and book bags..... all in all very busy, but very productive. We had a lot of fun, and raised almost £3000 into the bargain!! The last orders for aprons and book bags are being sorted and will go in book bags early next week.

And so we move on to the Spring. Coming up over the next few months we will have more PJ Parties, a Zumbathon, Book Fayre, a Bollywood night and a Mother's Day treat. We will also be continuing the PTA Choir, now known as the Bella Mamas, whose debut performance at the Christmas Medley was a TRIUMPH! We'd really like to get more of you involved, whether that's joining the choir, helping to plan an event, or even running your own event, so do please get in touch and let us know what you can do.

Jo and the PTA Team.