



St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary Newsletter

No 105 March 26th 2026

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

Thank you to those of you who joined us for our Easter services today. I am always extremely proud of the children at these events and their singing never fails to move me. I hope you too were able to take something away for the Easter season from our words and music.

Our value in school this term has been courage and there have been so many examples of courage being lived out in school amongst our children.

At the start of the month Max in Year 5 and Sophie in Y3 took part in the Gloucestershire speaking competition: 'Look Who's Talking'. Having been through the heats in school, talking to their classes and then their key stage, Max and Sophie took their talks to St Whites and confidently spoke (- Max completed a Rubiks Cube at the same time!) in front of many children and their parents from schools around the Forest. They were superb! Whilst they didn't win, their courage to stand up and present their interests to a large audience was admirable. We look forward to entering the competition again next year.

Just over a week ago, many of our Year 6 children went to Dean Academy to take part in our first netball tournament that saw the school enter two teams. Having been coached by Jade, Barbara and Tory over six weeks, they set out to compete against many other Forest schools. Jade sent me a beautiful email after the tournament to let me know that,

'Throughout the entire tournament they showed incredible sportsmanship - supporting one another, encouraging each other, and representing the school exceptionally well. It was amazing to see them develop their skills with every game. They really made us proud!'

The children have made us really proud too! They are a credit to us and their families. An immense thank you to the fabulous ladies that prepared the children for this event and encouraged them to try something new – you have all had an incredible impact on these children – thank you!

Finally, last week we had our annual Federation Day where both Redbrook and St Briavels came together to prepare for our Malvern garden. We split our schools into mixed groups, taking children from each year group and school and assigned them an adult who took them round a number of activities throughout the day. I love to see how this day brings our two communities together, to see how the children flourish as one and work on a common purpose. The team that organises and puts on this event are to be admired and we are ever amazed by the workshops the children get to do and the level of organisation it takes to bring such a successful day together. Thank you to all who made this day possible. We now look forward to seeing the garden come to life in a few weeks' time and celebrating all of your hard work at the show in May.

As we head into the holidays, may I wish you all a safe, happy and restful break and I look forward to seeing everyone back in two weeks' time.

With love

Natalie Frey

Executive Headteacher

Sunflowers



The Sunflower children had a lovely walk down to the church in St Briavels to look at the beautiful stained glass windows. This supported them gaining ideas of how to make and decorate Easter cards and enhance their small world play.



Thank you to the Jomain Family for bringing their ducklings in for the Sunflower children to learn about and stroke, starting our life cycle topic beautifully.



Thank you Tim Matthews for letting the children explore your farm, splashing in the stream, meeting and feeding the animals, finding and identifying bugs, learning how to light a camp fire safely and then cook marshmallows on it. We had a brilliant day.





A massive 'Thank You' to a member of our community who very kindly donated a couple of trees and crafted 9 amazing rustic chairs for our outdoor area. The children are really enjoying using them; they really enhance the children's play as well as being a great place to have a rest.

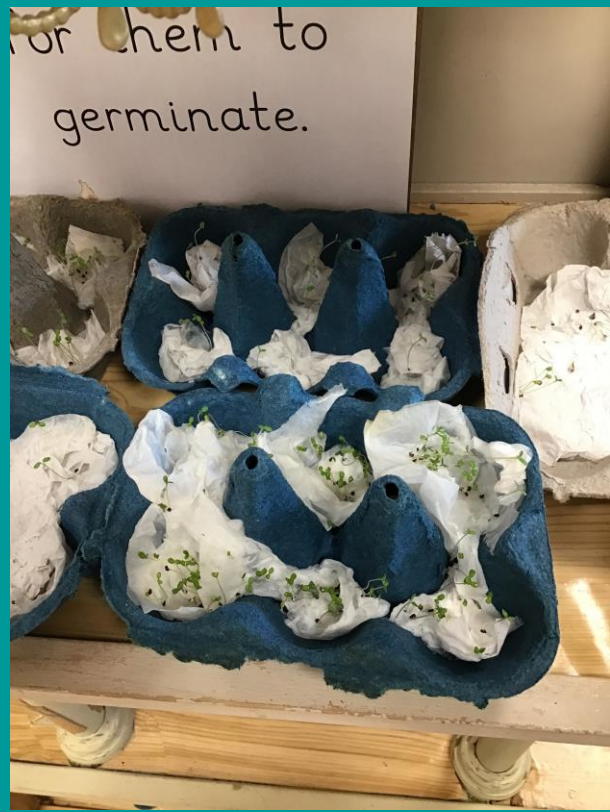


Bluebell Class



This term Reception have been finding out about how plants grow and how every plant starts with a seed. We have grown cress, sown sweet peas and have made a potato maze. Their writing has been all about seeds and they are doing very well with their letter formation. Y1 have been finding out about the weather in our locality and have been finding out about animals and their similarities and difference. We had a special visit from Lex Naylor, who brought us some reptiles to see and feel. We were also very lucky to meet some extraordinary bugs and have a lesson all about nits! We also had a visit from Elodie's mum who very kindly brought in some ducklings for us to see.

Please be aware that the Forest School kits may need refreshing for lighter weight fabrics next term. The children need to keep their arms and legs covered during Forest School sessions to protect them from insect bites.





Daisy Class



Daisy Class have had an amazing half term.

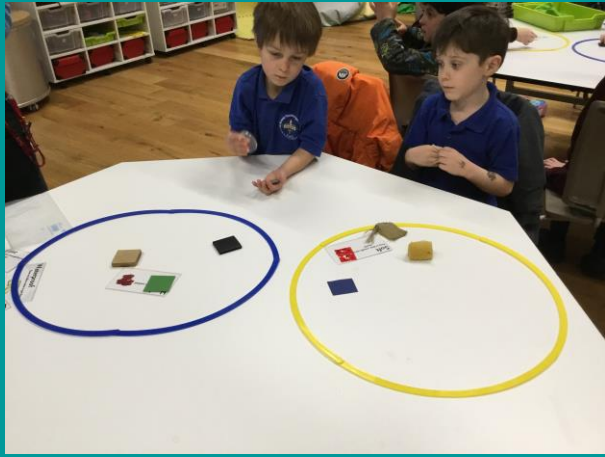
It all started with our trip to Bristol Aerospace. The children loved seeing all the different planes and were blown away by the size of Concorde. They enjoyed an interactive workshop and guided tour of the museum.

They have really enjoyed our books in English this half term about a bear and a piano and Tadpoles Promise. This did not end the way we all thought it would!

In Geography, we have been learning all about the weather and created our own weather forecasts.

Mrs Critchley







Poppy Class



Poppy class have been enjoying going out and about using our local community as the basis for part of our learning this term.

In Geography we have been comparing Urban and Rural areas and looking at land use in our village, and in RE we have been comparing the two Christian Worship buildings in our village to see whether “All Christians believe and behave in the same ways.”

We had a walk around our village and were able to visit both the Parish Church and the Congregational Chapel whilst looking at our village and how land is used.





We were also very pleased to be able to interview both Reverend David and Pastor Matt from the two worship buildings to help us to try to answer our RE question.



For English we have been looking at “Cloud Tea Monkey” and enjoyed a tea tasting session to begin our work.

Mrs Kilty



This term, Poppy Class children have really enjoyed planning, designing and creating cushions of different shapes. Once they had planned their cushion, they then sewed their designs onto their cushion, using a process called ‘Appliqué’

Then they sewed the two pieces of cushion together, leaving a small gap for the stuffing. A huge thank you to all the parents who came along to help!

Mrs Cawte, Mrs Kilty & Mrs Morse



Speedwell Class



Another busy term is coming to an end. With the weather warming up, the children have enjoyed spending more time outdoors and getting back onto the field. In PE, they have been building on their tennis skills and as a team work challenge the children had to create a fitness circuit for others to test out. There were lots of very creative ideas for jumping, throwing and running challenges! We all loved another wonderful World Book Day with great dress-up efforts and plenty of book chat going on. In Geography, we have been exploring deserts to decide whether it would be a nice environment to live in or not, and in Science it's been a busy term full of experiments investigating states of matter and changes of materials.

One of this term's highlights was definitely our trip to Bears Farm right at the start of the term. We were so lucky to meet two working horses and the children loved testing their own strength

too! The walk back across the fields was enjoyed by all, even if there were a lot of tired legs once we got back!

Happy Easter everyone!

Mrs Lindqvist







Foxglove Class



This term very much feels like a 'blink and you miss it' moment. I'm still not quite sure where those five weeks have gone! One thing we have enjoyed in Foxglove is seeing the sun again. It's raised all our spirits, especially as we close in on those dreaded SATs next term. The children have all worked extremely hard and they should be proud of the progress they are making.

This term we've enjoyed getting outside with a range of PE activities from hockey and football to netball and tennis. Inside the classroom we've been looking in more depth at deserts in Geography and Islam in RE. English has seen us create some amazing legends about Beowulf and the fearsome monsters he defeated and even tried our hand at creating our own.

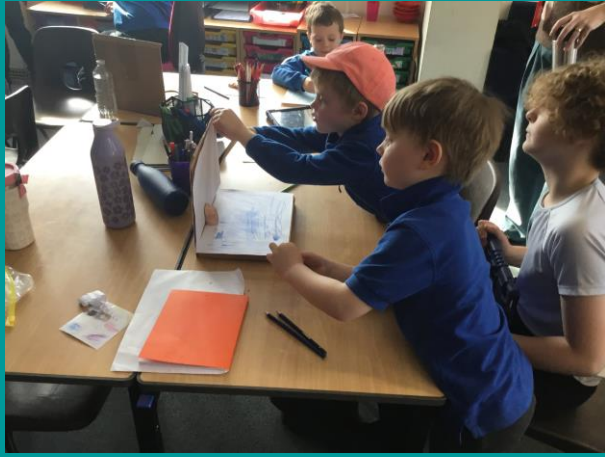
Our trip to Barse Farm was another wonderful experience and I know all of the class enjoyed the chance to see the working horses and just go for a walk ourselves.

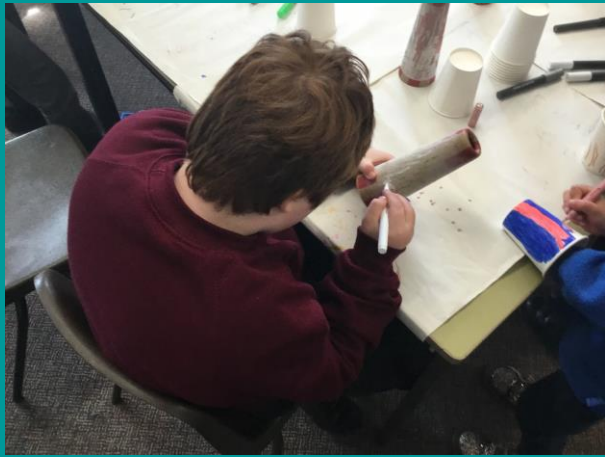
I hope everyone has a lovely Easter break.



Federation Day

In preparation for our Malvern Garden entry we came together as a Federation to look in depth at some of the myths and legends incorporated in our garden. Throughout the day we painted and crafted various things linked to the garden, some of which will be used in the final entry.









Forest Sports Panathlon

A group of our children enjoyed taking part in the Forest of Dean Panathlon event, held at Hartpury College. There were a range of events for them to try, including Kurling, Bowling, Basketball throw & Parachute games. The children were a credit to our school and had lots of fun!





Extra visitors for our Easter Service



ELSA News



Helping Our Children Sleep Well

Sleep plays a vital role in children’s health, wellbeing, and ability to learn. For primary school-aged children, getting enough high-quality sleep is just as important as eating well and staying active. However, we’ve noticed that some children are arriving at school feeling tired and finding it difficult to concentrate, often because they are staying up too late—sometimes using screens or playing on games consoles.

How Much Sleep Do Children Need?

Children in primary school (roughly ages 5–11) should typically get between 9 and 11 hours of sleep each night. This amount helps support their growing bodies, developing brains, and emotional wellbeing. When children don’t get enough sleep, they may struggle with attention, behaviour, memory, and overall learning in the classroom.

Why Sleep Matters for Learning

A well-rested child is more likely to:

- Focus better in lessons
- Retain new information
- Manage their emotions effectively
- Feel motivated and engaged

On the other hand, children who are overtired may appear restless, distracted, or withdrawn, which can impact their progress and confidence at school.

The Impact of Screens and Late Nights

We are increasingly seeing children who are tired due to late nights spent on tablets, phones, or games consoles such as PlayStations. Screens can make it harder for children to fall asleep because the light they emit interferes with the body’s natural sleep signals. Exciting or stimulating games can also make it difficult for children to wind down. When children regularly go to bed too late,

even if they seem fine at home, it often shows the next day in school through reduced concentration and lower energy levels.

Building Healthy Sleep Routines

Establishing a consistent bedtime routine can make a big difference. Here are some helpful tips:

- Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time, even on weekends where possible
- Create a calming bedtime routine, such as reading a book or taking a warm bath
- Avoid screens at least one hour before bed
- Keep bedrooms quiet, dark, and comfortable
- Limit sugary snacks and drinks in the evening
- Encourage relaxing activities before bed, rather than energetic play or gaming

Working Together

Good sleep habits are a partnership between home and school. By helping children develop consistent routines and limiting late-night screen use, we can support them to feel more alert, happy, and ready to learn each day.

Have a wonderful Easter and remember not too much chocolate before bedtime!

Mrs Hill (ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)

Pig Race Thank You!





A big thank you to everyone who came to the race, who sponsored pigs and bought raffle tickets. We raised over £800 which will go towards paying for transport costs to Malvern Show.

Thank you also to Miss Taylor and Mrs Kilty and everyone else who helped organise the evening, much appreciated. Thank you!

PTA news - thank you!

A big thank you to Gemma and team for another fun Disco!

Dates for your diaries

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

Thurs 26 Mar - Bluebell visit to Bears Farm

Thurs 26 Mar - Poppy Class Cake Sale

Fri 27 Mar - Easter Service at St Briavels Church - Early years / KS1 9am, KS2 10.30am, see email for info

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 27 Mar

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 13 April

Wed 22 April - Class and Year 6 Leavers Photographs

Mon 4 May - Bank Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED

Wed 6 May - Year 1 Phonics Information Meeting - info to follow

Mon 11 May - Thurs 14 May Yr 6 SATS

Tues 19 May - Rags to Riches collection day - info to follow

Thurs 21 May - Bluebell Class Cake Sale - info to follow

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 22 May

Mon 1 June - INSET day - school closed

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Tues 2 June

Tues 9 June - Year 6 Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral

Wed 1 July - Fri 3 July London Residential

Sat 11th July 12-2pm School Fete

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 17 July

Mon 20 July - INSET

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Thurs 3 Sept 2026

Term Dates 2025/26

Please note these are for the academic year starting in September 2025 .

Term dates can be found on our website here:

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

Term Dates 2025/26

SEPTEMBER

Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tues	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

OCTOBER

Mon		6	13	20	27
Tues		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thur	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

NOVEMBER

Mon		3	10	17	24
Tues		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thur		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30

DECEMBER

Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tues	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

JANUARY

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tues		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

FEBRUARY

Mon		2	9	16	23
Tues		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thur		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun	1	8	15	22	

MARCH

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tues		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

APRIL

Mon		6	13	20	27
Tues		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thur	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

MAY

Mon		4	11	18	25
Tues		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31

JUNE

Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tues	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

JULY

Mon		6	13	20	27
Tues		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thur	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

AUGUST

Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tues		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		Inset Days	