



# St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School Newsletter

*Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be*



No. 81, 17th February 2022

[www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk](http://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk)

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a term that has been much marked by Covid and I sit isolating at home, it strikes me how fortunate we truly are.

This term has seen staff and families pull together like never before and I couldn't be more grateful for the community we have around us living out our school's Christian scripture: *'Love thy neighbour as yourself'* Mark 12:31.

From the wonderful response to my role at the federation being made permanent; the support of our PTA and community during our Ground Force weekend; the new books we were able to buy as a result of last year's book fair; the incredible and creative response from our parents to closing Daisy class when their teacher had Covid; and the generosity of Katherine Nelson-Brown and her team at Perrygrove. I genuinely can't thank you all enough. My heart is filled with blessings and the children at our school are all the richer for your contributions to our work.

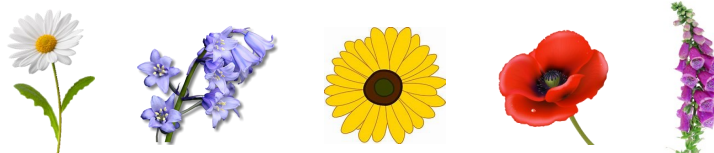
As always, we now start to look forward to what the next term will bring. We start back with a Wellbeing Week for children which will encourage them to find ways to look after their own mental health and give them tools for when it is not as good as it should be. In that week we also have the much anticipated World Book Day with its annual dressing up opportunity. Books can be such a wonderful escape for children and also a way to find themselves, what better way to support wellbeing? I hope too that you will embrace our sponsored read. This is going to be a wonderful springboard to encouraging children and families to read more at home together.

Next term also sees the start of Lent, the time leading up to Easter. We will be thinking about the theme of Justice in our worships and I look forward to sharing with you our Easter Service at the end of term. Spring is quietly now on its way and the sun is starting to peep through more as are the snowdrops. There is much to be optimistic about.

I wish you all a wonderful half term break and look forward to seeing everyone when we return. With love,

Natalie Frey

**Executive Head Teacher**



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## Staffing

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Hunt at the end of this term due to personal circumstances which require her to spend more time with her family. I am sure you will join with me to thank Mrs Hunt for all of her hard work with Daisy class this year. She has been a joy to work with and a wonderful teacher.

We have worked extremely hard to fill the gap that Mrs Hunt will leave in our team and are delighted that Miss Hilma Lindqvist will be joining us to teach Daisy class Monday – Wednesday after half term and Ms Amy Davies will be returning to the class to teach on Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Lindqvist is a highly experienced Key Stage 1 teacher and Ms Davies knows the children well already, having taught them during the autumn term. I am sure you will all make Miss Lindqvist feel very welcome and she looks forward to meeting you all in due course.

## Sunflower



This term the Sunflower children have been absorbed in their core texts, 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' and 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. The children have learnt so many new descriptive words for their environment and experienced going through thick oozy mud, a pretend river and a snow storm and found a big furry bear (Lizzie in a fur coat).



The children have also found out that it is not a great idea to invite a tiger into your house as he eats not just one sandwich but **all** the sandwiches on the plate and not just one bun but **all** of the buns on the dish. The Pre-school children had a wonderful trip to the Oakey Dokey Café for squash and a cake.



We have also been celebrating Chinese new year, by making our own lanterns, red gift pockets, Willow pattern plates and decorating a variety of tiger and dragon pictures. The children have tested their problem solving skills at snack time by using chop sticks to pick up their rice and noodles and they have been extending their independence skills by dressing up in traditional Chinese clothing. (see photos overleaf)



Contd....



## Bluebell Class

We are full steam ahead with our planning of this years' **RHS Malvern garden**. The children's amazing ideas have been combined and the picture is a rough idea of what we are aiming to achieve. As always, we will hold a Federation day in early April (at St. Briavels) with lots of activities to kick start the making of our entry. This project has been very successful in the past , with lots of brilliant learning opportunities for all the pupils. We do require lots of support from our community too, so if you are able to help by dividing and donating plants from your garden, growing plants at home from seed or have a willow tree that is suitable for coppicing, to make our giant Queen's hat, then please do get in touch.' **Mr Gazzard**



## Daisy Class



Daisy class have really enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London this term! We became detectives by working out how the Great Fire started, using clues to help us.

Our class book, '**Pattan's Pumpkin**' by Chitra Soundar has really inspired us to write our own stories this term. We have been focusing on descriptive vocabulary for characters and setting. We innovated parts from the original story, and wrote our very own, changing the characters.

A big thank you to **Jo**, who has been coming in to read with us again this term!

Daisy class love sharing out of school achievements with one another - do remember to send them into school so we can celebrate together!

A big **thank you** also to **Ollie** from the Gloucestershire Cricket board for coming in and doing a super cricket session!



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## Poppy Class

Poppy class had a fabulous time at the Egyptian centre in Swansea. We were able to enjoy working out Egyptian mathematics and how to mummify someone! A huge thanks to Miss Snoaden, Mrs Crompton, Claire Deacon, Mrs Taylor, Charlotte Bishop and Heidi Vaughan for their wonderful support.

**Mrs Kear**



## Speedwell Class

Speedwell have had a fun start to 2022. We've been learning all about Early Islamic Civilisation and the importance of Baghdad in both trade and learning. This week and the next we are looking at States of Matter (Y4) and Properties and Changes in Materials (Y5).

Our attempt to create a lava lamp showed us how liquids separate based on their densities, and everyone particularly enjoyed watching how mixing bicarbonate soda and vinegar produces enough CO<sub>2</sub> to put out a fire!

Myself and the rest of Speedwell want to take the opportunity to congratulate all three girls for their fantastic effort with the recent cross-country competition. They all did fantastically, and we can't wait for to see them compete again.

**Mr Ford**



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## Foxglove

This term Foxglove have been embracing challenge in our learning. In English, the children have been developing their debating skills based on the book 'Pig Heart Boy'. They had to use their oracy skills to face challenge from opposing sides of the argument and did so in a very articulate manner! I

In Maths, we have been deepening our learning of fractions and facing challenges when multiplying and dividing fractions and learning new written methods of multiplication and division.

In History, we have been learning about the Early Islamic Civilisation, which, for most of the children, was an area of the curriculum they knew little about and therefore faced the challenge of learning and remembering new knowledge.

Foxglove also deserve praise for some work outside of the curriculum this term. We had a group of children who took part in the next stage of the Forest of Dean cross-country event in Newent, all of whom performed extremely well with one student from Foxglove even qualifying for the County cross-country event in March! We are very proud of all of them.

Our Foxglove digital leaders have been hard at work this term and have researched, prepared and delivered E-safety assemblies to both KS1 and KS2 children, all self-led! This is a huge achievement and they should be proud of themselves for using their initiative to do such an important thing for the whole school.

We look forward to another amazing term after the February break. Well done, everybody!

**Mrs Woods**



**Luka and Xavi Parsons** raised £12.45 for the PTA by selling some of their toys and books they no longer needed.

Many thanks to **Katherine Nelson-Brown**, parent of Lily and Tom, who donated railway sleepers to St Briavels to be used in the playground, also a huge thank you to all who helped out over the weekend!



### Please **HELP!**

We are needing child size football boots and shin pads, mainly KS2 sizes. If you have any you would be happy to donate please bring them to the office! Many thanks!

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## **PTA NEWS**

As we inch towards some sort of normality returning, we at PTA Towers are itching to get our fundraising hats back on alongside planning all the other fun stuff we love.

We will have had a PTA meeting by the time you read this and I've no doubt there will now be some cracking ideas from our St Bs families to get our teeth into in the future!

What is set in stone for the Spring term is **World Book Day and the sponsored Readathon**. The children will have brought or will be bringing their sponsorship forms home and we aim to make this as successful as last year's Sponsorathon! They'll get the chance to have '*cosy up with a book*' time at school on WBD (look out for PTA members in full costume serving warm drinks and cookies.....) and also time at home to complete their reading challenges. **The Scholastic Book Fair** will follow later in the month and I'd imagine the children will be full of inspired literary vim and vigour by then as they shop for new books!

March will bring a **curry and quiz night** – a not-to-be-missed evening! Plus **Rags2Riches** will be collecting and there will be a **Mothers Day craft event** to raise funds for the school's entry to the **RHS Malvern Spring Festival** competition. Details to follow so watch this space!

A huge thank you to everyone who turned up for the **Ground Force weekend**. It just goes to show how much we can achieve as a community. I know the children can't wait for the new Trim Trail to be installed at the end of March and it wouldn't have happened without your contribution to fundraising and all the hands on help you've provided. We have further plans to improve our children's playground which will be shared as they take shape.

Another thank you goes to **Luca and Xavi Parsons** who recently ran a book sale with all their proceeds going to the PTA! Thank you boys – your continued support is much appreciated!

A third thanks to Caroline Smith for running her second successful **Family Games Afternoon**. A massive hit with the kids yet again! Who needs tablets??

PTA support and funds play a massive part in ensuring our children get the most out of their short time at primary school. From the Trim Trail and Ground Force weekend to the drama workshops and Panto at Christmas to science equipment, library and core books to leavers hoodies and snacks for school trips. We're all part of the PTA (which really just exists to co ordinate all the good will you generate!). So thank you for all your support and have a great half term!

**The PTA team**

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## Dates For Your Diary Feb 2022—April 2022

Some dates subject to change—please check letters home and website for updates

Date	Event
Friday February 18th	Last day of term
Monday February 28th	INSET
Tuesday March 1st	First day of term
Thursday March 3rd	– World Book Day – children to dress up as their favourite book character
Monday and Tuesday March 28th and 29th	Parents evenings
Monday and Tuesday April 4 to 5th	PGL trip for those Yr5&6 signed up
Friday April 8th	Last day of term
Monday April 25th	First day of term
Thursday April 28th	Sports for Skills - Olympic Athlete Visit



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