

91 St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School Newsletter

No 91 December 21st 2023

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

This time of year is extremely special in our Church of England school and it brings together our families and children to reflect on the Christian story of Jesus' birth as well as to celebrate through performances, song and prayer. Many of the children have become increasingly excited as the month of December has progressed and activities in our classrooms have at times moved away from our normal curriculum to reflect this: decorations have been put up, cards have been made and time to celebrate the successes of the term has been put aside.

None of this, of course, happens without the love and absolute dedication from the staff team and I couldn't be more grateful to them and those who have helped us to make our school successful over the past term. Their hard work and commitment to the children is remarkable and I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all a restful and very happy Christmas.

As we finish the term with our Christingle service, we pause as we light candles and a sense of calm falls over us as we sing together:

*Hope of heaven, in our darkness,
you came to earth bringing peace and life.*

*Hope of heaven, full of kindness,
come shine your light in this candle that I hold.*

This is one of my favourite events of the year, a final spiritual moment with the children, one full of hope and love, before going home to my own family.

May I wish you all a Christmas full of love, light, kindness and hope, however you choose to spend the time together. I look forward to seeing everyone return in January with new resolutions and ready to 'Love, Learn, Live'.

With kindest regards

Natalie Frey

Sunflowers



This term has been another very busy term for the Sunflower children. All of the children joined in with the sponsored bike/trike/buggy ride around the big playground, counting the laps as they went and cheering their friends on.

The children are becoming very engaged with story telling and making up their own characters and story ideas.

The children also learnt about Diwali and joined in with some traditions and activity making.

This term half of the children have been visiting the woods and going on welly walks and the other half of the children have been exploring music with Rosie in a variety of ways inside and out.



1 - Sponsored bike and trike ride



2 - Listening to friends tell stories



3 - Getting snug and looking at books



4 - Learning about Sita and Rama



5 - Making clay Diyas



6 - Exploring and mark making in different colours and textures.



7 - Making Clay animals in the woods



8 - Making clay robots and animals.



9 - On a welly walk the children were able to see into the back of the post van.



10 - The children were captivated by the massive drum.



11 - The children took it upon themselves to make their own exercise routine.

Bluebell Class



Bluebell Class performed their Nativity to the whole school and to parents. Well done Bluebell children and a big 'thank you' to all the adults who helped the children learn their parts and for providing costumes if asked.

Daisy Class



What an autumn it has been! The children have worked so hard in all they have done. Our trip to Chepstow Drill Hall was wonderful. The children loved the story that got everyone up and dancing. We were super proud of the children's efforts to put together our Whoops-a-Daisy performance and they did so well! We have also had a Circus Skills session where the children got to practise juggling. The concentration was real! But now, it is time for a break and Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all of you from Miss Wilson, Miss Taylor and Mrs Lindqvist





Poppy Class



Poppy class have had such a busy half term. We have been learning all about volcanoes and have made fantastic 3d cross sections.

We have also been very lucky to have Ellie Van der Heijden in each week to inspire us with some amazing STEM activities - a huge thank you from all of Poppy class.

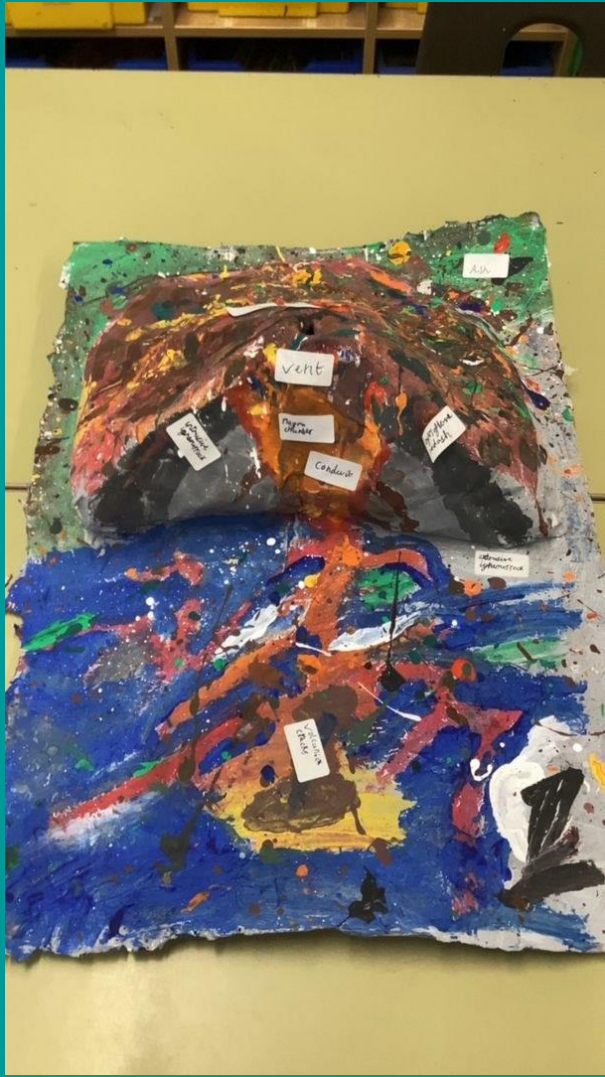
We were very fortunate to have Miss Anderson and Miss George as student teachers in our class and we wish them all the luck in the world as they continue their journey.

Everyone in Poppy class would like to thank Erica's dad for making us the most amazing 3d printed pencil pots - they are fantastic!

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

Mrs Kear







Speedwell Class

Speedwell Class have had a fun term learning about forces and the properties of materials in science. Most recently, we've been looking at sound and investigating how it travels through different materials. They certainly enjoyed sticking their heads in water and seeing if they could still hear! In geography, we've learnt how to use 4 and 6 figure grid references and built up to creating our own treasure map that we can navigate using these.

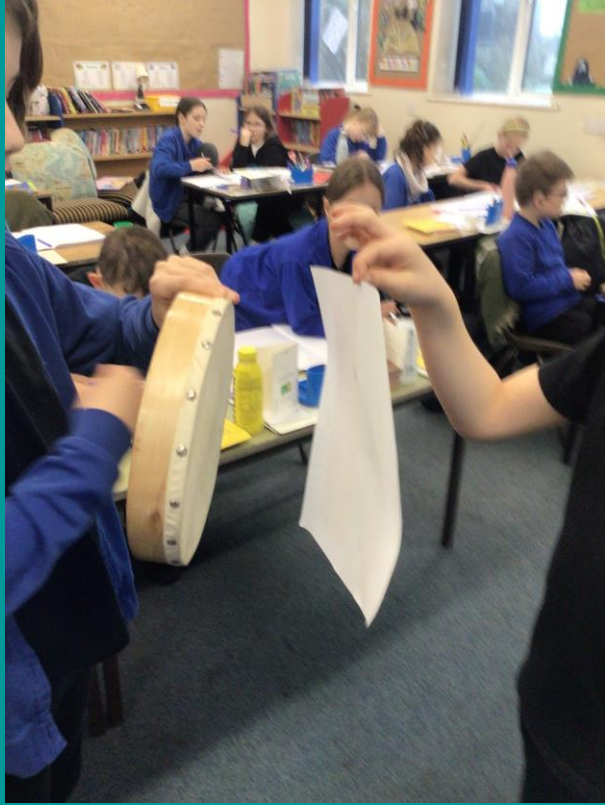
In English this term we have been looking at 'The Quest' by Aaron Becker. During this we built up to writing our own quest making sure to focus on the vocabulary we use and trying to imagine ourselves in the place of our characters. We also looked at speech and how not to overuse this during our writing.

Speedwell have loved swimming this term and I've been really pleased to see the progress they've all made during the term.

I want to take the time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all after the break!

Mr Ford





Foxglove Class



Wow what a half term! Foxglove Class have had a great term learning about forces and electricity in science, 4 figure and 6 figure grid references in geography and are looking forward to creating a Christmas scene in DT.

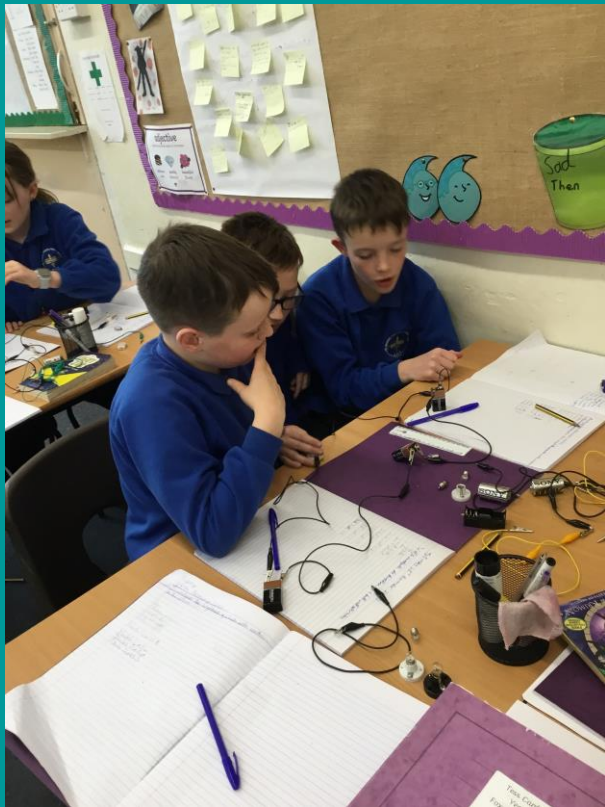
In English this term we have been using the book 'Stay Where You Are And Then Leave' by John Boyne. We have written survival narrative and explanations texts. We have really enjoyed learning a little about World War 1 through the book.

The children have enjoyed creating team games in PE and shown great team working skills.

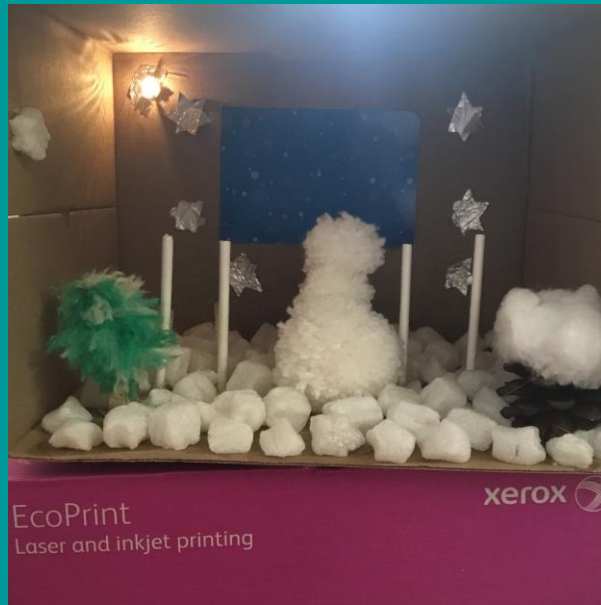
Foxglove Class had a super session learning to juggle as part of a circus skills session.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Critchley







ELSA News



Wow, I can't believe it's Christmas already, it only seemed a few weeks ago we were coming back from Summer. It's been a great term in the ELSA room and I've enjoyed getting to know some new

pupils a bit better. This term some of children have been focussing on what anger feels like in their bodies and thinking of strategies to help them manage their angry feelings. Some fabulous ideas they've come up with and use is:

- Finger breathing
- Scribble on paper and/or rip it up
- Squeeze an orange or playdoh
- Using 'I statements' and talk to a trusted adult

For more information on using 'I statements', please visit: <https://constructiveparenting.com/>

I hope you all enjoy the festive season and look forward to seeing everyone back in 2024!

Mrs Hill

Choir

It's been a busy term for Team Choir!

We've welcomed in 16 new recruits with the vast majority of Year 3 now fully fledged choristers. We've been learning a ton of songs which we'll be singing at Young Voices in Birmingham next month proudly representing our amazing school! We have over 60 family members going along to support the gang so it promises to be a fun evening!

Our Christmas events have been a huge success. We sang at the Fayre; the Chapel; Coco and Bliss at Lydney's lights turn on; Perrygrove; Taurus Crafts; the village lights turn on; with the Caldicot Male Voice Choir; the Memory Café and of course our fabulous sold out Christmas Concert at the Assembly Rooms!

Thank you so much to all the artists who took part and helped make it such an amazing evening. We raised over £400! Thank you very much to the PTA for their donation of £300. We were also successful in our application to the Parish Council for a grant to help cover the costs of running the choir and granted £450.

So along with the parents donations we can head into 2024 with financial confidence! A huge thanks to the choir families for their support in helping on Thursday rehearsals and for bringing the children to the many events we've had this month, and thank you to Mrs Frey for backing us. Here's to loads more singing fun in 2024!

Have a great Christmas from all at Team Choir.

Claire, Charlotte, Caroline and Olivia x



12 - At the Christmas Fayre



13 - At Coco and Bliss



14 - With the Caldicott Male Voice Choir



15 - At the fab Christmas Concert

Forest Foodbank

Forest Foodbank Hours

During the Christmas week the only centre that will be open will be Cinderford on the 28th December at the Forest Community church 1-3pm. It doesn't matter which centre a voucher has been issued to, people can still collect their food from Cinderford. Lydney and Coleford distribution centres will be closed on 26th and 27th December.

To get help look on our website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to us.

From the Foodbank

Dates for your diaries

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

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Monday January 8th

Friday 19 January - Poppy Class trip to Egyptian Museum- Please make payment and provide consent on ParentPay

Friday 2 Feb - NSPCC Number Day & Parents Maths Morning- 9am – 9:30am, come and undertake =maths challenges in class with your child

Wednesday 7 February - School Photos

Thursday 8 February - Speedwell Class Cake Sale

HALF TERM - Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Monday 4 March - Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm - More info to follow

Wednesday 6 March - Parents Evening 3:30pm-6:30pm - More info to follow

Thursday 7 March - World Book Day - More info to follow

Thursday 21 March - Poppy Class Cake Sale

Friday 22 March - Easter Services - More info to follow

EASTER HOLIDAY Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Monday April 8th

We update key dates on our website (www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk), please check there and in your emails for notifications

Term Dates 2023-2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET days	