



Redbrook Church of England Primary School Newsletter



No. 78, 21st July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of another academic year. One where there have been many challenges and changes along the way for our school and federation.

Our Federation vision:

'Our federation is a safe place where we embrace and enjoy challenge; take ownership of our own learning; collaborate and support each other whilst striving together to be the best we can be in order to flourish now and in the future.'

has kept us grounded as we have navigated our way through these times and as a team we feel all the stronger for having it to guide us.

In addition to our federation vision, we have developed a distinct vision for both of our schools to help us reflect on their uniqueness.

At Redbrook we are a school that: **'Nurtures Family and is Diverse in Learning'**. We felt this reflected the caring family feel of our school and diverse the nature of how our children our children learn as we embrace flexi schooling and classes where we have several year groups together. We also felt that it reflected our desire to prepare children for life beyond their families and indeed the forest and offer them opportunities to learn about the wider world that is out there. This vision is underpinned by the biblical teaching 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they're old they will not turn from it.' Proverbs 22;6 and our values, which regardless of your beliefs or indeed no beliefs I'm sure you will agree are important, of courage, compassion, respect and resilience.

As we move into the summer holidays, I'm certain many of you this year will be spending more time with your families due to Covid. I hope that you can make memories and enjoy your break at home despite the challenges that this can sometimes bring. If you do have the opportunity to travel further, then of course have a wonderful time and keep safe.

We look forward to welcoming all of the children back to school on Monday 6th September. In the meantime, take care and have a good break.

Natalie Frey
Acting Executive Head Teacher

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Staffing

All of you should have had the staffing for the school sent home with the school reports earlier this week. We are very excited to be welcoming **Miss Zainab Shera** to our school as the Robin Class teacher in September and I am sure you will make her feel very welcome when you see her on the playground. As you are all aware, **Mrs Helm** continues to be off sick at this time. We of course wish her well and keep her in our thoughts and prayers as we move into the summer holidays. With this in mind, we had to make the decision about whether to appoint a teacher for Robin Class or whether to rely on supply teachers until such time as Mrs Helm returns and I can return to the classroom. I'm sure you will all agree with me that a consistent teacher was the best possible option available to us as we were able to conduct interviews in order to get the best teacher for our school.

We also would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to **Mrs Collins** and **Ms Davis** who have stepped into the breach this term with Robin Class. Mrs Collins is now taking retirement and we wish her well as she relaxes and enjoys term time holidays and spends more time with her family in the coming months. Ms Davis has now become a permanent member of our team and will be based at St Briavels for the greater part of the week, though you may well see her at Redbook on a Friday as she supports our SEND and pupil premium provision.

We are also saying goodbye and big thank you to **Mr Chris Powell** who has been supporting us with our PE across the federation this year. He has taught all of the children many new skills and was instrumental in making our Covid friendly sports days a success – Thank you Mr Powell from all of us

Covid 19

From September, we will no longer be keeping our children in 'bubbles' and it is planned that school will return very much to normal. We will also no longer be operating staggered ends to the day and you will be welcome to return to the playground at drop off and pick up time. Obviously, with the pandemic currently taking another turn, this plan is always open to change and if anything is different to this, then we will be in touch before 6th September to let you know what will be happening.

The school will not be carrying out track and trace at the start of the school holidays this time. This is now done through the NHS. If your child does develop Covid at the start of the holidays you will be asked for contacts in school, this relates to the people they have actually been in contact with. I am keeping my fingers crossed that this won't be necessary for any of you.

Policies

Over the past term, we have been writing and reviewing many of our policies. In September, we will be launching our new attendance, behaviour and parent code of conduct policies with you. Please look out for updates about these in our first September newsletter and on our website.

Governors and FORS

It has been my absolute pleasure to work with our school governors and our FORS team this year. The governors do so much unseen work and have supported me greatly as I have taken over the running of the federation. FORS is always a tremendous support to the school both financially and practically. Their ability to raise money and fund fabulous things for our children makes such a big difference to our small school. To all of you, thank you! I hope you can take a break from school life over the summer and I look forward to working with you again in September.

Natalie Frey - Acting Executive Head Teacher

Kingfisher

We celebrated our 3 Year 6 children leaving us this year in a Leaver's Evening. The parents of Ona, Scarlett and Isla were treated to the girls reading out their memories of Redbrook School and a monologue from the play 'Into the Woods' they have each been working on. Thank you for all you have brought to Redbrook girls. WE shall miss you very much and wish you all well in the next exciting part of your adventure!



The Kingfishers filmed their play 'Into the Woods' last week – scene by scene.

The children worked incredibly hard to learn a phenomenal amount of lines and characterised their parts with gusto. Traffic, garden strimmers, rain and the occasional chinook sometimes hampered filming and literally stopped (the) play but we soldiered on and are proud of our performance. We are in the process of uploading and linking all the scenes together and will be sending it out to you all once it has been completed. We hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed creating it! **Miss Collins**



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Robins



We have had a busy term in Robin class and have done some very exciting things.

We made a Sukkah in RE, which is a shelter people from the Jewish faith make during the time of Sukkot.

We have also been reading the story of Flat Stanley. We wrote stories about all of the adventures he went on when he joined us at home. In our own stories Stanley went to the park; went on woodland walks; saw some horses; played the piano and got muddy in the mud kitchen.

Last week we enjoyed Japanese week and taking part in different Japanese themed activities. We made origami flowers, learnt to count to 5 in Japanese, wrote our name, tried Sushi, did some Karate and took part in some Olympic games.



We had lovely weather for our Sports day on the field!

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FORS—Friends of Redbrook School

It's been a busy time for FORS recently!

Our impromptu ice lolly sale raised a **fantastic £34** so thanks to everyone who contributed.

The Scholastic book sale raised an **awesome £150** for the school to spend on books, so thank you for your support. And thank you to Ela Gilmour for her help in organising the event.

This week the children have been learning all about Japanese culture, ahead of the Tokyo Olympics, which has been supported by FORS funding.

And finally, we have been able to end the term on a high with a **fantastic two-day art event** led by Claudia Peake. The children have all been involved in creating some wonderful art to take home and contributed collectively to an art installation for the playground that will be in place ahead of our new term in September. Thanks to those parents who gave up their time to help run this event, it was hugely appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who has supported FORS this year, our fundraising has been great and allowed us to support the children's learning and experience in a very positive and nurturing way.

Ruth Brown



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Biking Event at Newent

Our year 6 children from St Briavels and Redbrook attended a Biking Event with other schools from across the Forest.



Wye Forest teams came **1st, 4th and 5th** out of 8 teams, well done! Drew B came **2nd** in fastest individual laps—well done to you!



Alan Beard, **Forest of Dean School Games Organiser**, wrote to us:

'School Games are changing and the emphasis of engagement, it's not just competition and who came 1st, it's the social interaction, teamwork & trying their best with a new or existing skill.

As one example my favourite moment was a St Briavels lad cycling alongside a less confident rider, to support them and take over if needed...That is what it is all about.'

Many thanks also to Chris Powell who organised and took the children and also Claire Gilmour (PTA) who volunteered to accompany. Thank you!



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Well Done!

A great big **WELL DONE** to Julia Price our school business manager, who got us £1000 of sports equipment for both schools. We took delivery of a great selection of things, including lots of pink footballs! Well done Julia you are a winner!



In September we would like to encourage all Kingfisher parents to **book your children's lunch in advance**. If you could choose with your child which lunch they would like that would help, though we do always check with the children on the day. The menu will be viewable on Parentpay. Booking in advance makes sure that you are able to keep on top of lunch payments without debt building up and saves us time.

If you have booked for a child and they are ill that day, the payment will be credited to your account so you can use it for another lunch in the future.

If you do not book, the fact that your child has taken lunch that day will be added to Parentpay, I aim to do this weekly. I will send out reminders for people who have not paid.

If you do forget to book or send a packed lunch in we will not let your child go hungry and will order a lunch for them, this will be added to your Parentpay account.

We have done really well this year for Parentpay payments this year, I'd like to say well done and thank you all!

Please do ask if you have any questions or have difficulties paying.

Anna Oliver

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TERM DATES For July 2021—January 2022



Last day of term	Wednesday 21st July
INSET	Thurs & Fri 2 & 3rd September
First day of term	Monday 6th September
Last day before half term	Friday 22nd October
First day after half term	Monday 1st November
Last day of term	Friday 17th December
Bank holiday	Monday 3rd January
INSET	Tuesday 4th January
First day of term	Wednesday 5th January 2022

Free School Meals

If you think you may qualify for free school meals please do apply for them—our school will receive extra funding for each eligible child registered. More details are attached.

Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available at:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



PADDLEBOARDING ADVENTURES
DISCOVER BALANCE IN NATURE



Many thanks to Stacie from Paddleboarding Adventures who donated a free stand up paddleboarding lesson to our last FORS school raffle. I was extremely pleased to win it and I had my lesson in July—to prove I stood up here is a (very small!) photo. I enjoyed every minute.

You can find them on Facebook at @paddleboardingadventuresuk or see their website at:

<https://paddleboardingadventures.co.uk/>

Anna Oliver

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2021/22

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

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	INSET days

Term 1: Thurs 2 nd Sept – Fri 22 nd Oct, 2021	37 days
Term 2: Mon 1 st Nov – Fri 17 th Dec 2021	35 days
Term 3: Tue 4 th Jan - Fri 18 th Feb 2022	34 days
Term 4: Mon 28 th Feb – Fri 8 th April 2022	30 days
Term 5: Mon 25 th April – Fri 27 th May 2022	24 days
Term 6: Mon 6 th June – Fri 22 nd July 2022	35 days
Total	195 days*

Christmas Bank Holidays	27 th December 2021
	28 th December 2021
New Year Bank Holiday	3 rd January 2022
Good Friday	15 th April 2022
Easter Monday	18 th April 2022
Early May Bank Holiday	2 nd May 2022
Spring Bank Holiday	2 nd June 2022
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	3 rd June 2022
Summer Bank Holiday	29 th August 2022

*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2020/21 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend).