

St Briavels Primary School Newsletter



No. 64 March 15th 2019

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

Dear All,

We had a productive meeting of the parents forum yesterday and will make the minutes available on the website as soon as the lovely Mari has had time to send them! Thanks for doing them Mari and thanks to Kelly Leech for continuing to do a fab job as chair of this group. It is a really useful forum to enable clear communication between the school community and it was brilliant to have 2 of our governors in attendance to support this.

I am delighted that Donna Dickinson has very kindly volunteered to run a school choir for us. This is going to be after school one evening and we already have a first performance planned as a federation! This is really exciting and I'm looking forward to our children engaging in and enjoying this experience. The power of singing is reputed to impact powerfully both on academic performance and, more importantly, on well-being. Donna is already working on a "Federation song" to reflect our vision of 'Striving to Be the Best we can Be'. We will be sending out a letter to ask you to indicate which night is preferred and will run the choir on the most popular evening.

Thanks for your support and donations with both World Book Day, fabulous outfits- well done everyone and Red Nose Day.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Sarah Helm, Executive Head Teacher,
The Wye Forest Federation**

Newsletter Changes

Please note that following discussion at Parent Forum, newsletters will now be coming out every term instead of every fortnight. We will be keeping parents up to date through e-mails, letters home and our website from now on. Newsletters will also be posted onto the website at www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk



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Speedwell Class



Speedwell enjoyed a fantastic robotics workshop as part of their enquiry 'Are robots better than humans?'. Various rated as "epic" and "the best ever", our learning included designing, building and assessing a moving machine with circuitry, lights and sensors, then coding it and operating it remotely; robot duels then followed!

Speedwell's learning enquiry: **'Are robots better than humans?'**

Mrs Keeling-Paglia

Poppy Class



Poppy's learning enquiry: **'What does a plant need to make it grow?'**

Poppy class are enjoying their new topic on plants and have begun an experiment observing bean growth. We already have some root shoots and are looking forward to seeing them grow and being able to eat the fruits of our labour.

Mrs Kear

School Gardening

We have achieved a level 1 school gardening certificate here at St Briavels and are committed to reaching level 2. We have also been allocated a batch of native wild flower seeds, after applying to the 'Grow Wild' campaign run by Kew gardens. Look out for the wild blooms later this year!

Mr Gazzard



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a high priority for schools, with statutory duties incumbent upon us, in order to keep all our children safe. I am aware that this has meant many changes to the way we do things at St Briavels. I appreciate your support with meeting all of these statutory obligations.

All people who wish to come into school beyond the reception area will be asked to sign in and take a visitors badge. If you are dropping a child off who is late to school you will be required to complete a 'late' form stating the reason for late arrival and leave your child at the door. Administrative staff will support your child in getting to their classroom if they are not feeling confident enough to do it alone. We ask that you remain outside when collecting your child from the back door and don't come into the school building. We also need you to leave the grounds promptly as our after school club operates in the hall and uses the outdoor area. We cannot allow the children who remain in our care beyond the end of the school day to go outside if there are other adults and children remaining in our grounds. I'm sorry if it feels exclusive however, in order to keep all our children safe we have to assume that everyone is a risk. We have a duty to know who is on our premises at all times. We hope you understand that we are ensuring your children are safe at all times whilst they are at school.

If you wish to take your child during the school day for a medical or other appointment then you will need to complete a form stating the reason.

We have had to 'frost' our glass at our reception desk after a GDPR review with our GDPR officer. It may be that this is only a temporary measure as we look at the other possible solutions. We have to keep our computer screens private and with the current configuration of the furniture this is not possible. We are working to see if the furniture can be rearranged to enable screens to be hidden from public view. Again, this is a measure to keep our children safe and to not enable anyone to access information that the school holds about your children and family.

**Sarah Helm, Executive Head Teacher,
The Wye Forest Federation**

Allocation date for Reception Children is Tuesday 16th April

This is when parents who are applying for places for children starting reception this September find out which primary school their child has been offered a place at.

Enquiry Based Learning: What is It?

You may have noticed that we have changed the language of our termly learning focus to be 'enquiries' rather than topics. We have recently been fortunate to start working with a company called Lighting Up Learning who are leading us in developing our creative curriculum using their Curious City enquiry model.

So, why have we decided to take an enquiry based approach to learning?

Enquiries are planned around the distinctive needs of the children and promote their curiosity. They have a clear outcome, designed to raise standards and use real contexts for the application of basic skills. They generate a greater depth of understanding and ensure that all pupils are motivated, engaged and enthused about every learning experience, inspiring them to question, investigate and enquire to become lifelong learners.

What does an enquiry look like in the WFF?

Enquiries are fast paced (they may be taught through half termly or even shorter topics). They provide learners with key questions that are too big to answer in one go, but that are not so conceptually large that they do not understand. The learning journey is explicitly shared with the children in order to ensure they connect to the big picture of their learning, i.e. knowing what to expect, and will end with a specific outcome such as a performance, a product, a piece of writing – the outcomes are limitless! Each class has an 'Enquiry Working Wall' display that includes a representation of the learning journey, which is referred to and added to as the unit of work progresses. Through our enquiries the children learn skills as well as content, so as they are investigating a science question, they become 'scientists'; if discovering a new art technique through their topic – they become 'artists'. Our initial experiences of this type of learning are very positive and children are extremely excited to engage, explore and become someone else.

As our journey with Lighting Up Learning continues, we look forward to sharing more with you about our new approach to learning.

Why are Englands Schools at Breaking point?

You will have received emails about how schools are currently lobbying government for more funding. There is an interesting video which explains more about the effects of lack of funding here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/video/2019/feb/28/why-are-englands-schools-at-breaking-point-video>

<https://twitter.com/guardian/status/1101087384949665794?s=11>

Job Opportunity at Redbrook School



We are looking for someone to help out at our friendly breakfast club and at lunchtimes. The hours are term time only, starting April 23rd.

7.45am—8.45am

11.45am—1pm

You will be subject to a DBS check.

Please provide a covering letter (or email) to Redbrook School office asap: admin@redbrook.gloucs.sch.uk

New School Governor required

The Wye Forest Federation governing body are looking for a new parent governor to join our team and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a governor.

The role of a governor is vitally important to the smooth running of a school but does require some commitment to attend regular meetings in the evenings and also complete school visits during the day. If anyone feels that they have the time and is willing to commit to becoming a governor please contact the chair of governors at chair@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

Philip Hall
Chair of Governors



Live on the Wye is happening at Redbrook on 1st June (**on the second Saturday during half term**) and our schools have been asked to open the event. Is there anyone who would like to come and sing with our St Briavels children, teach them some songs and practice in order to enable this to happen? This could be during a lunchtime or immediately after school. We would be really grateful for your help and enthusiasm. Please contact the office if you can help.

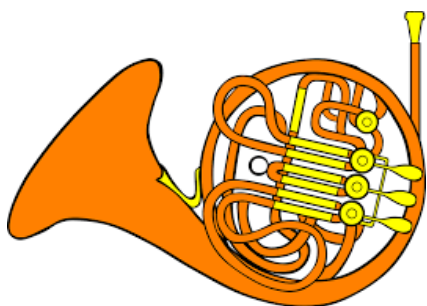
Online Safety

In order to help parents navigate the minefield of digital apps there is now a website which gives recommended age rating for apps and games to support parents in stopping their children accessing age inappropriate material. Hope you find it useful.:

<https://www.commonsense.org/>

Musical Instrument Lessons

Working in partnership with Gloucestershire Music Academy, we can potentially offer flute, brass and cello lessons in addition to piano and drums that are already on offer. If we have enough children who are interested in learning these instruments we can pursue arranging teachers to come into school. These lessons will be paid for by parents or, for those children eligible for pupil premium funding, the funding can cover this expense. We will require a number of children to show interest in an instrument to enable us to commit to a teacher coming into school weekly.



Please let the school office know if this is something that you would like your child to access and we can hopefully make this happen.



Scarlet Fever

We have been informed that there has been a national increase in scarlet fever. Please be aware and see your doctor if you think you might have it:

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include

- sore throat
- headache
- fever
- nausea and vomiting
- After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on the skin of some Black and Asian people, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present.
- Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'.

For more information please look at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

Office News

Breakfast Club bookings

Please can you ensure that you book your children into breakfast club on a week by week basis. Our club is very popular now and we need to adhere to strict adult and children ratios for safeguarding purposes, therefore we need to know in advance if your children will be using the service. You can make your bookings via the school office (email/phone/in person). Please do not use the "Breakfast Club" email address as this is no longer in use. If you are accessing the Breakfast Club for the first time, please make sure you complete a Registration Form (available from the office) when you make your booking.

Absence Requests

Please can we ask that if you need to take your child out of school for any reason, you complete an absence request form which can be obtained from the school office. This includes medical appointments and any other leave (but does not include sickness).

Late arrivals

If your child arrives at school after 9am parents/carers will be asked to complete a late record, stating the reason for the lateness.

Parent's Evening Thursday 21st March

Our Parents' Evening will be held on **Thursday 21st March**. We still have slots available for parents and carers of Bluebell, Poppy, Speedwell and Foxglove children to meet with teachers between 3:30pm-7:30pm. Please visit/contact the office to make your appointment.

St Briavel's Uniform Suppliers

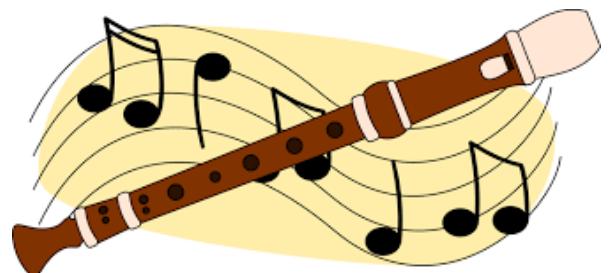
The website to order uniform has changed to the following: www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stbriavels

For Sunflowers the link is: www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/stbriavelsearlyyears

The Admin Team

Recorder Club

It would be great to get some more musical opportunities going for our children so I was wondering do we have any parents/grandparents who would be willing to come and run a recorder club either at lunchtime or after school? If you feel this is something you could help with, please come in and have a chat with us.



PTA NEWS

Firstly a big thanks to everyone who bought books at the Book Fair – we took over £800 meaning the school gets 60% of that back to spend on books and resources on the Scholastic website. Fantastic stuff! It's disco and talent show time at school this evening (Friday 15th March) – slightly earlier than previously advised – KS1 are partying from 430-545 then KS2 from 6-715. There will be hot dogs and ice pops for all plus face/hand painting for those who fancy it. All for £3! (BLUEBELLS AND SUNFLOWERS WILL NEED AN ADULT TO STAY)

Now a cry for arms as we prepare to get stuck in to a couple of important projects during the weekend of the **23/24 March**. We need willing individuals or families who can spare an hour or more to get involved in some painting, building, gardening, etc as we tackle both the **Malvern Garden** project and the **playground/outside area**. More details will be announced early next week but the important bits are that you can bring the kids as there will be activities for them (and we can pop a film on if that's popular); teas and coffees will flow; and whatever your DIY level you **WILL** be useful! So watch out for those times and a list of jobs next week.

PTA EVENTS SPRING 2019

Fri 15th March	Disco and Talent Show	School Hall
	KS1 430 – 5.45 KS2 6 - 7.15	
	£3 inc Hot Dog, Ice pop, face/hand paint	
Sat 23/Sun 24 Mar	GROUND FORCE WEEKEND	School
	10-4pm	
Friday 29th Mar	Outside Area Launch Party	School Details TBC

Book on the St Briavel's Information FB page or by emailing me clairevgilmour@btinternet.com

After School Club

Chess Club

Art Project Club

**New Monday After
School Club running
now!**

**3.10 – 4.30 £5
3.10-5.30 £10
(per child)**

**Snack Available,
Tea available after
4.30PM**

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THE RT HON MARK HARPER MP
Working for Gloucestershire West of the Severn
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Mrs Sarah Helm
St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School
High Street
Lydney
Gloucestershire
GL15 6TD

21st January 2019

Dear Mrs Helm

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to you, your staff, governors and pupils for the very high increase in the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 2.

This achievement is thanks to the strong focus on high quality teaching and hard work from your staff, and provides all of your pupils with the best possible start in life. As a result of dedication from schools like yours, the national average has increased from 61% to 64% this year.

I want to ensure that every child in the Forest has the necessary fluency in writing and confidence in mathematics to reach their full potential and excel in secondary education and beyond, which is why I am delighted that St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School has delivered this to all of its pupils.

I will always offer my full support to your school and I hope to see its pupils continue to flourish in the years to come.

Thank you for your hard work and leadership in this vital stage of a child's learning development, and congratulations again to your staff and governors for all that you have achieved.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

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14/3/19

Dear Parent/Carer

Operation Encompass is a new innovative project in which schools in Gloucestershire will be participating, and which is run in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board and Gloucestershire Police. Many other Local Authorities both nationally and locally have successfully implemented Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass will commence on 4th March 2019 and aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards, or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with one of the Education Researchers within the Gloucestershire MASH, who will then on behalf of the police communicate relevant, necessary and proportionate information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.

Each school has members of staff who have been fully trained in liaising with police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following the notification of a domestic abuse incident.

I believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our DSLs in school who are Sarah Helm and Mrs Frey at Redbrook, and Sarah Helm and Mrs Kilty at St Briavels.

You can also find out more information here <http://www.operationencompass.org/> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03y9r5h>

Yours

Sarah Helm
Executive Head Teacher



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Term 4/5 - March / April / May 2019—St Briavels Primary School



Day	Date	Class	Event
Monday	18/3/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	19/3/19		
Wednesday	20/3/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	21/3/19	Year 3 Parents evening	Swimming 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Friday	22/3/19		Open the book 2.30pm
Monday	25/3/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	26/3/19		
Wednesday	27/3/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	28/3/19	Year 3	Swimming
Friday	29/3/19	Selected children	Wildlife Quiz session 1.20pm Open the book 2.30pm
Monday	1/4/19	Bluebell & Speedwell	Yoga session 1pm
Tuesday	2/4/19	RHS Malvern Group	Malvern Trip to Howle Hill
Wednesday	3/4/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	4/4/19	Year 3 Foxglove and Speedwell	Swimming Cake sale after school
Friday	5/4/19	Easter service LAST DAY OF TERM	2pm St Briavels Church (parents welcome) 5pm PTA Pyjama Party
Monday	22/4/19	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	23/4/19	FIRST DAY OF TERM	
Wednesday	24/4/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	25/4/19	Year 2	Swimming
Friday	26/4/19		Open the book 2.30pm
Monday	29/4/19		
Tuesday	30/4/19		
Wednesday	1/5/19	Bluebell	Forest School pm
Thursday	2/5/19	Year 2	Swimming
Friday	3/5/19	INSET DAY	INSET DAY
Monday	6/5/19	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	7/5/19		