



Dear Parents & Carers,

### Headteacher Update

You may have noticed as you come into school that half term saw our front entrance and vegetable garden getting the tidy up it needed. A wonderful group of volunteers from our governing board and families came in for two days and made a fabulous job of clearing the weeds and giving everything a good cut back ready for the winter. We are hugely grateful to our 'Ground Force Team' who came in and particularly to the Deacon family who also helped us inside the school too– Thank You!

This week has seen our parents' evenings get underway. I am mindful that you haven't had the opportunity to come into school for some time and hope that you enjoy meeting with the class teachers and seeing the classrooms your children are learning in. There is lots of beautiful work up and I know that children and staff are proud of what has been achieved in term 1.

#### Attendance and Covid 19

Last week, we uploaded a new risk assessment for Covid-19 onto the federation website. As we continue to negotiate our way through this difficult time, we ask that anyone coming into school wears a mask please.

Many of the measures we are taking haven't changed: hand hygiene, good ventilation, regular cleaning of touch points and a 'catch it, bin it' approach have been refreshed with both staff and children to ensure that we are as safe as possible. We will also continue to send out warn and inform letters should we get any cases in the school so that you are aware.

The best way you can support us, is to ensure that if your child has any symptoms of Covid, you keep them at home and get a PCR test done. We know that your support with this before the holidays helped to keep our incidences of Covid low and appreciate your ongoing vigilance.

Attendance at school is of course a priority for our children as every missed day is missed learning. You will receive your child's attendance for last term during your parents evening appointment. 96% and above is considered good attendance. We know that illness can't be helped and Covid sees children out of school for ten days but in other circumstances please do consider carefully if your child really needs to stay at home. The school office is knowledgeable about Covid procedures and childhood illnesses and will be happy to advise you if you are unsure as whether to send your child into school or not. Please do not hesitate to contact them.

#### PE

We are delighted that Mr Pete Tomley is now teaching PE all day on a **Wednesday** at St Briavels. All of our classes except Speedwell (who are swimming this term), have a timetabled session with Mr Tomley on this day. He is an experienced teacher and keen to raise standards in the subject for all children.

He has noted that many children are now wearing PE kit that is consistent. Your ongoing support with this is hugely appreciated

As a reminder about our PE kit, children should be wearing

- the school PE t-shirt or a plain white t-shirt (it was originally black but I'm told these are harder to source),
- a pair of black shorts and/ or a pair of plain (no logos please) black joggers.
- They will need to wear a pair of trainers too. These do not need to be a specific colour but must be suitable to do PE in.

Last week a range of sweatshirts were still being worn into school on PE days. Please can I remind you that children should wear their **school jumper or cardigan over the top of their PE t-shirt**.

Mr Tomley is also keen to run a **KS2 sports club** on a Wednesday after school between **3:10pm and 4pm**. We know that our children enjoy ball sports, particularly football, and with this in mind this will be the focus of the club for this term. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the office to book. The club will start on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November** and children will be required to wear football boots for use on the field.

### **Parking**

I am mindful that we have a disabled space outside of the school to support those who need it. At present, one member of staff uses the space between 9am and 1pm. However, I am also aware that there are times when the safest way to drop off or pick up your children is to use that space. If you feel you or your family needs support with drop offs or pick ups, please do speak to me and we can make personal arrangements with you.

### **Walk to School Wednesdays**

Parking at the school can be very busy at the beginning and the end of the days. We know that there isn't always space for everyone to park safely and that parking spreads down onto the main road. During the Parent Forum and a recent Parking Committee meeting, there have been discussion about starting a walking bus from The Pavilion. Whilst this is still at the planning stage, I would like to encourage our families to walk to school on Wednesdays. Perhaps you could park a little further away or at The Pavilion and take a few minutes to walk to school instead of parking next to it. It could be a time that you spend as a family being a little more active and enjoying a crisp autumn morning stroll.

### **Christmas Plans**

I am very sorry that at present the advice is to not hold large events for families and as such, we are considering our approach to Christmas 2021 carefully so that we can share as much as possible with you. At present our plans are:

**Bluebell** Class are going to record a Nativity in school and this will be shared with Bluebell parents towards the end of term.

**The whole School** will take part in our annual Christingle event at the church, however this will be undertaken in two services with Bluebell, Daisy and Poppy together, then Speedwell and Foxglove.

We will also be learning carols as classes and in our worship time together so that we can record them for you and send home some of our Christmas cheer. Again, look out for these towards the end of term.

For the children, we have booked, with the help of the PTA, a wonderful theatre group to come and do drama workshops with each class based on the poem Twas the Night Before Christmas. These will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> December and we're very excited about it!

The PTA have also arranged access to an online pantomime for the children. They will watch this towards the end of term with their class. We know that this was very popular last year and the children had lots of fun in their classes.

Again this year, Christmas isn't going to be exactly the same as it was pre-pandemic but we hope there is something for everyone to enjoy as the festive season comes upon us.

### **Events**

We have a few events coming up at school that you may want to put in your diary:

~~**New to Reception September 2022 Open Mornings:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November~~ – We have sadly made the decision to cancel these events as advised by the local authority.

**Individual & Sibling Photographs:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November

These will be available to all children from Sunflowers through to Year 6. Children who are not normally in attendance at Sunflowers on a Thursday may come to school first thing to have their photo taken. Further information will follow regarding this.

**Children in Need:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Children are welcome to wear spots or non-school uniform to school on this day for a small donation. All donations will be given to Children in Need.

**Christmas Jumper Day:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Christmas Lunch:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Flu Immunisations:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Children from Reception to Year 6 may have their annual Flu immunisation on this day. If you haven't returned your form to school yet please do get it back to us as soon as possible.

Kindest regards

Natalie Frey