



St Briavels Parochial 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 St Briavels, we are a school that: **embraces community and reaches beyond**. We felt this reflected the community heartbeat of our school alongside our desire to prepare children for life beyond the village as they grow up and supported the biblical teaching 'Love your neighbour as yourself' Matthew 22:39 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 in our community 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 reach beyond, 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 Mrs Laura Hunt to our school as part of the Daisy class teaching team and I am sure you will make her feel very welcome when you see her on the playground in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Collins who has stepped into the breach this term and earlier in the year with Daisy 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.

We also have some sad news to share with you as we look ahead to the new academic year. Mrs Arnold will be leaving us after many years as our Reception class teacher at the end of October. She has been an incredible asset to our school and she will be greatly missed by the children, staff team and parents alike as she moves on.

In light of Mrs Arnold leaving, Mr Gazzard will be joining us full time in Bluebell class from after October half term. I have no doubt he will provide the continuity and reassurance that our families need at such an important time and I look forward to seeing the no doubt wonderful creative projects he undertakes with the children when he is with us every day!

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.

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.

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 PTA 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. PTA 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



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!

Sunflower Class



The Sunflower children have had a wonderful final term; they have been getting very active in their own sports week and then joining in with the Bluebell sports day. We observed a real 'can do' attitude and perseverance as well as keeping fit and having fun cheering our friends on.

The children have also joined in with Japanese week, observing the tea ritual and even sampling the tea, then tasting the delicious sushi. We have also had a visit from Chika, telling us about what it is like to be in a Japanese school then teaching us how to count to 5 in Japanese.

We were lucky to have been given 6 very little caterpillars to observe, care for, learn about, watch them grow and change then release into the wild.



We will be saying good bye to all of our pre-school children and wish them all the best for their new adventures into Reception. We will miss them all very much.

We would also like to thank the Sunflower parents for their continued support, toy, furniture and wildlife donations, and mending skills, **you are stars! Mrs Hannah Hardinge**



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Bluebell Class

Bluebell class have welcomed some caterpillars from Mrs Deacon. We are very excited to watch them change and finally become butterflies.



Bluebell class have welcomed the new reception starters for two afternoons recently. They had a wonderful time playing in our garden. **Mrs Nadia Arnold**

Thank You
for your Kindness



A huge **thank you** to Mr & Mrs Deacon for making an outdoor working sink for our water play area. It is amazing, we love it! Thank you for making it a reality x
Thanks—the **Bluebells team**



For Japanese week we did origami, Karate and attended a Japanese tea ceremony.



Daisy and Poppy Class

Daisy and Poppy class had a fantastic time at their fun run. We were all amazed at how far they could run.

Thank you to everyone who supported us by sponsoring a child. The children were really proud of all the money they raised.

Mrs Kear and Mrs Collins

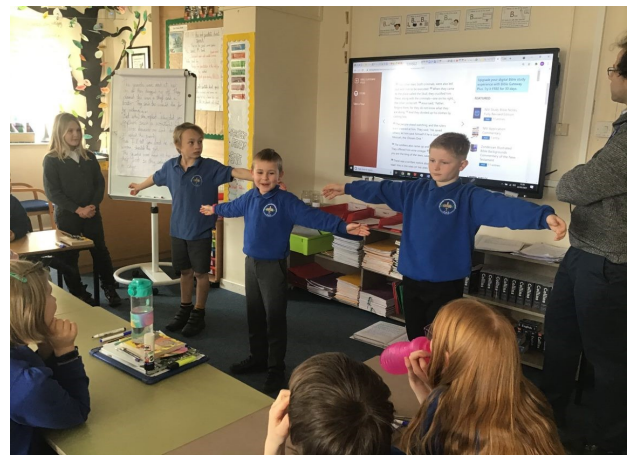




Speedwell Class

Speedwell class have had a fantastic time this year. It's been a wild ride! We've done so many different things that it's hard to fit them all in, from building our own rivers in the school field to running obstacles courses to raise money or even creating our own poo during Science investigations.

We even managed to get in some practice on how we can learn from home! I've attached some pictures showing just what we've achieved over the year. It's been amazing to teach you all and I'm looking forward to seeing you all thrive next year as well. **Mr Will Ford**



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Foxglove Class

Foxglove have had a fantastic final term. From a PGL trip to Survival Skills day and Japanese week, we have all had so much fun! We would like to wish our year 6 leavers all the best for the future!



Piano Lessons

Our piano teacher has spaces in September for piano lessons for any child in Year 2 or above. Please contact the school office for her contact details.



School Uniform ordering

Please note the cut off date for ordering school uniform from our suppliers (Price and Buckland) in order to make sure you have it in time for next term is 1st August.

To order go to: **price-buckland.co.uk**

Price & Buckland

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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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...There will no doubt be much talk of the disruption the pandemic has caused to all of us so I'll leave that to the experts and concentrate on what we've actually achieved. Which is no small thing by the way!

With the lack of our usual fundraising opportunities we had to exercise our grey matter and think of COVID safe (winner of the most dreaded expression of the year) events and projects during both lockdown and as the restrictions gradually lightened. So we had a socially distanced **treasure hunt** and a **virtual balloon race** – not money spinners but just something to keep our hand in. Mud and lost wellies aside they were good fun (the kids still won prizes so they were happy!). We managed a couple of Rags2Riches collections – extra handy when the charity shops weren't receiving donations. Once we'd worked out how to manage the cake sales we started running those again so every class had a chance to hold one (albeit in the short space of one term rather than spread out through the year!). I think we've all benefited from the Friday afternoon treats.... (FYI classes have the choice whether to keep the money raised at their sale for classroom extras or to add it to the larger PTA pot for the ongoing bigger projects).

We organised **Escape Room games** (solving puzzles in small teams for those who aren't familiar with the format) for the older children which went down a storm and are definitely something we'd do again. It was just too difficult to do something for the younger ones BUT we will make up for it as soon as we can. Tell the children to polish up their skills as the Talent Shows will return with a vengeance!

And we come to the **Sponsorathon** which absolutely floored me with its success – both financially and with the amount of fun and enthusiasm with which it was met! So Daisies and Poppies had a Fun Run; Speedwell had an obstacle course to overcome and Foxglove completed a survival skills day. **Your amazing children raised about £3.5k.** Phenomenal! This meant that the maths resources the school had requested help with were covered and we also made a huge splash in our Trim Trail project pot. (All these figures will be distributed at the AGM in September so you can see the ins and outs of the fundraising efforts).

Alongside these achievements our luck kicked in and we won **£150** in a draw ran by the company who organised the online Panto we had access to at Christmas. We wanted to spend this money at a local business and use it for a treat for the children and staff. After a committee discussion we decided that we would use it to buy ice creams (or sorbets) for all the school from Chase Farm (who produce unbelievable icy products!). I'm hoping we can have these at the Back to School BBQ before we start back in September. Our second win happened when a keen eyed parent (thanks Jade!) entered us into the Pips Organic Sports Day Competition and we were one of only ten schools in the country to win a **massive package of Pip's fruity water drinks!** Apparently they were delicious!

The PTA is a really important part of the school community from organising events and fundraising to volunteering to help at school. Our match funding promise enabled the Japanese week the children have enjoyed this term; the Scholastic Book Fair we run gives the school the chance to top up the library; the children's events give them a chance to enjoy time with the school friends outside the classroom (as with the parent's events!). If you would like to get more involved in any capacity please get in touch **pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk**. There will be an AGM in September when there will be the chance to vote in the PTA committee. Details will be announced next term.

A heartfelt goodbye to all the outgoing Year 6s. You are a fabulous bunch of children and will leave a big hole with your absence. Good luck in your new schools!

Enjoy your summers everyone and see you at the school gates in September!

The PTA team xx

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

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

Forest School teamwork!

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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).