

# St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School Newsletter

No 86 February 16th 2023

## Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

Half term is almost upon us and we are starting to see those wonderful signs of spring even if the weather is still sometimes rather wintery. It is always wonderful at this time of year to pause and reflect on how far our children have come with their learning since they started in their new year groups back in September and it is joyful to see all those green shoots starting to blossom. We are looking forward to sharing these with you after half term at parents evening. If you haven't done so yet, please do make an appointment to see your child's class teacher. There is much progress to celebrate with you and of course support from home is always very much appreciated by all of our teachers.

Celebration breakfasts have continued to prove very popular throughout this term and it is joyful to bring together a group of children on a Friday morning to celebrate their achievements with some treats. Every child has done something different to earn their certificate and they are always extremely proud to tell me about this. For whatever reason a child joins me, my heart sings as they are showing and sharing the best of themselves with us in school and that is every reason to celebrate. Each week I take a photo of the children who join me, and with the right parental permissions, I have shared these with you below.

During half term, it is Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day as it is also known. This is a day that, had we been in school, we would certainly mark together in our worship. If you would like to share more with your child about why we have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, there is some wonderful information here along with a look forward to Lent:

[Countdown to Easter | The Church of England](#)

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a super half term break and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 27th February.

With kindest regards

Natalie Frey





## Sunflowers



The children have been busy learning about Chinese New Year celebrations and welcoming in the Year of the Rabbit.

They participated in activities such as lantern making, painting their own Willow pattern plates, decorating a dragon head before dancing around the school together to Chinese music, mark making Chinese numbers, making our own musical instruments and using chopsticks to eat noodles and rice at snack time.

We also had visiting fire fighters, who taught us to never touch lighters and matches and other hot household objects. They then allowed the children to go onboard their fire engine and try on their helmets.



1 - Dragon head collage



2 - Dragon dancing



3 - Snack time



4 - Chinese numbers



5 - Fire fighter visit

## Bluebell Class



In Bluebell Class we have been thinking about train journeys and have created a role play train station. If you have any books on steam trains the children would be very interested to see them. Year 1s are comparing Queen Elizabeth I and II, they are also looking at pop art and will be creating a pop art picture of Queen Elizabeth II. Next term we will be looking at plants and seeds. If you are able to donate any compost or seeds we would be very grateful.

## Daisy Class



This term we have been super busy. The children made bird feeders which are now hanging outside our classroom, hopefully providing extra food for the robins we often spot out of our windows. Not only did the children design and make their bird feeders, they also had to work hard on their teamworking skills to agree on the design and the 'making of it' with their partner.

In science the children are learning to be scientists - asking questions, making predictions and careful observations, thinking of how they could find out and test their ideas, and trying to draw conclusions.

The children are also continuously working on building up and improving on their writing, reading and maths skills. We have had lots of discussions about what it means to try your best as well as about what perseverance actually means. Big words that can be hard to grasp but hopefully these conversations will help to make us all better learners.





## Poppy Class



Poppy Class have been learning all about rocks and fossils and how they are created. Thank you so much to all the families who sent in their fabulous fossils for us to admire. Here are just some of the specimens we were lucky enough to inspect.





## Speedwell Class

Speedwell Class have had a fantastic term after returning from Christmas. We've really enjoyed learning all about states of matter and materials in Science. Explored travelling the world in Kensuke's Kingdom and begun to tackle tricky fraction problems in Maths.

PE this term has been all about gymnastics and we've been enjoying putting together different sequences of balances and shapes into our own routines.

In History, we have been learning about the Shang Dynasty in China. We've learnt about Fu Hao and begun to generate our own questions about what we want to find out next. From these we then researched the answers and presented them to the class.

Next term, we'll be looking at poems using Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and Biographies using Amari and the Night Brothers. We'll also be looking at map skills in Geography and starting a mix of Netball and Football in PE. We can't wait!

Mr Ford

## Foxglove Class



Foxglove Class have had a lovely half term. Working hard on poetry and persuasive writing.

They have really enjoyed the Samba lessons with Mr Evans. Learning to play the different instruments and beginning to compose their own music.

PE this term has been football with Mr English and gymnastics. The children have been putting routines together using the balances and movements they have learnt.

We have been learning about the Shang Dynasty, finding out how they lived, who Fu Hao was and how they used oracle bones to predict the future.

In Art, the children have have been exploring bronze vessels and are looking forward to creating their own.

Year 6's have been enjoying learning about evolution in Science and Year 5's are learning about properties and changes of materials.



## ELSA news



Recently the ELSA room has had a calm corner incorporated into it which the children have named 'Cookie & Creams Calm Corner' (after including some of the worry monsters into it) and is an area that can be used for children who need some space to regulate and talk through any strong emotions. It has bean bags, cushions, cuddly toys, worry monsters and a tray of calming toys and items to help them with this. It has proved very successful so far.





## PTA

### PTA NEWS

My last newsletter!!! It's been a right rollercoaster ride over the last 4 years and I'll really miss being PTA Chair. I've had such a great time with the children; getting to know the staff on a different level and making friends with so many more families than just the ones I would have met through Tilly and her year group. And all because of the PTA!

I remember (previous Chair) Jo's 'exit newsletter' where she listed her enviable tally of highlights and wondering what on earth my fledgling team and I could possibly bring to the table to get anywhere close to her achievements! But Paula (Mrs Cawte Lounds to the children) told me to just do with it what I wanted to do and it would be fine. And it was. We've put on some fantastic events; raised a load of cash; paid for a load of extras for the children; provided the staff with a few baskets of goodies when it's been a tough week/month/term; got through a global pandemic; made St Briavel's Got Talent an

incredibly popular termly event; bought almost 100 Leavers Hoodies; produced a couple of incredible Christmas Fayres and carried on the long standing tradition of the Back To School BBQ – and that’s just scraping the surface! I could go on for paragraphs! But I’ve said enough and it’s time for someone else’s voice to take the lead...

Following the vote at the EGM on the 16th February I’m over the moon to be passing on the PTA baton to our new team. I can’t wait to see how they take it forward – there’s plenty of bonhomie around and they will no doubt have great fun with it. On that note I’d like to welcome Gemma as the new Chair; Jade as her Vice; Emily as Treasurer and Nina as Secretary. I’ll leave it to them to introduce themselves in more detail when they’ve settled in.

As I never tire of saying – we are ALL part of the PTA and we make it what it is as a community. I hope you’ll join me in a round of applause and a couple of hip hip hoorays for Gemma and the new committee. See you at the school gates!

Claire Gilmour





## Malvern Garden Competition



As you may be aware, the Federation is entering the Malvern Garden Competition again in May this year. This is a fantastic experience for our children to be involved in and has previously been fabulously supported by families.

We would like to ask for your support again this year for our garden titled “How Grimm is our Garden?”

We are looking for a wide selection of items and materials, please let us know if any of you can lend / donate:

- Old wooden stepladder
- Child's wooden wheelbarrow
- Old wooden handled rake
- Large pieces of hemp rope
- Forest stone
- Paving stones

- Old fashioned potty for under bed
- Old tea cups and saucers
- Bark chippings
- Tarpaulin / matting
- Miniature churn

We also have 3 dates planned if you would like to get involved, these are:

### 3.3.23 After School Construction (at St Briavels)

This is an after-school event beginning to build some of the items linked to our choice of fairy tales for the garden.

### 24.3.23 Whole Federation Malvern Day (at St Briavels)

This is a day when we involve all the children across the Federation and put together a series of activities linked to our garden.

It is important to enable all of the children in the Federation to feel that they have a small part in the Malvern Garden.

If any parents are available, we are always looking for people to help to run the activities.

### 4.4.23 Planting Day in Easter holidays (at St Briavels)

Due to the timing of the Malvern Festival, we need to schedule a planting day in the holiday period and we will be in school on Tuesday 4th April from 10am to 2pm. Anybody who would like to come along and help would be more than welcome. Come along and bring some lunch!

## Family Pig Racing Night



As part of our fundraising for the Malvern Garden competition, we are running a family pig race.

Come along on Friday 10th March from 5.30- 7.30pm and bet on a winning pig!

All funds raised will go towards supporting this year's Malvern Garden competition.

There'll be pig related quizzes, games and colouring, a licensed bar and general merriment! So, what are you waiting for? Start thinking up Piggy names (all puns welcome!)

And book your tickets today!!

Have you always wanted to be a race horse owner? Well, we can offer you the next best thing!

Sponsor a pig for £5 and win a prize if your highly trained pig wins its race.

Not only do you get to be a pig owner for the race but you get to name your pig.

Allow your imagination to go wild, all puns, bad jokes and alliteration accepted!

Purchase your pig from [PTA@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk) using BACS:

St Briavels Association;

S/C:30-90-89;

Acc 46776968 Reference: PIGS

We are providing filled jacket potatoes and Chase farm ice creams; tickets are £7.50 large (full jacket potato) or £5 small (half jacket potato).

Filling choices to be named at time of ticket purchase. Choose from: Tuna, cheese, baked beans or chilli/veg chilli.

Tickets available from: [PTA@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk) using same payment details as above.

## New E-schools Lite App

E-schools have released an app which will make it easier to access the federation website, including the calendar, on your mobile.

To download it:

Search for "eSchools Lite" in the [App Store \(Apple\)](#) or [Google Play \(Android\)](#) and download for FREE!

Choose Wye Forest Federation when you are asked which school.

To see the calendar, go to 'school website', then scroll down to 'upcoming events', then click 'view more'.

## Dates for your diaries

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

- Monday 27th February - first day of term
- Thursday 2nd March World Book Day - come to school in pyjamas

- Friday March 3rd Malvern After School Construction (at St Briavels)
- Monday 6th March - Parents Evening
- Wednesday 8th March - Parents Evening
- Monday 13th March - Foxglove class Samba showcase at Cheltenham town hall
- Friday 10th March - Pig racing night
- Friday 24th March - Whole Federation Malvern preparation day (at St Briavels)
- Friday March 31st - Easter service - times tbc
- Friday March 31st - Easter service - times tbc
- Friday March 31st - last day of term
- Tuesday 4th April - Malvern Planting Day (at St Briavels) 10am-2pm, everyone welcome, bring lunch!
- Monday April 17th - first day of term
- Monday May 1st - bank holiday
- Tuesday May 2nd - class photos
- !! UPDATED - Monday May 8th - bank holiday (coronation)
- KS2 SATS week Tuesday May 9th - Friday May 12th
- Thursday May 11th - Sunday May 14th Malvern Show
- KS1 SATS week Monday May 15th - Friday May 19th
- Friday May 26th - last day of term
- Monday June 5th - INSET
- Tuesday June 6th - first day of term
- Thursday June 15th to Friday June 16th - year 3 / 4 YHA residential
- Thursday 15th June Yr6 Leavers service Gloucester Cathedral
- Friday June 16th - Cystic Fibrosis Day - wear yellow!
- Friday July 7th St Briavels sports day
- Friday July 14th Year 6 Safari Park trip
- Friday July 21st - last day of term

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

you should be able to see dates on your mobile as well as through a laptop / PC. We will let you know as soon as this is available.

## Term Dates 2022-2023

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

[https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term\\_dates/372930](https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term_dates/372930)

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

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET days	