



# St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School Newsletter

No 94 May 23rd 2024

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

It's been an exciting time in our federation, and I'm delighted to share some of the wonderful achievements and updates with you.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the whole federation and the many people who supported us for our success at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. The innovative use of recycled materials was recognised, and we were awarded best use of recycled materials for our Circle of Life garden. Everyone who saw it was hugely impressed by what we had achieved, especially Gardeners World who featured us on their show! A huge thank you to all who were involved, especially Bernie Kilty and Claire Viner, for their tireless support and dedication to this project.

I'm also delighted to share some fantastic news about our new library plans. Our incredible PTA has been working tirelessly to secure funding, and their efforts have paid off. We are grateful to Everoze for their generous grant of £750, which will be used to purchase non-fiction books, and to Brockweir and Hewelsfield Parish Council for their contribution of £750 towards refurbishing the library. Words cannot express how much we appreciate the support of these groups and our PTA's unwavering commitment to enhancing our school's resources.

Furthermore, I'm thrilled to celebrate the success of our Dance Extravaganza. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by our talented children was truly remarkable, and all who came said it was a joy to witness their hard work and dedication come to life on stage. I am only sorry I couldn't be there but I have seen the videos taken by the staff and am so proud of all of the children who truly lived out our vision in their performances.

As a staff team, we have been focusing on the development of our curriculum this term in preparation for September. We have secured lots of new learning resources which we will be starting to use after the half term holiday and know will bring high quality learning to all our classrooms. Whilst children's learning is always at the centre of our work, staff learning is equally important. I have started my National Professional Qualification in Executive Leadership recently and Mr Ford is part way through his National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership. We know that these courses are already bringing to the federation the most recent research led practice and thinking in education and this can only strengthen us for the future.

Finally, I want to wish you all a wonderful half term break and thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. I look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 4th June.

With love

Natalie Frey

## Sunflowers



The Sunflower children had a fantastic trip to Bears Farm, where they met and fed lots of wonderful animals and learnt interesting facts about them. The children were set a challenge to find mini beasts under logs, rocks and in the hedgerows. They found plenty of slugs, worms, woodlice, centipedes, a ladybird and even a red headed cardinal beetle. We also learnt how to stay safe when make a campfire before toasting our own marsh mallows, had a wonderful splash about in the stream, had a picnic, watched Bear the dog carry out a variety of tricks during her dog agility training, listened to the history of the woodland we were in, and made bracelets and homes for the woodland animals using the plentiful fauna available.

The children also enjoyed getting muddy when making seed bombs which we will disperse in the Sunflower garden as a lovely reminder of our amazing trip.

Thank you so much Tim and Emily.





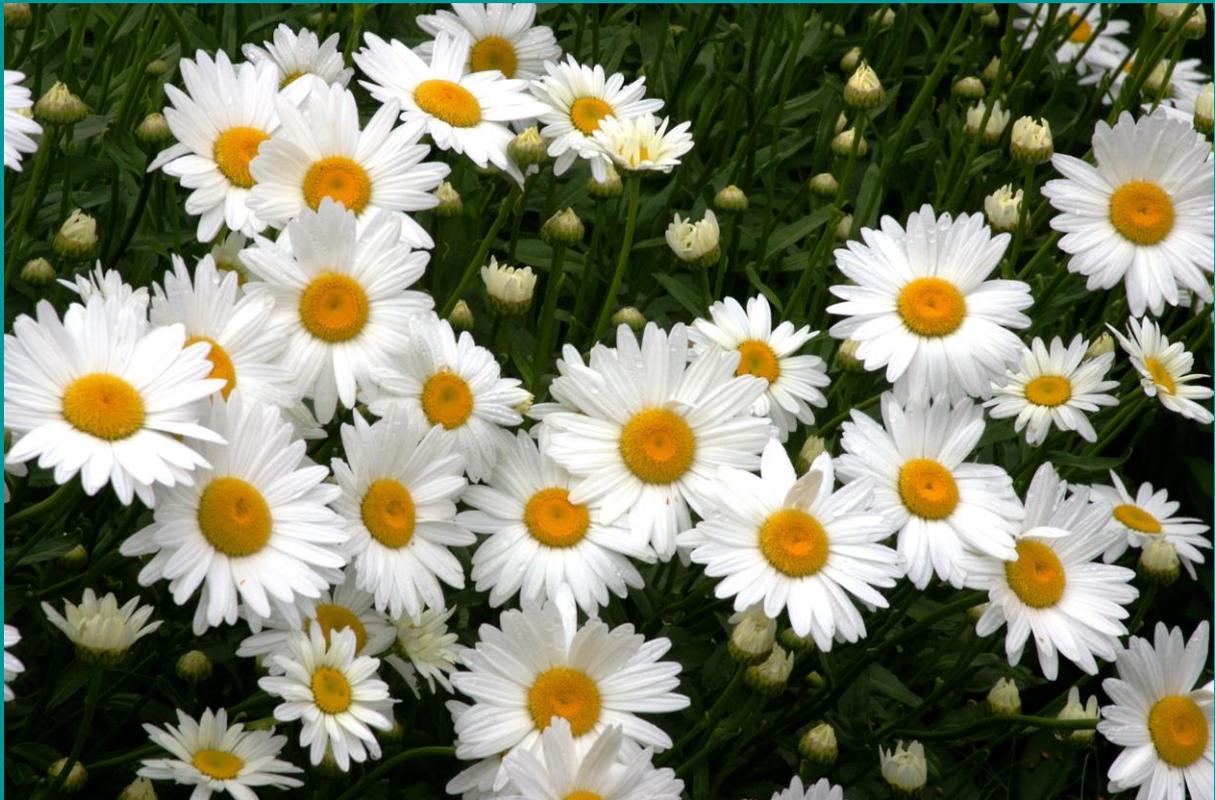


## Bluebell Class

This term we have been looking at minibeasts and their habitats. The children have been using magnifying glasses to help them identify the creatures they find and we have thought about why they choose to live where we find them. We have released our tadpoles back into the pond so they can carry on their development into frogs in their natural habitat.

Next term, we are thinking about traditional tales. If anyone has any dressing up costumes suitable for Reception along the themes of Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel or any other traditional tale, we would love to have them.

## Daisy Class



This term has been full of excitement and hard work. The children have worked super hard to learn brilliant dances for the dance show and they all loved the Malvern Day. Both Year 1 and Year 2 children have enthusiastically learnt to tell new stories that they have shared with others. In music, children created some wonderful music and, now that PE has moved outdoors, the Year 2s have shown their exceptional cricket skills!



### Bearse Farm Visit

Earlier this term, year 1 visited Bearse Farm in St Briavels. We did some fire lighting, made dens and looked for signs of Spring. During the afternoon, we watched dog agility, stroked some chickens and named the new lambs. We finished the day with a bug hunt and playing in the mud! Thank you to Bearse Farm for a great day!











## Poppy Class



Poppy class had an amazing time at the Dean Heritage centre. We were fully immersed in the Victorian school room with Mrs Wright, who showed us what the average day would have been like and the punishments meted out!

We then went onto explore different habitats and were very lucky to visit a marshland and also meet 2 rescued ponies.



## Speedwell Class

Speedwell has had a packed term so far. I was so impressed with the resilience and courage all the children showed during our Dance Extravaganza and I want to draw a spotlight to how compassionate they were to each other.

In DT, we have been able to get hands on with making healthy smoothies, which the vast majority of the class really enjoyed! Hopefully, they've been trying to make some more at home.

In Art, we have been looking at animated drawing and been creating our own cardboard robots that can move. I know many of the children are looking forward to taking them home to show you all. I've attached some pictures of everything they've been getting up to.

Additionally, I want to take this opportunity to remind Year 4 families that the children are doing their times table check after half term. Please make sure they are getting in that very important practice!







## Foxglove Class



What a half term we have had in Foxglove Class!

First I would like to say how amazing the Year 6's were during SATS week. They showed great resilience and compassion to each other. They enjoyed a relaxed breakfast each morning and ended each day with a sing song.

The children have enjoyed dreaming big and small in art and have made 3d models of houses, being very creative and imaginative with their final piece of work.

The children also enjoyed a visit from 3 miners, who work at one of the mines in the forest. Although they are not Free Miners they still follow their traditions and we were all very interested to hear about these.







## Sports News



Four children have been learning how to kayak at Mallards Pike. They have learnt how to turn, go forwards and backwards and get in and out of their boat safely. Fun has been had by all as well as showing resilience when falling in.



## ELSA News



This term, some of our children have been looking at making mistakes and how we can use them to grow and learn. The children have learnt that their brains are like muscles - the more you work it, the stronger it gets and making mistakes are a normal part of life and makes our brains grow bigger! They have enjoyed watching a little alien called Mojo overcome his difficulties at school and have been able to help and suggest how Mojo can learn from his mistakes.

A good book to read if your child struggles with making mistakes is 'The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes' by Mark Pett.

Mrs Hill

## Malvern Garden Competition Success

As a Federation, we entered the Malvern school garden competition again this year.

We had a fabulous two weeks at Malvern, managing to bring all of our Years 4 and 5 from both schools to Malvern for at least one day.

Our Garden, The Circle of Life, was awarded “Best Use Of Recycling”, one of 4 awards given to the school gardens, and the judges were very complimentary about all aspects of our design, build and planting.

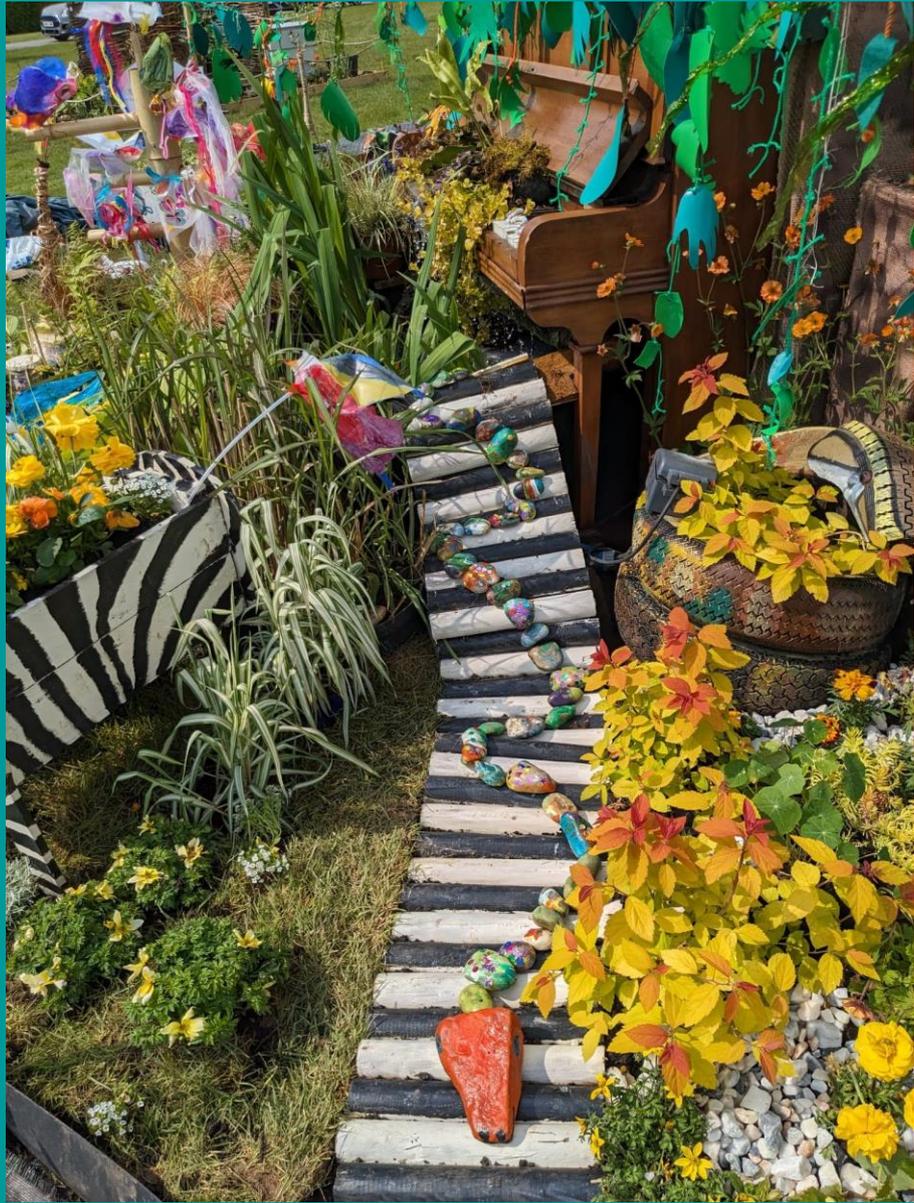
We had 4 children who spoke very knowledgeably to the judges on judging day and a team of other children who spoke to members of the public on the Friday of the show days. Thank you to those children and their families who supported us by coming to Malvern on the Saturday and Sunday as well.

Members of the public constantly told us how polite and knowledgeable our children were and we were very proud of them.

We would like to thank the members of gardening club and their parents/ grandparents for their support and help since September and the parent community at both schools for supporting our pig race fundraisers which enabled us to fund the building of our garden.































## Choir

### Choir News

The choir have been busy learning the songs featured in our upcoming show – you may have heard a taster at the Savoy Theatre when they sang at the Dance Extravaganza afternoon. We'll be at the St Briavels Carnival again next month so if you missed the Savoy we'll hopefully see you there!

Relishing every opportunity to perform they were also recently invited to sing at the Memory Café at the Assembly Rooms to a very appreciative audience of the older members of our village. It's great for the children to get these chances to sing in public and it's helpful that it was on the very stage they'll be performing on at the beginning of July!

Our choir show is called 'Some Enchanted School Trip' and the dates for your diaries are Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July. We will be holding a dress rehearsal on Saturday 29th June at 145pm and would like to invite the KS1 families along for a 'relaxed performance'. No need to buy tickets but

we will need to know if you're coming for seating capacity. You can email [clairevgilmour@btinternet.com](mailto:clairevgilmour@btinternet.com).

Tickets for the actual show will go on sale after half term. You can purchase them from Kat Nelson Brown on [katherine@perrygrove.co.uk](mailto:katherine@perrygrove.co.uk)

Lastly please don't forget that you can vote for us until the end of June in the Stronger Starts Campaign using the blue chips in the Tesco branches in Lydney, Coleford and Cinderford. We could receive up to £1500! Look for the *St Briavels Association – Primary School Choir* when you're next shopping.

Have a great half term!

Love from Team Choir

**SOME ENCHANTED** *SCHOOL TRIP...*



**...AN OUTING TO REMEMBER**

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July 2024  
Showtime: 6pm  
St Briavels Assembly Rooms (AKA The Castle Theatre!)  
Adults £7.50 Children £5  
For tickets contact: [katherine@perrygrove.co.uk](mailto:katherine@perrygrove.co.uk)

*St Briavels School Choir presents a musical play  
featuring some of the  
West End's Most Loved Songs*

## Dates for your diaries

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

Friday 24 May - Speedwell & Foxglove Class visit to Hopewell Colliery, Please access ParentPay for consents and payments

LAST DAY OF TERM - Friday 24 May

INSET - Monday 3 June

**FIRST DAY OF TERM - Tuesday 4 June**

**Wednesday 5 June - Reception Class trip to Bristol Zoo Project, please access ParentPay for consents and payments**

**Monday 10 to Tuesday 11 June Poppy Class children to YHA Wye Valley**

**Wednesday 12 June - Year 6 Leavers' Service at Gloucester Cathedral, please access ParentPay for consents and payments**

**Wednesday 19 June - Sports Day (years R – 6), St Briavels Playing Fields**

**Friday 21 June - Wear Yellow for Cystic Fibrosis, no uniform required**

**Wednesday 26 June – Friday 28 June - Year 5 & 6 children to PGL Devon**

**Friday 5 July & Saturday 6 July - 'Some Enchanted School Trip' choir performance**

**LAST DAY OF TERM - Friday 19 July**

**INSET - Monday 22 July**

**INSET - Monday 2 September**

**INSET - Tuesday 3 September**

**FIRST DAY OF TERM - Wednesday 4 September**

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

## Term Dates 2023-2024

There is a downloadable version of this, together with our 2024-2025 term dates, 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		4	11	18	25	Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27
Tues		5	12	19	26	Tues		3	10	17	24	31	Tues		7	14	21	28
Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thur		7	14	21	28	Thur		5	12	19	26		Thur	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	3	10	17	24		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26	

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

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

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

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET days	