



# St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School Newsletter

No 95 July 18th 2024

## Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

*"It takes a village to raise a child."*

As we come to end of our academic year, I have been reflecting on the how many people are part of our school community and what a difference they make to what we do. I may be the headteacher of this fabulous school, but our school is nothing without every person who brings something to make a difference to the children in it.

I want to thank the staff team for all that they do. Each and everyone of them is valued and just amazing in all that they give. Working in a school is a vocation; from our teachers and TAs, to all of the people who work behind the scenes making sure we run as smoothly as possible, the children flourish because of them. The summer holidays is a time of restoration for all after a busy year and also a time to prepare for the next one. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all a wonderful break.

To our governors, often a silent partner from a parent perspective, I can't thank them enough. They listen, they care, they challenge, they make decisions with the children at the heart of whatever they are considering. They are there to celebrate and they are there to lift us up. They come into school and support when we need them and undertake their significant role as volunteers unstintingly.

I also want to thank all of the people who have volunteered and helped us in school this year. At St Briavels, we are blessed to be supported by our parent, church and village community. Sometimes the support is practical, sometimes it's financial and sometimes it's a few kind words or a prayer. Every single person who has been part of that support network - thank you! You bring a richness to our school that builds on what we do everyday. We are blessed to have you as part of our team.

To our families - thank you too! You get the children into school every day ready to learn. You support them at home with their learning and you support each other. We are extremely fortunate to have wonderful children attend St Briavels and this is a testament to all of you.

Finally, I want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful summer break. Whether you choose to spend it at home or away, I hope you can have some time as a family. To our Year 6 children and families, who won't be returning to us in September, I wish you every joy and success, you will be missed greatly but we also know you will continue to flourish beyond our small school. To those of you returning to us in September, we can't wait to see you again on Wednesday September 4th ready to Love, Learn and Live out another wonderful year at St Briavels.

With love

Natalie Frey

## Sunflowers



What a Summer term the Sunflower children have had!

The children worked so hard creating an 'Under the Sea' themed carnival float and were all brilliant on the float, waving to the community while looking amazing in their costumes.

They visited St Briavels Castle where they were escorted around the grounds, into the prison, kitchen and bedrooms by Sir John.

They had a picnic at Cinderhill Farm where they met Deborah and Neil, had egg and spoon and pig races as well as meeting their sheep, one of which is now named Sunflower.

The children also participated in sports day where they all tried extremely hard and did so well while being supported by so many parents and grandparents.

The Sunflower children also learnt all about the transformation of caterpillars into butterflies and were even able to hold them.

We would like to thank:

- Maisie and Bryher for Joining us in Sunflowers during their work experience week, they were fantastic.
- Mr and Mrs Deacon for supplying the caterpillars.
- Rich Baker for driving the Sunflowers tractor at the carnival.
- All of the parents who helped with the carnival, have supplied fruit and cereal snacks and to those who have donated or bought items from our Wishing window.
- Mr and Mrs Adams and the cricket club for organising an event's evening, raising funds for Sunflowers.

Lastly we would like to wish all our Pre-school children every success when starting school in September.













## Bluebell Class

We have had another very busy term! We really enjoyed the trip to the Wild Place and would like to thank all of the adults who came along and helped supervise our children. The children particularly loved seeing the giraffes and were amazed at how tall they were. Our sponsored bike ride was a huge success and we are very grateful for the funds you have managed to raise. We will use this to help keep our provision refreshed throughout the year with new books, toys and sensory things for the tough trays. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Tim at Bears farm. We had a very enjoyable day, despite the rain, and the children experienced so many things, from

feeding chickens and sheep, to making camp fires and finding out about the local habitat. A big 'thank you' to all the parents too, for arranging drop off and pick up at the farm.

If, over the summer, you are having a clear out of good quality toys, such as animals, wooden toys, dressing up clothing or anything that you think is Early Years appropriate we would be very grateful for any donations. Anything we can't use we are happy to take to a Charity shop. Hope you all have a lovely summer!



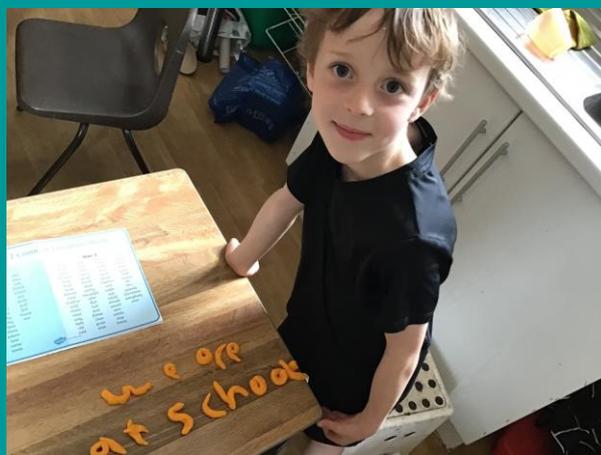
## Daisy Class



The final term of the year has been such a busy one. There has been so much learning across the curriculum going on, that it has been hard to keep up at times. We have also had many wonderful experiences this term. The Sports Day was a big success and we were particularly impressed with how the children supported each other. The real favourite of us all, however, was definitely the trip to Barry Island. We were so proud of how well the children behaved and how wonderfully they played and explored together. It will be a trip that we will all remember for a long time.

We have had such a lovely year and want to thank all the children and their families for all the hard work and support throughout the past year. Have a wonderful summer.

Miss Wilson and Mrs Lindqvist



*1 - We've been brushing up our spelling skills in all sorts of ways this term, including Playdough spelling! Perhaps this could be turned into some summer holiday Spelling baking...*



*2 - Sports Day Action*



*3 - Racing across the finish line!*



*4 - Barry Island Explorations*



*5 - Digging Deep*

## Poppy Class



What a busy term we have had. The children all had an amazing time at the residential in Goodrich. We were able to try fencing, fire lighting, archery and a host of other activities. As their teacher I was so proud to hear the feedback from the staff there who said we were the most polite and lovely group they had encountered.

It has certainly been a busy year and we have accomplished so much. Trips, litter picking, poetry, Christmas songs, Victorian cooking and so much more.

I would also like to thank Poppy class for hosting the volunteer's tea party, they made me very proud to be their teacher.

It has been an absolute privilege to teach Poppy class this year and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday.

Mrs Kear



## Speedwell Class

It's been another action packed term for Speedwell class and I have to admit the year itself seems to have flown by!

Speedwell have had an extremely busy time and I hope you have enjoyed the updates on SeeSaw. Year 5 had a wonderful time at PGL doing abseiling, climbing, high ropes, rifle shooting, sensory walk and getting extremely muddy on the challenge course. We've had clarinet and piano concerts, workshops on first aid, trips down Hopewell colliery and more. I've attached some pictures of just some of what we have been getting up to.

I want to take the time to say that I've thoroughly enjoyed teaching you all this year and I wish those of you I'm not keeping the best next year!

Have a wonderful summer.

Mr Ford







## Foxglove Class



And just like that we have come to the end of another term.

Foxglove have had a really busy term. They all had an amazing time at PGL where they got to take part in abseiling, climbing, high ropes, rifle shooting, sensory walk and challenge course (where the children enjoyed getting very wet and muddy). The children were all very well behaved and all the staff commented on how amazing they were. All the children showed our values brilliantly, giving everything a go.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Year 6's the best of luck for the future as they move onto their new schools.

I wish you all a fabulous summer and thank all the children for all their hard work this year.

Mrs Critchley







## ELSA News



I'm going slightly off topic for the last newsletter of the year. This term I have been lucky enough to take some Year 6s kayaking at Mallards Pike and I have enjoyed watching them grow in confidence as they have learnt new skills and techniques and have a go at something they might not necessarily have chosen to do. Our last session, they even managed to drag me in a canoe and ride down the River Wye with them.

I can hardly believe that the current Year 6s are the same bunch of children I met in Year 2 when I joined the school, I shall miss them terribly and wish them all well for the future!

Have a glorious summer!

Mrs Hill

## Gardening Club

This year has been a really successful first year for Gardening club. We made the decision after Malvern 2023 to try to run a gardening club for the whole year to help the preparation for the Malvern show and have been thrilled that so many pupils and parents have come on Fridays after school to garden with us.

We have applied for and been successful in gaining levels 2 and 3 of the RHS school gardening awards and will be working on Level 4 next year.

Gardening club also enabled the children to really take ownership of our Lion King Garden and we were so proud of them and all their work both leading up to and during the Malvern Show.

We featured in the local newspapers, on Gardener's World and on the Cloud Gardeners YouTube channel as well as receiving many wonderful comments about both the garden and our children!

The theme for next year has just been announced and is 'Around the World in the School Garden Challenge way!' We need to design a garden using a country or city as inspiration.

We were delighted to win the prize for best use of recycling for our school garden and have continued this theme in Gardening club by recycling yet again all the plants which were used in our Malvern garden, in various ways at both schools. The outdoor classroom area at St Briavels, which originally came back from another Malvern Garden, needed a revamp and gardening club decided to continue our colour themed planting from our Lion King Garden and replant this area.







We are also in the process of relocating our wonderful Willow Lion atop his piano along the side of the school field and designing a new Lion King area around him with the remainder of the plants.

At Redbrook we have found a home for a zebra and a warthog planter and have plans to relocate the meerkats in their own rock garden!



We will be running gardening club again next academic year from September to the Oct half term and then starting again after the February half term once the weather improves. If you would like to join us, we meet on Friday from 3.20-4.20, KS 1 children will need to bring an accompanying parent please.

## Requests

### Book Donations

We are looking for donations for any second hand, good condition, primary-age fiction books that we could make use of in our school library.

### CD Drive with USB port

If any of our families have a CD drive (with USB port) they no longer use which they would be willing to donate, it would be much appreciated.

## Choir Year Round Up







It's been quite a year for our multi talented and hugely enthusiastic choir. We've performed at the Memory Café twice; sang with the Caldicot Male Voice Choir; did countless Christmas events all over the Forest; joined over 6000 other kids at the Young Voices event in Birmingham; entertained the village at the summer carnival and lastly absolutely blew everyone away over two nights performing Some Enchanted School Trip at the Assembly Rooms where the gang had the chance to show everyone what they could do. Thanks so much to the PTA for helping us along financially and ensuring that the ebbs and flows of our funding wasn't something we had to worry about so we could get on with the important jobs of singing and performing!

Thank you to the choir families for your incredible support and willingness to get stuck in when asked. Your children are a joy to spend time with and I will miss them very much as I leave the St Briavels school family and Tilly heads off to secondary school.

Above are a selection of photos of the kids over an absolute corker of a year. Everyone of them a star xx

Claire Gilmour

## Back to School BBQ



## Wear Yellow for Cystic Fibrosis

Thank you to everyone who contribute to this - we raised a stunning £200 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Many thanks!

## Piano Lessons



Tracey Gwynne currently has availability for piano lessons in school from September (year 3 upwards).

If you are interested, contact her at:

[gwynne905@btinternet.com](mailto:gwynne905@btinternet.com)

## Open Mornings for children starting reception in September 2025

Is your child due to start school in September 2025? We are holding open mornings at St Briavels Primary School to give parents and carers the opportunity to look around our school, meet the Reception Class Teacher, Teaching Assistants and Head Teacher. Booking is essential and spaces are very limited.

Please call the school office on 01594 530 428 or email [admin@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk) to secure your place. The mornings will be at the following times:

9:45am or 11:00am on

- 18 September 2024
- 2 or 16 October 2024
- 13 or 27 November 2024
- 13 January 2025

## Nut Free School



In September, we will have a child with a nut allergy joining our school. Whilst we have been “Nut Free” for some time, it is ever more important now that this is something we must adhere to, to avoid the potential for a life-threatening allergic reaction.

We ask parents NOT to send any peanut or nut containing products to school with your child. This includes Nutella, peanut butter and cereal bars containing nuts. If your child has eaten peanuts/nuts before coming to school, please ensure their hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering school.

We appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

## Dates for your diaries

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

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

Wednesday 11 September - Foxglove Class Swimming Lessons (7 weeks) - Please pay via ParentPay

Wednesday 11 September - Welcome to Bluebell Class – Parent Meeting with Mr Gazzard - Bluebell classroom at 3:20pm

Thursday 12 September - Welcome to Poppy Class – Parent Meeting with Mrs Kear - Poppy classroom at 3:20pm

Monday 16 September - Welcome to Daisy Class – Parent Meeting with Miss Lindqvist & Miss Wilson - Daisy class at 3:20pm

Tuesday 17 September - Welcome to Speedwell Class - Parent Meeting with Mrs Critchley - Speedwell class at 3:20pm

Wednesday 18 September - Open Morning for prospective Reception 2025 Parents - contact office to book

Wednesday 18 September - Welcome to Foxglove Class – Parent Meeting with Mr Ford - Foxglove class at 3:20pm

Wednesday 2 October - Open Morning for prospective Reception 2025 Parents - contact office to book

Wednesday 16 October - Open Morning for prospective Reception 2025 Parents - contact office to book

Thursday 24 October - Foxglove Cake Sale

LAST DAY OF TERM - Friday 25 October

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Monday 4 November

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 2024-2025

You can also see this on our website at: <https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk>

## 2024/25

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

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

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

| JUNE |   |   |    |    |    |    | JULY |   |    |    |    |    |      | AUGUST |    |    |    |    |  |  |
|------|---|---|----|----|----|----|------|---|----|----|----|----|------|--------|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| Mon  |   | 2 | 9  | 16 | 23 | 30 | Mon  |   | 7  | 14 | 21 | 28 | Mon  |        | 4  | 11 | 18 | 25 |  |  |
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| Sun  | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |    | Sun  | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |    | Sun  | 3      | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |  |  |

|              |  |            |  |
|--------------|--|------------|--|
| Term Time    |  | Holidays   |  |
| Bank Holiday |  | INSET days |  |