



St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary Newsletter

No 97 December 19th 2024

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear Families,

The autumn term always feels like the longest of the year, as the dark nights come upon us and the cold starts to settle in. This one has been no exception, with snow in November and the recent storms, but despite this, we have ended our term full of light, hope and joy.

The Christmas performances were, as always, a highlight of our calendar. Our young stars threw themselves into their roles with enthusiasm and no nativity is complete without the odd blip along the way! It was also a joy to see the confidence of our older children grow as they performed their songs and verses. The hard work of both children and staff was evident throughout and it was a heart-warming reminder of the dedication that our team bring to our school.

Our Christingle services are without doubt my favourite of the year. Whether you shared in our EYFS nativity or the Nativity/ Christingle verses, each service itself gave us a moment of quiet reflection and joy, reminding us all of the importance of community, love and kindness. I hope if you joined us, you were able to find a moment to pause and reflect too.

These end of term activities just before Christmas always remind me how blessed I am to be part of such a wonderful community across our Federation and how grateful I am to have so many fabulous people in my life. At this time of year everyone is busy but the opportunity to spend time with the children before the rush of Christmas at home has never been more important to me. From nativities to Christmas dinners, the joy they bring is immeasurable.

For all they give, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of our remarkable staff team. Their commitment to our children is boundless. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all a restful and joyous Christmas with their own families.

I must also take a moment to celebrate our incredible PTA. Their tireless efforts have once again enriched our school life. From organising events to raising funds for essential resources, their contribution to our school community is invaluable. The Christmas Fair was a resounding success, bringing everyone together in a joyful celebration of the season and it was my genuine privilege to be Santa's elf – good luck to the parent who needs to source a real life unicorn!

As we look forward to the new year, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead. I am confident that with the continued support of our fantastic staff, dedicated PTA, and wonderful families, we will continue to provide an enriching and nurturing environment for every child at St. Briavels.

May I wish you all a very happy holiday with your families.

With love

Natalie Frey

Sunflowers



This term the Sunflower children showed their perseverance when carrying out their sponsored bike ride through the wet and windy conditions. They rode around the playground so many times staff got a little dizzy but we did not mind as they children raised £144 towards Christmas craft supplies and toys for Sunflowers. Well done and thank you.



The Sunflower children are now engaging in a daily brush every afternoon having learnt the best way of keeping our teeth healthy and clean. This ongoing event has been introduced by the NHS to support children with oral care preventing tooth decay and gum disease.



A big 'Thank you' to Mrs Roskilly-Pond for coming into Sunflowers and carrying out a very engaging yoga session with the children, showing them physical and mental practices. The children focused well on their breathing technique and were able to revisit and explain this days after.



We had an amazing few days exploring the snow, feeling how cold it was, how we can build with it and make prints using our boots and various toys.



During this festive period the children have been talking about being kind to others, giving gifts to those who do not have much, being kind to our friends and families by making decorations and being kind to the wildlife by making bird food.

We were very fortunate that Sinterklaas visited the Sunflower room one night and left satsumas, gold coins and a new Christmas tree which the children got so much enjoyment out of decorating.

Bluebell Class

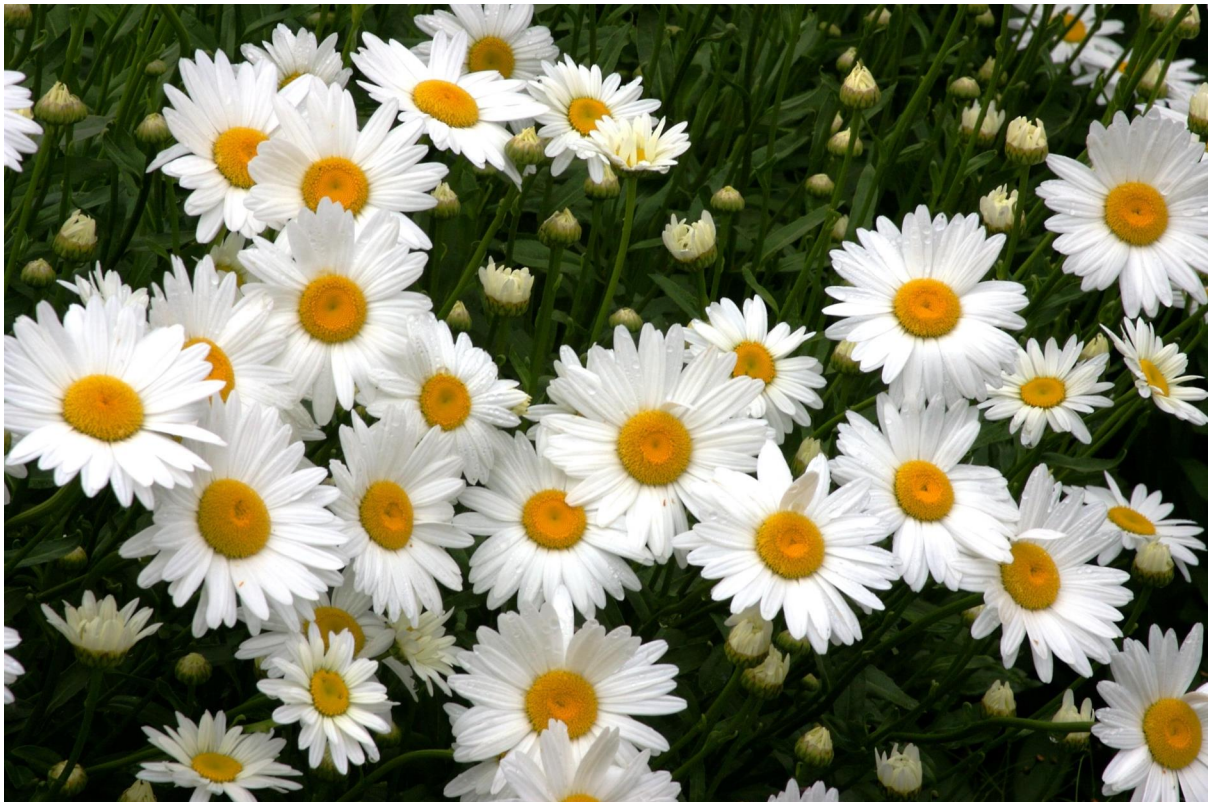


Bluebells have had a busy term thinking about people who help us in the community. We have found out about the vets, the police and have role played being firefighters. We have also thought about going to space and all things space related. Year 1 have been writing stories about meteor showers and Reception have been writing labels and captions.

Next term we are thinking about modes of transport and will be thinking about trains, planes, boats and buses. We have bought some new trikes and scooters but need helmets to keep in school, so if you're are having a clear out over Christmas please think of us.



Daisy Class



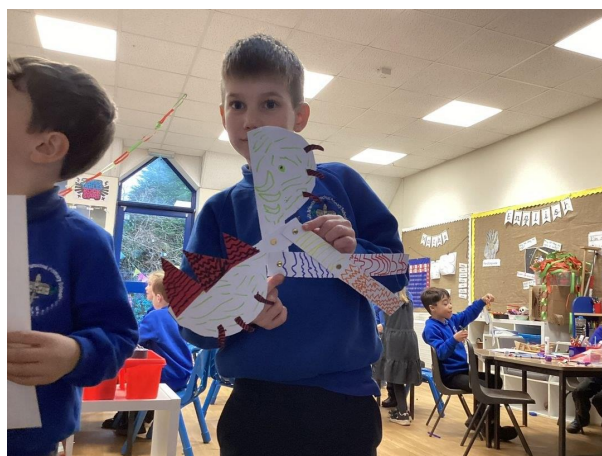
This term Daisy class have worked hard planning and writing stories and developing their phonics and reading skills. In Geography the children have been learning about maps and its features and, in DT, the children have learnt about linkages. We had brilliant fun designing and making our own moving monsters.

We are extremely proud of the children and their hard work putting together the Christmas Nativity. There were many songs to learn and at times the nerves nearly got the better of the

children, but in the end they created three performances they should all be proud of. Well done!

We wish you all a merry Christmas time.

Miss Wilson and Mrs Lindqvist







Poppy Class



Poppy class have had a great time learning all about volcanoes (thank you all so much for the lovely rock cakes!). We were very lucky to have Mrs Thomas and Miss Rees as student teachers in our class and they will be truly missed as they continue on their teaching journey.

I was very proud of Poppy class and their performance of the Christmas Calypso, I hope it kicked off the Christmas season for you in a lively way.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Bonne Noel.

Mrs Kear.



Speedwell Class







Speedwell have had a fantastic term, swimming, learning songs for Christmas and Young Voices.

In English the children have enjoyed reading Kasper Prince of Cats and The Odyssey, creating newspaper articles and epic adventure narrative. Science for Year 4's has been all about electricity and Year 5's have been looking at properties of change.

Geography has taken us on an adventure to Antarctica and learning about Shackleton and following routes and maps.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Critchley

Foxglove Class



Foxglove class has had a great time this term. We've enjoyed learning about the Arctic both in Geography and through our class book Leila and the Blue Fox in English. We've looked at endangered animals and considered arguments on how we could save them and looked at creating our own cam mechanisms. We also really enjoyed our trip to Barse Farm to plant new trees.

I just want to say, I was incredibly proud of how Foxglove class performed during their song recently and I hope you all enjoyed their performance as much as I and the children did.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mr Ford

ELSA News



This term, I've continued to enjoy the ELSA lunch club, chatting with the year 6s in small groups and spending time with them.

Some children have been doing some extra work on internet safety this term and how we keep safe in this new, ever growing technological world. A good website with interactive games all about this topic can be found at:

THINKUKNOW (www.ceopeducation.co.uk¹)

We've had some children go through some tricky challenges over the last term and it has been a privilege to support them and see them grow in resilience while facing these challenges.

I truly hope everyone enjoys the festive break!

Merry Christmas

Mrs Hill

¹<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk>

Choir News

Along with Young Voices practise the choir have been so busy this term with lots of Christmas performances!

They have wowed audiences at the school Christmas Fayre, Taurus Crafts, Chapel Carol concert and The Memory Cafe at the Assembly Rooms. Mrs Kilty and I have been immensely proud of the children representing the school, and their singing was just beautiful! Well done everyone! We look forward to Young Voices in January!

Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Charlotte and Mrs Kilty



Thank you!



We have oodles of thanks this newsletter as so many people have been so generous with their time and resources!

- A massive thanks to **Pete & John Barnby** for erecting our new fence at St Briavels during half term. Much appreciated!
- Thank you to **Becky Kendrick-Kitching** who sourced us some cut price wood for some shelving in the library at St Briavels - many thanks! And another thank you to the **PTA** for painting the library wall!
- Thank you to all our parent readers who help our children learn to read: **Sandra Harris, Janet Hayles, Rebecca Mills, Ruth Sinfield, Kate Hardinge**
- Thank you also to **Charlotte Bishop & Bernie Kilty** who have been doing Choir club. **Bernie** has also been doing Gardening Club.
- Thank you to the Open The Book team - **Rosie Rees, Jane Smith, Glenis Monahan** and **David Rees**.

Forest Foodbank Christmas Opening Times



Lydney

Because of flood damage, the Lydney distribution centre has had to relocate from Lydney town football club. It is now at:

River Children and Family Centre Naas Lane, Lydney GL15 5AU

During the Christmas holidays Lydney distribution centre at River Children and Family Centre will be open on **Tuesday 24th December** but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period.

There are also foodbanks in **Coleford and Cinderford**.

Cinderford distribution centre at the Forest Community church opens on **2nd January 2025**.

To get help from Forest Foodbanks look on their website

<https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>²

Forest Foodbank would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank everyone for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to them.

Monmouth

There is also a foodbank in Monmouth - to find out more, look on their website at:

<https://monmouthdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/contact-us/>

Dates for your diaries

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

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 20 December

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 6 January

Wed 15 January - Young Voices Trip to Birmingham

Fri 31 January- Poppy Class trip to Roman Museum at Caerleon

Mon 10 & Wed 12 February- Parents Evenings - we will be in touch later in January about booking slots

Thurs 13 February - Speedwell Cake Sale

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 14 February

²<https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 24 February

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 11 April

We update key dates on our website (www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk³), please check there and in your emails for notifications.

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

³<https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web>

JUNE						JULY						AUGUST						
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	31

Term Time		Holidays	
Bank Holiday		INSET days	