

# St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary School Newsletter October 2022

No 84 October 20th 2022

## Letter from Mrs Frey

Dear Families,

Our school has long had the support of the PTA which has been run by our parent body for many years raising valuable funds to benefit and enrich the learning experiences of our children. Over the past few years, they have subsidised and funded trips, contributed to our new trim trail, paid for visiting theatre groups and supported new science resources to name but a few things.

We have been hugely blessed that the baton for overseeing PTA has always been passed on through our parents, and in recent years it has been chaired by the very marvellous Claire Gilmour with support from a fabulous group of other parents. This team, has worked hard to put on raffles, book fairs and sponsored events (to name but a few) to raise funds for school as well as offer DVD nights, discos and talent shows to the children. It is because of their determination that the PTA has kept going despite the challenges of Covid and two years of lockdowns and I can't thank them enough for this.

Last week, the PTA held their AGM in the chapel and it was joyful to hear about how much they had managed to achieve in the last 12 months. We laughed, we talked and we planned forward for the next couple of months. However, Claire now feels it is time for her to pass the baton on to a new chairperson. Sadly, no one came forwards last week but we really do need someone who can support us to keep our PTA up and running. Claire is happy to continue as vice chair and support events with her never ending enthusiasm and sense of fun but she would like to hand over some of the more formal responsibilities – she has even created a job spec to encourage you to consider it! Of course, I would like to thank Claire for her unstinting support over the past few years. She has truly nurtured the PTA over an extremely difficult period and continued to find ways to raise money for our school. Thank you Claire – your enthusiasm always brings a smile!

Of course, every family who attends St Briavels is part of our PTA. Many of you attend and enjoy their events and support their fund raising efforts greatly. We now hope you will also join us so that the PTA can continue to bring diverse experiences for our children.

Finally, as we head into half term, I want to wish you all a good break. Autumn is upon us and whether you are going away, staying at home or juggling work and child care next week, I hope you can take some time to enjoy the season with your families. In the words of Winnie the Pooh, "It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolately mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and best of all, leaping into leaves!" Pooh's Grand Adventure.

With kindest regards

Natalie Frey



## Sunflowers Autumn Term



This term we have welcomed many new children into the Sunflower setting who have settled in very well, already showing confidence in exploring and playing with the toys.



The children have been developing their friendship and team work skills.



The children have been extending their listening, understanding and mathematical skills when cooking. Using number language, discussing weight and quantities the children were able to make a fruit crumble. They needed strong finger muscles and learnt how to keep fingers germ free while cooking.



Jane came in to talk to the children about how our ears work and how to communicate with our hands if our ears do not work very well. The children learnt how to sign every day words and some action songs.



## Bluebell Class



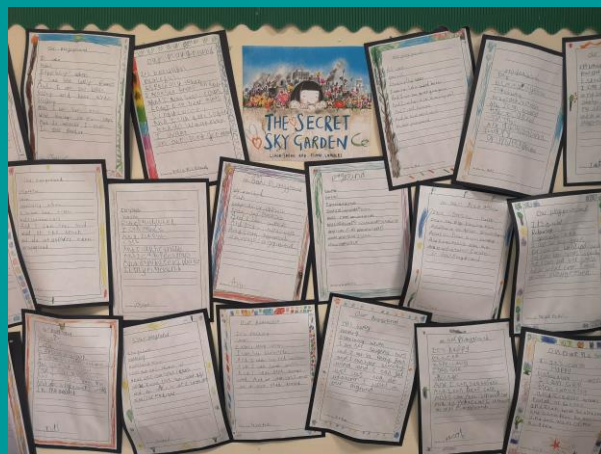
Bluebell Class have been settling in and exploring their new surroundings. We have made a good start in phonics, but any practice you are able to do during half term will help them retain the sounds they have learnt. We have been thinking about 'What Makes Me Me?' and have enjoyed reading our texts, Elmer, The Lion Inside, Croc and Bird and Julian is a Mermaid. The children have created stories in role-play and made some lovely things in Art! We have also been investigating the natural world, looking for signs of Autumn and sharing the things they have found in show and tell. Next term we are thinking about all of the diverse jobs that people do in our community. If you have a job where you help people or carry out a service (such as nurse, vet, refuse collection) we would love to invite you in to share your job with us. The children would love to see what uniform you wear and find out the reason you wear it, so if you can wear it to school that would even better!!

## Daisy Class



Daisy Class have enjoyed immersing themselves in stories this term in English, first with a story of a Secret Garden and more recently a story called 'Wild'. The children wrote wonderful poems that they finished off beautifully creating wonderful garden inspired borders too.

In Art we are in the middle of exploring different printing techniques. The children had great fun experimenting with mono printing creating wonderful patterns.



## My playground

It's peaceful

and

Especially when

I can see sun + trees

And I can hear cars

And I can feel hard  
wood on the bench

and do whatever I want  
on my playground

## Our playground

It's happy

and relaxing

Especially when

I can see shiny cars

and I can see pretty flowers

and I can hear blowing  
wind and I can feel

wet legs and do

whatever I want on  
our playground

Written by Erica

Our playground  
It's calm  
Peaceful  
Especially when  
I can see lovely flowers  
And I can see birds  
Sing and hear birds  
Singing  
And I can feel the  
wind blowing on my legs  
And do whatever I want  
In our garden

Written by Toby

It's beautiful  
Nice  
Especially when  
I can see trees  
and I can see plants  
and I can hear music  
and I can feel sun  
And I do whatever I want  
In my playground

♥♥♥♥♥ xx xx ♥

Written by Layla



on our playground  
It's happy,  
excited  
Especially  
I can see  
children  
And I can see bees  
And I can hear cars  
And I can feel smooth leaf  
And do whatever I want  
on our playground

Written by jacob



## Poppy Class



Poppy class had a fantastic time at forest school. As charcoal was one of the oldest industries in the forest, we made our own charcoal and then used it to create forest landscapes. We also toasted bread and roasted tomatoes - yummy!

A huge thanks to Mrs Morse for being our chief fire maker.

Mrs Kear





## Speedwell Class

Speedwell class have had a great term so far! They've really enjoyed our class book on the 'Land of Neverbelieve' and learning all about WW2. We've started to read our next book the 'Nowhere Emporium' and already the class can't wait to find out what happens next.

Speedwell especially enjoyed our trip to St Briavels castle and loved the tour they received in the afternoon. I've attached some pictures for you to see for yourself.

Mr Ford





## Foxglove Class



Foxglove Class have really enjoyed learning about WW2 and local artist Doug Eaton. The children have engaged in lively discussions about the war and sharing stories from their own families. The class have created some lovely stretches of landscapes using water colours.

In English, diary entries and letters have been written after exploring the books 'The Promise' and 'The Arrival'.

The class have also enjoyed swimming and tennis this term with Prostars.

Foxglove class had a great time at St Briavels Castle on Thursday. They went for a walk through the woods and enjoyed getting very muddy. In the afternoon, they took part in fencing, team building games and a tour of the castle. A great day was had by all.







## ELSA news



(ELSA is 'Emotional Literacy Support Assistance')

It's been a lovely start to the term in the ELSA room, welcoming back some old students and meeting some new ones for the term. Our ELSA tree is certainly looking brighter and fuller with all the 'leafy' fingerprints. So far this term, some of the children have enjoyed learning lots of new vocabulary to describe how we're feeling, looking at our emotional wellbeing and how we can help ourselves stay healthy by making good choices.

I was very excited to receive our 'Worry Monsters' (pictured). They have been lovingly knitted by volunteers from all around the country and are amazing! They are kept in the ELSA room for children to play with them, hug them and talk to them etc.

Lorna Hill

## Sporting Events



### Hockey

6 pupils from Foxglove and Speedwell went to Newent School for a Quikstix hockey tournament. The children all played brilliantly and made it through to the semi-final. Sadly they lost in the last few seconds of the game and finished fourth overall.

### Cross Country

11 children from Foxglove class took part in a team cross-country event at Five Acres. All the children ran really well and enjoyed taking part.

### Football

Children from Foxglove and Speedwell took part in a football tournament. They all showed great resilience despite the weather.

## PTA

I hope everyone's had a great start to the new school year. Am looking forward to welcoming the new faces to the children's party night on the 21st! Always a hugely enjoyable event – can't wait to see which talents will be on show this time!

Great response to the Rags2Riches collection! We raised £125.68 – so thank you to everyone who donated. There will be another collection in the Spring.

By now we will have had our first meeting to plan the Christmas Fayre (Saturday 26th November). There will need to be loads of volunteers to help out on the day and in the lead up so if you missed the meeting but would like to be involved please get in touch via the FB

page or by email [pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk) Otherwise I hope to see you there for some festive fun! Santa will be in his grotto; there will be loads of games for the children; stalls for some Christmas shopping; the fabulous Beaujoladies and the School Choir will be in good voice and there'll be plenty of delicious food and drink. Pop the date in your diary now!

On a final note, I have been the PTA Chair for 4 years and loved it but it's time for some fresh faces and ideas to take the helm and shape the next few years! There now needs to be a vote to elect a new committee to include a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. There is the option to elect a Vice Chair too which I've found invaluable over my tenure. To make the transition seamless I am happy to spend this term handing over and being on call for any questions from the new team if they feel it will be helpful. I know it was for me when the previous Chair handed over her reins!

I'd like to thank the families of St Briavels for your unending support, volunteering, ideas, donations and good will during my time as Chair – you've been fantastic 'P's of the PTA. It's been an absolute joy to be a part of and I look forward to handing it all over in its robust state for others to take forward and mould into something new.

Have a great half term!

Claire Gilmour

## **PTA Committee members needed**

The PTA at St Briavels is an active and vital part of life here. Our little cog assists at cake sales; finances the Year 6 Leavers Hoodies; provides snacks for trips and events; organises the Christmas fundraising product; runs the 2nd hand uniform sales, Rags2Riches and the Spring Book Fair; galvanises support and volunteers when needed alongside fundraising and organising events to ensure our community is a happy one and that our children are getting the best school experience they can. Examples of the events we run include: regular discos, talent shows and PJ parties for the children; Mum's Movie Nights; The Christmas Fayre; Quiz Night; Family Games Afternoon. We love suggestions for new events and the PTA can help take your idea at inception and make it happen!

The most fun part of fundraising is getting to spend it! PTA spending in 20/21 included:

- We contributed £2500 towards the replacement Trim Trail which was installed at the beginning of the Summer Term 2022.
- Extra equipment for the Science Department so the children could get stuck in to exciting experiments
- New kitchen equipment for the staffroom

Decisions on what we raise money for starts with conversations with school – the elected committee discusses these further at one of their regular meetings and then takes it to a wider PTA meeting held once a term. These meetings are open to everyone to attend, are very informal and friendly and a great chance to engage with school life. Everyone's

opinions are taken into account and we agree on where best our fund raising will help the school and the children. But none of that can happen without you so please consider volunteering for the new committee. We need to fill three roles: Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (I can give you more details about each role), as well as needing more new general committee members. Get in touch via the FB page, by email [pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk) or catch me at the school gates.

## Year 6 Apply to Secondary Schools

If you live in Gloucestershire please note that the closing date for secondary school applications is approaching: 31 October 2022. You can find out more information here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/transfer-to-secondary-school/>

If you need a paper form to fill in please ask in the office.

If you live in Monmouthshire the deadline is 23rd November, here is more information:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/starting-secondary-school/>

## Dean Academy request

Would you like your child to join The Dean Academy in September 2023 but need to know more about the transport options available? Dean Academy are investigating minibus travel from your area to the Dean Academy, subject to demand. If you would like to be considered for this please contact: [info@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:info@thedeanacademy.org)

## Covid Vaccines for 5-17 year olds

COVID vaccines: how to access first or second doses for children aged 5-17

It isn't too late for children to access a COVID vaccination if they haven't already completed their course.

Children are eligible for:

- First or second dose – Children aged 5 to 11 (paediatric dose Pfizer)
- First or second doses – Children aged 12-17 (Pfizer)
- Third primary dose – Children aged 5-11 who are severely immunocompromised (paediatric dose Pfizer – 8 weeks after second dose), anyone aged 12+ who is severely immunocompromised (Pfizer – 8 weeks after second dose)
- Autumn booster - Children aged 5-11 who are severely immunocompromised or household contact of someone immunocompromised (paediatric dose Pfizer – at least 3 months after previous dose), anyone aged 12-17 who is severely

immunocompromised or household contact of someone immunocompromised  
(Pfizer – at least 3 months after previous dose)

\*children aged 5-15 inclusive must wait 12 weeks after a COVID-19 infection to get a vaccination

\*\*people aged 16 or over must wait four weeks after a COVID-19 infection to get a vaccination

To access a vaccination, contact your GP Practice for advice on how to book an appointment at a local vaccination centre, use the national booking system to get an appointment at a community pharmacy or the JabVan at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital ([www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination) or call 119), or look out for drop-in clinics on the [local COVID information portal](#).

Please make sure to carefully check eligibility before taking your child to a drop-in clinic; depending on their age they may only have specific vaccines which will not always be available at every clinic.

More information about the COVID vaccines for children and young people is available [here](#).

## Dates for your diaries

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

- **Friday 21st October - last day of term**
- **Monday 31st October - first day of term**
- **Monday 7th November - parent meetings - please book with office**
- **Wednesday 9th November - parent meetings - please book with office**
- **Wednesday 2nd November - Speedwell class commence 6 weeks of swim lessons**
- **Thursday 10th November - KS1 Panto trip**
- **Monday 14th November - Open morning for prospective reception children - contact office to book a place**
- **Wednesday 16th November - Open morning for prospective reception children - contact office to book a place**
- **Friday 18th November - Children in Need**
- **Monday 21st November - School Photos**
- **Wednesday 23rd November - Reception & Year 1 Phonics morning**
- **Tuesday 29th November - Reception & Year 6 NHS screening (Height, Weight, Vision)**
- **Wednesday 30th November - Years 2-6 Reading morning**

- Friday 9th December - Walking nativity
- Monday 12th December - KS2 Panto trip
- Wednesday 14th December - Christmas Lunch
- Friday 16th December - Christingle
- Friday 16th December - last day of term
- Tuesday 3rd January - INSET
- Wednesday 4th January - first day of term

## Term Dates 2022-2023

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

[https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term\\_dates/363933](https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term_dates/363933)

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	