



# St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School Newsletter

*Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be*



No. 82, 7th April 2022

[www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk](http://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk)

Dear Families,

What a term we have had! On one hand we have had the worst Covid-19 outbreak that we have experienced since the start of the pandemic and on the other we have had so many wonderful events to celebrate with the children.

One of the highlights for me was World Book Day right at the start of the term. If ever there was a day that exemplified everything that was wonderful about reading in our school, then that was it. We dressed up in fabulous costumes; shared our love of books and authors with each other; had visiting readers; made reading dens and raised over £700 from our sponsored read event. In the words of J K Rowling, "I do believe something magical can happen when you read a good book." There was definitely something very magical about that day for all of us!

Many of you will have noticed lots of the work going on outside over the past few weeks. With the help of an army of volunteers, our Nursery and EYFS gardens have been transformed and are looking super. We can't thank everyone enough who has donated their time and resources to us to help us make these improvements for our children. Your generosity means the world to me.

You will also have noticed our new trim trail going up this week. The children and I are very excited about the new equipment and it will be ready to play on after the Easter holidays, when hopefully the weather has settled and improved too.

As ever, the staff team have worked tirelessly to ensure that despite the challenges of illness, our children get the best learning experience they can in school and beyond. I hope you got much from meeting with them at Parent's Evening and that you were able to see the progress your child has made since the start of the year.

As we head towards the new term, our thoughts in school turn towards SATs, the tests that our Y6 and Y2 children have to undertake. If your child is in one of these year groups, we will be in touch with you at the start of next term to explain our arrangements for these. I know SATs test can be controversial but they are just a small part of our school life and we don't define our children by a test paper. Our curriculum is broad and there is so much more to celebrate as we see children flourish in all areas of learning.

Finally, I would like to thank our children for everything they bring to school on a daily basis. They make us so proud in their behaviour, attitudes and efforts. We are blessed at the federation to have the most wonderful families who support us and our Ukraine day raised just over £300 for families who are currently experiencing the challenges of war – thank you all so so much! As we head towards the Easter holidays, I wish you all a restful break (if that's at all possible) and much chocolate.

Kindest regards

Natalie Frey  
**Executive Headteacher**



# Sunflower's Spring term



*We celebrated Mothering Sunday by inviting Mum's in for a pamper session, making them a card and an ornament out of clay.*



*We made and served biscuits*

*We read and listened to stories.*

The children have been observing the life cycle of frogs, learning how colour changes by using a light box, using prisms and through Chromatography.



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# Sunflowers contd...



Sunflowers would like to say a massive **“THANK YOU”** to



...all of the parents over the years who have supported Sunflowers in fund raising for the outdoor shelter, we have finally got there after many, many years. It is now a wonderful space for the children to enjoy stories, have a chat with friends, get creative with mark making; using the wonderful views as inspiration and hopefully soon have a rest on some outdoor bean bags.

Jill, Richard and Emily Matthews who weeded, redesigned the garden and put in a border along with new plants.



Tim Matthews for removing and rebuilding our sand pit, the children have been thoroughly engrossed in their digging and building play,

Pete and John Barnby for supplying and building our new amazing fence after the winds took our bike shed into the neighbouring garden.



....and to Claire Deacon and Lorna Hill coming to play and helping out in Sunflowers.

## Bluebell Class



Bluebell class have been investigating the pond. We have transferred the goldfish from the wildlife pond to a new pond by the deck and have brought some frog spawn inside to watch it develop into tadpoles. We are taking good care of them, reducing their numbers by returning some to the pond and making sure they are fed properly. They have already changed a good deal and are beginning to grow their back legs.



**Thank**  
**You**

Bluebells would like to thank Dennis's family for finding the bark, Harriet's daddy for his amazing woodwork skills, and Cooper's family for the fabulous gazebo!!

## Daisy Class



Daisy Class have had a fabulous term. We enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and welcoming in people from our local community to share stories with us.

In Geography we have been learning about London and we enjoyed building our own landmarks and physical features to create a 3D map. In Science we have made our own micro-habitats and investigated what happens to a pine cone when it is left in water.

This term we have been reading 'Meerkat Mail' and we have used this to develop our diary writing skills. We have created our own diary entries based on our class visit to Forest School.

We look forward to another brilliant term after the Easter break

### Ms Davis and Miss Lindqvist



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Mrs Kear would like to say a huge thank you to **Mrs Jomain, Mrs Evans, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Crawley** for their very kind donations of yoga mats and blocks. The children have loved using them and this will help us with our wellbeing work. If anyone else has any mats they no longer need, they would be gratefully appreciated.

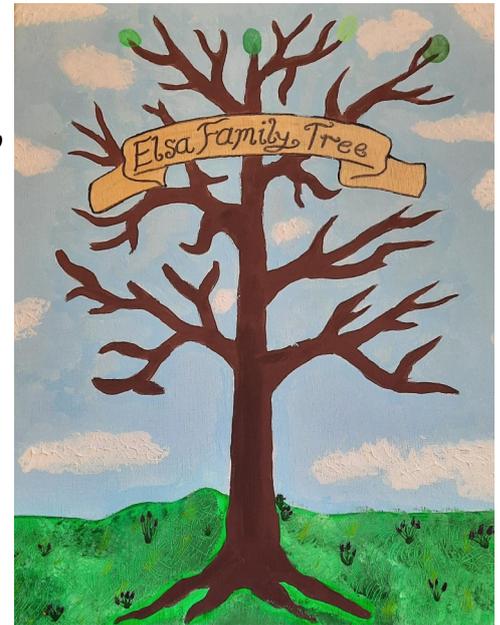
**Mrs Kear**

*I wish to send my personal heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated to the ELSA room recently. I received so many wonderful items from games, playdoh, cuddly toys, fidget toys, a massive beanbag, books and even some money to spend on some resources to help the children. The ELSA room is now well stocked and the children are already enjoying the benefits.*

*This week in our ELSA sessions, we will be starting to fill up the ELSA Family Tree with everyone's fingerprint. "We are each unique and beautiful, but together we'll create a masterpiece" Watch this space next month to see our finished tree...*

*Many thanks again for all your generosity.*

**Mrs Hill**



## Years 5 and 6 Residential Trip

Some of our year 5 and 6 children finally went on the residential arranged back when they were in years 3 and 4 but postponed due to COVID. They went with children from Redbrook school. They all had a very active couple of days and really enjoyed themselves.



We are currently planning a **Years 4 Residential Trip** for this July.

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## Carducci String Quartet visit



We had the wonderful Carducci Quartet visit us. They play to many schools and were very good at involving all the children in the music.

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## Panathlon Success!



St Briavels sent a winning team to the Panathlon event which gives young people with disabilities or special needs the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. They had a great time and came first!

## **PTA NEWS**

A huge **thank you** to everyone for your support this term as we navigate through the removal of restrictions (but with Covid still popping up like whack a mole!) whether it was the sponsored Readathon; the Book Fair; Rags2Riches donations or coming to the hilarious Quiz Night. Not to overlook that we also had a lovely tea and cake morning at the Assembly Rooms; the children had great fun at the free Disco/Talent Show/PJ Party and the PTA volunteers loved being part of World Book Day when we delivered hot chocolate and biscuits while the classes were having a reading afternoon. As I write this we're waiting for the team to arrive to start work on the new Trim Trail so all in all it's been a cracking term!

**READATHON:** *We raised over £800 and read a load of books in the process! These funds will go towards the ongoing plans for the outside areas at school which all the children will benefit from.*

**BOOK FAIR:** *The Readathon sparked a literary frenzy amongst the children as we had our most successful fair ever! Between us we bought around £900 worth of books! This means the school now has £454 to spend. Mrs Frey was over the moon and I'll let you know what ends up being purchased once they've had a look at the catalogue.*

**QUIZ NIGHT:** *What was a very funny evening raised over £100. Congratulations to Team Night Larks for winning an afternoon tea box full of delicious treats donated by Baked on the Border (thanks to ex alumni Sarah Coley).*

**RAGS2RICHES:** *our donations resulted in a payment of just over £80.*

**AMAZON SMILE:** *another quarterly deposit of about £15 (you can choose us to benefit from the Amazon Smile initiative if you use Amazon – see [www.amazon.co.uk/smile](http://www.amazon.co.uk/smile) )*

Next term will be the last for our current Year 6 children (and their parents!) which means we'll be losing the PTA's Vice Chair **Ellen Rule**. She has been an invaluable addition to the PTA team with her level head – plus her catering prowess in our tiny kitchen is second to none! We need someone to fill her boots and take over this role in the committee. If you think it could be you please drop me an email or grab me at the school gates. It's such a lot of fun to be involved in the inner workings of the PTA. You only need to commit as much time as you can afford to and there's no pressure to be involved in everything the PTA does. If your little ones are in the lower half of the school and you have a few years in front of you at St Briavels you're in the perfect position to shape the future and be a part of keeping our successful, friendly and fun PTA legacy alive. Come along to the next PTA meeting, see how it all works and be part of deciding how to raise funds and how to spend them.

School budgets are very tight so every little bit we raise, the events we organise and the support we show our lovely school helps to make sure our children get the most out of their short time in primary education. This term we've purchased science equipment, contributed towards the new Trim Trail, cheered the staff up with some new kitchenware for the staffroom and bought a laptop storage unit. Already looking forward to what next term brings!

Have a great Easter holiday everyone!

**The PTA team**

**E: [pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk)**

# Dates For Your Diary April 2022—July 2022



**Dates subject to change—please read letters home and website for updates**

Date	Event
Friday April 8th	Last day of term
Monday April 25th	First day of term
Thursday April 28th	Sports for Skills - Olympic Athlete Visit
Monday May 2nd	Bank Holiday Monday
Friday 27th May	Last day of term
Monday June 6th	INSET
Tuesday June 7th	First day of term
Thursday 16th June	Yr 6 leavers ceremony Gloucester Cathedral
Week beginning 4th July onwards	Yr 6 Bikeability
Monday 18th July—19th July	Yr 4 Residential
Thursday July 21st	Last day of term



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