



## Redbrook 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.

Our Christingle service is without doubt my favourite of the year. The hard work of our children, staff and volunteers was evident throughout and it was a heart-warming reminder of the dedication that thrives within our school. The Open The Book Nativity was certainly a wonderful addition, and the 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. Their unwavering commitment to our children's education and wellbeing is truly inspiring. 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 FORS. Seeing this group fully re-established is just marvellous. From organising events for our children, to raising funds for resources, their contribution to our school community is invaluable. Thank you all for all that you are doing, as a staff team, we are truly grateful.

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 Redbrook.

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

With love

Natalie Frey

## Robin Class



What a fun and busy half term we've had! The children have enjoyed lots of learning experiences and have made some great progress.

In English, we have enjoyed exploring the text 'The Sea Saw' by Tom Percival. The children created 'Wanted' posters for a toy of their choice, acted out the story using small world resources, and finally, wrote their own story based on the book! More recently, we've been reading 'The House Held up by Trees' by Ted Kooser. The children enjoyed asking the author questions, about why and

how the house was held up by trees. We've spent lots of time outside, gathering leaves, branches and twigs to describe. We have learnt about deciduous and evergreen trees, and this week have written our own fact files about them.

In Maths, year 1 have enjoyed exploring greater than and less than, as well as 2D and 3D shapes. Year 2 have also been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. We have enjoyed being practical in our maths, and noticing shapes in the environment! Reception have been focusing on numbers to 5, including the composition of each number. We are enjoying our 'flash back 4' at the beginning of each lesson, which helps with our retention! Thank you for all your support with Numbots and TTRS at home, the children are making great progress with their mastery of number.

In our wider curriculum, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning some notes on the Glockenspiel, as part of our music curriculum. I was so proud of all the children in our musical extravaganza - they performed beautifully. Art has been a highlight this half term, and we loved creating Autumn floor drawings. We also learnt about Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons, and created a piece of art work to represent it. In Geography, we enjoyed exploring maps and looking at aerial photographs. We enjoyed using Google Street View to explore Redbrook and spotted some of the staff cars in the car park, which we found quite amusing!

We enjoyed a trip to Chepstow Drill Hall to watch Little Red Riding Hood, as well as many Christmas festivities - Christmas lunch (wearing our Christmas jumpers!), decorating the classroom and Christmas tree. We are looking forward to our Christingle and Nativity service on Thursday,

I hope you all have a lovely festive period, we look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

Best wishes,

Miss Marfell





**Kingfisher Class**



This half term is always one of my favourites as the countdown to Christmas fills the classroom with festive fun and winter joy – surviving storms and snow this year!

Kingfishers have continued to enjoy our English and guided reading texts. 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' helped us better understand the WWII period from a child's perspective, whilst our more recent texts around the Titanic have been fascinating. The children's love of reading, and enjoying a variety of different texts, is developing beautifully, recognising different time periods, how this can affect a text, making comparisons and observations. Our daily Wordle is still a big hit and kick-starts our English lessons, helping to build vocabulary and recognising consonant and vowel patterns.

We've completed another half term worth of spellings. Thank you for your continued support and practice at home – it does make a big difference. It's lovely to see the children's enthusiasm to get better and beat their own score, knowing their targets and what spellings they need to work on. Keep it up Kingfishers!

One of the highlights of the half term has to be the musical extravaganza! I was so impressed with all of the performances. During music in school, the children worked very hard learning the notes on the glockenspiel, especially practicing playing in time with one another. A particularly big well done to those children that performed individually, you definitely inspired and awed your classmates. We look forward to seeing how you progress over the coming months.

This half term wouldn't be complete without some Christmas activities. From decorating the classroom, to enjoying Christmas dinner together, wearing Christmas jumpers and a trip to the Savoy for the pantomime. We finished the year, and the first full term, with a wonderful combined Christingle and Nativity service. Thank you to 'Open The Book' for the organisation, sets and costumes. The children have a real love for performing and take great pride in learning the words, actions and songs.

And just like that, we're at the end of 2024! Wishing you all a joyful break, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

A few things to be aware of in January; violin music lessons will be taking place as part of the curriculum and keep an eye out for details about an upcoming history trip in February.

All the best,

Miss Chambers













## Curry Night Success!



We are delighted to share with you all that the school curry night in November raised a whopping £1,138 profit !!

Thank you so much for all of your support from donating raffle prizes , purchasing raffle tickets and for those who came on the night too.

We had lots of winners from school on the night too which was brilliant. Below is a list of some of the prizes won by parents / staff at school:

- box of chocolates
- Acupuncture session at 'Maxine Smillie studio'
- Afternoon tea for 2 at the Tudor farmhouse
- voucher for the 'Pig and Apple'
- voucher for 'Pop's buses' - Mulled wine
- Candle making kit - SuperFish meal for 2 voucher
- One day fly fishing voucher at 'Bigwell fishery in Redbrook
- Sunday roast at the Bell for 2
- Joules voucher .....and other prizes.

Thank you for all of your continued support , this will make a massive difference for the school.

**Thank you!**



- Thank you to FORS (Friends of Redbrook School), who have given each class teacher a small pot of money, this will be extremely useful for the purchase of bits and bobs through the year - thank you!
- Thank you to Sarah Lynch and Katalin Debulay-Gavand for coming into school and listening to the children read. Many thanks!
- Thank you to Tara and all at the Redbrook Shop, for your donations to the school, from selling Christmas Trees. We are very grateful!
- Thank you to Rob McCafferty who mended our broken speaker for us! Many thanks!
- Alan Marfell's father, who donated Christmas Trees to Redbrook Shop to sell, proceeds of which have come been donated to the school. This raised £60! Much appreciated.
- The Open The Book Team for educating and entertaining the children through the year

A poster for a Christmas Communion service. The top half features a close-up of hands holding a lit candle. Below this, the text reads 'Redbrook Christmas Communion' in large white font, followed by 'Christmas Eve 24th Dec 5pm' and 'All welcome'. A grey box contains contact information: 'contact mark@markbick.co.uk' and '01594 836418 for details'. The bottom half shows a photograph of a church building with a snow-covered roof. At the very bottom, there is a logo for 'The Mid-Wydean Churches' and the 'DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER' logo.

**Redbrook  
Christmas  
Communion**

Christmas Eve 24th Dec 5pm  
All welcome

contact mark@markbick.co.uk  
01594 836418 for details

The Mid-Wydean Churches | THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
serving Coleford, Broadwell, Clearwell, Newland,  
Redbrook, Staunton and surrounding areas. | DIOCESE OF GLOUCESTER

## Medication at School

If you bring medication into school for your child, please ensure that:

- if it has been bought over the counter that you bring in the packet too so that we can confirm dosage instructions
- if it is prescription, it needs to have the child's name on the medication
- All medication must be in date!

We will ask you to complete a form, and will use it to keep a record of who has administered medicine and when. You may collect / check this at the end of the school day if required.

- For further information, please see our Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy at:

[Wye Forest Federation - Federation Policies](#)

## Weather Warnings



We have all been treated to some interesting weather recently! If we are concerned about the weather and parent's ability to get children to or back from school, we will in the first instance email parents. We will also add information to our Tapestry, Seesaw and Facebook pages. We also ask that you share such information with other parents in order to get the message out quickly as we appreciate you're not always looking online.

We do not have a hotline to imminent road / weather / river warnings: whilst we do keep an eye on local information we also appreciate it when you let us know of anything which might affect parents bringing / collecting children which we might not be aware of.

Many thanks!

## 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/>

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.

Thurs 19 December- 2.30pm - Christingle and Christmas Play

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 20 December

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 6 January

**Fri 7 Feb - Kingfisher trip to Caerleon**

**Tue 11 Feb - Parents Meetings**

**Thurs 13 Feb - Parents Meetings**

**LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 14 February**

**FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 24 February**

**LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 11 April**

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 2024/25

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	

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	