

St Briavels Primary School

Newsletter



No. 59 December 7th 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

This will be the last newsletter of this year and whilst it feels a little early still, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful Christmas. As we head towards the end of another busy term I would like to thank you all for your continued support and your feedback which is always appreciated as it helps us to continue make things even better. Thank you for welcoming our School Business Manager, Nicola, so warmly, she is enjoying getting to know us all.

December is a particularly lovely month in a Church of England school and our children are enjoying this period of advent as we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. The younger children are rehearsing for their performance and the choir have been busy performing at events including singing at Taurus crafts and at the Baptist Church coffee morning. Thanks to those parents who have been transporting children to be able to be part of our choir performances. All our children worked hard to make our beautiful, individual hall decorations, this year on the theme of 'Christmas Trees'. I'm sure you'll agree when you are in there, they look fab! On the topic of trees....some of our children have been working with Mr Gazzard to plant trees in our school grounds and we are working to care for the trees and protect them as they grow to provide homes for birds and other wildlife, to help counter the problem of strong winds in the playground and to provide a further distinctive barrier between our playground and the cattle field next door.

Many apologies for the necessity of cancelling the proposed Speedwell trip. The sad fact is that we do not have the financial capacity to fund trips where we don't collect enough parental contributions to cover costs. I appreciate that this was a disappointment for all and we did not take this decision lightly. After several reminders we cancelled at the latest opportunity to do so without incurring any cancellation charges. All monies paid will be refunded via Parentpay. This has thrown up the issue of school having correct and current email addresses. We use email to contact parents to reduce our printing costs. If you do not have email access we can provide paper copies of communications which you are able to request from the office. Please make sure if you change your email you update us or if you require paper copies of all letters home from school to please let us know.

Sarah Helm, Executive Head teacher
The Wye Forest Federation

Foxglove



Foxglove have welcomed their first few donations to our reverse advent calendar basket. After our work about world poverty and food shortages in the Harvest Festival, we made a pledge to help and this is it. Everything we collect over December will be donated to a local food bank. We are looking for one donation over December from Foxglove members and anyone else that would like to contribute. So far we have beans, tomatoes, tea-bags, chocolates and bubble bath. The basket is in Foxglove, if you would like to donate. Many thanks!

Mrs Ricketts

Daisy Class



Daisy class have really enjoyed their 'Funky finger' sessions recently! They have been threading string through small holes, picking up beads using pegs, making beautiful patterns on peg boards, making Cheerio towers on pieces of spaghetti and challenging themselves to make the tallest cube towers! All of these activities are really helping to develop their fine motor skills!



If anyone has any beads, buttons, ribbon, nuts, bolts, tubes or other interesting items, please send them in and we will find a use for them!

Thank you to everyone who has already sent bits and pieces in for us to use!

Mrs Griffin



St Briavels Toddler Group

This is held on a Tuesday in the school hall. From January it will move to the new time of 9am-11am

From January the new time will be:

Tuesdays 9am—11am

Craft Donations Please!

I'm looking for donations of art/craft things, chalk, pencils, paper, old drawing books etc for the children to do at play and lunch times. Any boxes with lids would be great too. Also any games people don't want as it's Xmas and clear outs might be taking place. Also a large piece of rope to be used as a skipping rope! Please bring to the office and let them know what it is for! Thank you!

Lisa Watkins (TA and mid-day supervisor)

Speedwell class

Speedwell have been very resilient during the Blitz and have been busy reporting for The St Briavels Times. Our intrepid reporters are artistic as well as literary, and have created some wonderful Blitz silhouette artwork. No war can be won on an empty stomach, and we have been learning about how scarce food supplies are rationed and what foods we have to eat – Spam, anyone? It's a good thing we all love cabbage!



In science, we have been learning about sound and telephone communication and designing ear defenders against all that dreadful bombing noise. Still, this war can't go on forever, and Mr Hitler clearly hadn't considered Britain's secret weapon – Speedwell Class! V for victory!



A very happy Christmas to all our families!

Mrs Keeling-Paglia

Drivers Needed!

Year 2 children will start their swimming lessons at Lindors in January and we need parent helpers to drive the children there and back and also to go into the water.

The lessons will commence on 10th January and run until 14th February. The children will leave school around 12:30pm and return at 2pm. If anyone is willing and able to help on these dates, please contact the office.

Thank you!

Word of the week:

Sonorous

At its most basic, this means making or capable of making a sound, but it is normally used to describe that sound- deep and imposing, like the ring of a heavy bell or the rich, many-layered voices of actors such as James Earl Jones and Christopher Lee.

St Briavels PTA NEWS

I'm in the throes of Christmas Fayre Eve preparation so I'll keep it brief (this time)... my first term as PTA Chair has been even more fun than I thought it would be! Taking over from the inimitable Jo felt like a huge ask but we're slowly finding our feet (thanks Jo for your 24hr PTA helpline...). Thanks are also due to everyone who's helped out and attended the events this term - adults and children alike - couldn't have done it without you!

Actual news - alongside the minibus project the PTA will be directing our funds into the reimagined outside area. This will include a fabulous eating space as well as injecting new life into the field. The plans look amazing - Mrs Watkins and Mr Gazzard have created something really special. Am already looking forward to the Grand Opening Party!

There'll be lots to look forward to next term - plans for a treasure hunt and a games afternoon are afoot with the usual pj parties etc that we all know and love. It's a lot of fun putting on these events aswell as raising the all important funds. If you would like to join in or have an idea you'd like to suggest (or run!) please come along to one of our meetings or grab me in the playground. Everyone's welcome!

Have a very merry Christmas one and all! Ho ho ho - see you in the new year!

Claire and the PTA team xx



Breakfast and After School Club: Wrap Around Care: **ONE FREE HOUR OFFER!**

We would love you all to benefit from our great breakfast and after school clubs, so we are offering each child attending St Briavels school and early years **one hour free** wrap around care either at breakfast club, or after school club immediately after school. Please book your child into the club through the office to secure a place for them on the requested day and session. Thank you!



Christmas Breakfast

We will be having a Christmas Breakfast on Wednesday 12 December (starting 7.45am). Don't forget to visit the Wraparound Care craft table at the fair this Friday!



Water Water Water!

We have replaced the water dispenser at school to allow easier access for the children to fill up their water bottles. Please could we ask you to provide your child with a sports top water bottle for use in school. Our lovely PTA are looking into purchasing some bottles. Research has shown that having a drink of water may improve children's visual attention and fine motor skills with evidence suggesting that once children arrive at school 71% do not drink sufficient water throughout the day.



Nicola Dutton
Business Manager, Wye Forest Federation

Apply for a primary or infant school place **DEADLINE 15th JANUARY 2019**

If you have a young child due to start school in September 2019, you must remember to apply for a school place! You can do it online here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-or-infant-school-place/>

Timetable: From November 2018..	Letters sent out explaining how to apply for a school place. If you are a Gloucestershire resident and you still have not received a letter by December 2018 please contact coordinated admissions
From 5 November 2018 to 15 January 2019	Online application facility open
Tuesday 15 January 2019	Closing date for all applications

New Toddler Group at Redbrook!

Sian Van Loo will be running a toddler group in Redbrook starting on Thurs 10th Jan, running from 10-11.30 am in the lovely Church at Redbrook.

There will be a small charge.



Trips and PARENT PAY

Please check your parent pay account and tie up any loose ends with unpaid trips etc. We have a large number of outstanding payments for trips that have already occurred. Trips have always been arranged to broaden our children's learning experiences and the costs have been kept to a minimum. Our school budget is already stretched and we cannot afford to run school trips without sufficient contributions to cover the costs. We understand that there are some families who may have difficulty contributing to the costs so please let us know. For future trips, in order to ensure our costs are covered, we will give a payment cut-off date prior to any cancellation charges being incurred by the school. Should sufficient payments not be received by the date given then, unfortunately, trips will be cancelled.

The Admin Team

Forest Foodbank

I am aware that families within our community may be struggling as we head into the Christmas period. I am able to issue food bank vouchers for those who feel they would benefit from being able to access the food bank. Please use it if you need it, it is there to help. If you feel you would benefit from food items but, for any reason, are unable to access the foodbank, please let me know and I will happily arrange for someone to collect on your behalf. Your family's well-being is important to us as a school and we will do what we can to help, so please, just let us know!

If you are lucky enough not to need to use the foodbank this Christmas, we are able to collect donations and take them to the foodbank for distribution to those who could do with a helping hand. Please bring any donations to the school office and we will deliver to the foodbank.

Sarah Helm

Foodbank Opening time over Christmas:

Mon 24TH Dec (XMAS EVE) - **COLEFORD OPEN** - 9.00AM - 11.00AM (N.B. not the usual 2-4)

Tues 25TH Dec (XMAS DAY) - CLOSED

Weds 26TH Dec (BOXING DAY) - CLOSED

Thurs 27TH Dec- CLOSED

Fri 28TH Dec - **CINDERFORD OPEN** - 9.30AM – 11.30AM

Mon 31ST Dec (NEW YEAR'S EVE) - **COLEFORD OPEN** - 9.00AM - 11.00AM

Trees Trees Trees!

It's National Tree Week this week, last Sunday was Tree Charter Day and we thought we'd let you know we are doing our bit!

In England and Wales we are currently planting the lowest number of trees for a generation and so, thinking of our children's futures, Mr Gazzard has been working hard to plant the 200 native deciduous trees obtained from The Woodland Trust. If you happen to be in our playground please help take care of our saplings !



Sarah Helm

Are you having a Christmas Clear Out?

If you are making space for new toys at Christmas and your children have outgrown good condition and complete toys and games, we are particularly short of construction such as **lego/duplo, k'nex, zoobs** etc, dressing up clothes for our younger children. If you make donations that we are unable to make use of then we will return them to you if requested, or donate to a local charity. Thank you for helping us!



Cyber News

The National Online Safety Team

We've created a free online safety guide for schools to share with parents and carers about **Twitch**; an online gaming-focused live streaming service, owned by Amazon, which has over 15 million daily active users!

Describing itself as a 'community of millions who come together to create their own unique, live, unpredictable, never-to-be-repeated entertainment', Twitch is undeniably a popular platform for online gaming enthusiasts. With young children and teenagers frequenting the platform, it is important for parents and trusted adults to be aware of the associated risks, including, but is not limited to; uncensored material, unwanted contact from strangers, online bullying, live streaming and online payments.

Find out more at:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/twitch-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

National Online Safety

T: 0800 368 8061

E: hello@nationalonlinesafety.com

W: www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Term 2 - Autumn 2018
St Briavels Primary School



Day	Date	Class	Event
Friday	7/12/18		Christmas Fair after school
Monday	10/12/18		
Tuesday	11/12/18	Toddler Group St Briavels School Hall	10-11.30am
Wednesday	12/12/18	Sunflowers/Bluebells	Sunflowers/Bluebell Christmas Production is 2.30pm
Thursday	13/12/18	Y1 / Y2	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play – 2pm
Friday	14/12/18	Y1 / Y2	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Play – 6pm Open the Book 2.30pm
Sunday	16/12/18		Christmas Carol Concert
Monday	17/12/18	KS2	KS2 Pantomime Trip
Tuesday	18/12/18		
Wednesday	19/12/18	Whole School	Christmas Lunch
Thursday	20/12/18		
Friday	21/12/18	Whole School	2pm Christingle at Church
Monday	07/01/19		START OF TERM
Tuesday	08/01/19	Toddler Group St Briavels School Hall	9-11am NOTE NEW TIME!
Wednesday	09/01/19		
Thursday	10/01/19		
Friday	11/01/19		

School Council

School Council would like to increase the number and variety of good quality books we have in school. If you have any unwanted books for ages 2-11 we would be most grateful if you could send them in to school with your child. We are also looking out for a table tennis table, circus toys (diablo, juggling balls etc..) and plastic boxes with lids to enable us to store books outside for the quiet area.

Many thanks for your support.

School Council