

St Briavels Primary School

Newsletter



No. 37 10th November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are lucky to be enjoying such fabulous Autumn weather and getting outdoors as much as possible, including further opportunity over the lunchtime by being able to continue to use the field.

I am aware that there have been some minor frustrations as a small number of people have been finding that our communications have not been getting through for whatever reasons and I am meeting with a specialist to get advice about how to move forwards in the best way to ensure we are communicating effectively. When we have a clear strategy we will inform you and this will hopefully mean we will be successful in sharing all the good things that are going on for your children here at St Briavel's. Thanks for bearing with us, many things are in a state of flux as we continue to work hard behind the scenes to improve our systems and processes across both schools in order to provide the best for our children and families. I am having to work hard to improve my ability to be patient too as I would like everything to be done now!!

It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Bring your parent to school' evening and we greatly appreciate your support. It is so valuable for children to have the opportunity to share their learning with you and this, combined with a fabulous social time to share a meal time together made for a great evening. Many, many thanks to those wonderful people who cooked, hosted and washed up as well as a big well done to our 'work experience' waiting staff!

Sarah Helm
Executive Head teacher
The Wye Forest Federation

Afterschool Provision

Following comments from parents we are undertaking a survey to identify any need for an after school provision at St Briavels.

We have attached the survey to the email —and would be grateful to have it returned by Friday 24th November.

Paper copies are available in the office, or can be downloaded from the letters section of the website.



Magic Porridge Pot

KS1 are excited and looking forward to their trip to The Drill Hall in Chepstow on Thursday 16th November.

Could we please remind all parents to pay for the trip using Parentpay by Monday 13th November as we would hate to have to cancel this trip due to lack of payments.

We have over £500 of income still due in. If you are having difficulties with Parentpay please come and see the office.



Dates for your diary:

KS1 Xmas Theatre –

Thursday 16th November

Children in Need—Wear spots

Friday 17th November

PTA—Mum's PJ Party

Friday 17th November

St Briavel's Castle Trip—Foxglove

Monday 20th November

Cadburys World Trip—Speedwell

Tuesday 21st November

Dean Heritage Centre—Foxglove

Tuesday 21st November

PTA—Wear your Christmas Jumper

Friday 24th November

Foxglove Cake Sale

Friday 24th November—after school

PTA—Christmas Fair

Friday 1st December

KS1 Christmas Production

2pm—Thursday 7th December

6pm—Friday 8th December

KS2 Xmas Theatre –

Monday 11th December

Christmas Dinner

Thursday 14th December

Christingle and End of term

Friday 15th December at 1pm Church

Term ends at 2pm.

End of Term

Monday 18th December – Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Inset Day –

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Back to School –

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Half Term

Monday 12th February—Friday 16th February 2018

Inset Day -

Monday 19th February 2018

Back to School -

Tuesday 20th February 2018

Attendance

If you are running late for school and arrive after 9am please remember to bring your child in to school via the main door (even if the gate is unlocked). The registers are taken at 8.55am and so to ensure we know which children are in school it is really important to come in through the main front door. Thank you for your support in safeguarding all the children.



We will be updating our attendance policy shortly and will let you know when this is updated on the website. The school attendance for Term 1 (Sept to Oct) was 95.4%. Our target for the year is 97% overall for the year.

Children who arrive late, often find it difficult to settle into the class, so they lose even more learning time. Please continue to make every effort to get your child(ren) to school on time.

Children in Need

Going Spotty—again!! Please support Children in Need by wearing something spotty to school and bringing in £1 donations.



Head Lice

We have received notifications that head lice are still present at school.

Please continue to check your child's hair and take steps to remove any lice if found.

Lunchtime

Just to let everyone know, I felt that the inherited lunchtime arrangements where junior children have to remain in the hall after eating until going back to class is by no means ideal and we have been looking at how we could make this better for our children. Our concrete play area is quite small for the number of children we have, so in order for all children to be able to be outside and be safe following eating we will need to make greater use of the field. This is easier when it is dry weather but more of a challenge when the field is damp or if it is raining.

One of the ideas we are looking at is children wearing their shoes on the field, which will then become muddy, so then removing them to return to the classroom. What would you think about putting slipper socks on your child's Christmas list? I will keep you updated should we have any better ideas about how we can make our lunchtime playtime more successful but please bear with us whilst we try out different ideas. Thanks for your continued support. And feel free to feedback any suggestions you may have!

Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms

Thank you to the number of parents who have raised the issue of our provision for children with dyslexic traits, tendencies or diagnoses. We have been looking at how we can make our classrooms more inclusive of a wider range of children's learning needs and are starting with work to make our classrooms 'dyslexia friendly'. We are putting together a policy which outlines the strategies that we will employ across all our classes as part of everyday good practice. This will include guidance on the use of less contrasting backgrounds/font colours when using the interactive whiteboards, providing bookmarks with include a coloured overlay to support all readers and varying the colour of paper/print that is presented to children, providing an alternative to the stark contrast of black on white which some children struggle with. When our guidance document is complete I will let you know and you will be able to view it on the website or ask us for an email and/or paper copy (on buff paper with blue ink!!).

Online Safety

Please can we remind you to talk to your child about staying safe online. This should be a regular conversation about not giving out personal information, keeping passwords safe and never sharing them and talking about any apps your child may be using. The NSPCC have guidance to support you with keeping children safe online and setting parental controls on your children's devices which will help, especially if you are thinking of Christmas presents that will enable your child to get online!



Our Value this Term

Please continue to help the children to understand the importance of being compassionate.

PTA—News

Phew - last night was busy! The St Briavels Restaurant served a whopping 130 jacket potatoes, and a fabulous time was had by all! Huge thanks to our wonderful school cook, Claire, to all the lovely parent helpers and of course to the children who did such a good job being waiters and waitresses. On top of that, it looks like we've raised over £300.

And don't forget to complete and hand in your order forms! We've got the Mum's PJ Party happening on Friday 17th November, and we need to get those orders in for book bags and aprons. We've attached the form again, just in case you've misplaced the first one, so please please please get that form in on MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER.

And if you're feeling stressed about all the things you've got to get through in the next few weeks, why not sing those cares away with the St Briavels PTA Choir? Seriously, last week's first ever rehearsal, led by the amazing Amy Hulme has ALREADY produced stunning results and it was so much fun. Next rehearsal is tonight from 7.30 -8.30pm in the school hall.

And so now we move on to the Christmas Fayre! In preparation for this, we're holding our usual Wear Your Christmas Jumper To School Day, on Friday 24th November. We're not asking for a cash contribution to take part in this day, instead we'd like the children to bring in an item for the Christmas Hampers. This can be chocolates, a DVD, hand cream - anything you think would help to make our hampers as lovely as ever! The hampers will then be raffled off during the Fayre.

And the Fayre itself - well, it's going to be a corker! Taking place on the afternoon of Friday 1st December, the children will have the chance to shop from 2.30pm until we open the doors to parents, grandparents, carers and community members from 3.10pm. There will be lovely refreshments on offer, including mince pies and mulled wine, tea and cake, and a gorgeous range of stalls so that you can stock up on lovely Christmas presents.

Emma Nelson will be there with a selection of beautiful gifts suitable for the whole family from Forever Living Aloe Vera Products. Gifts will be able to be taken away on the day or personalised hampers can be ordered. Snow Queen and Bronllan Crafts will be there with a range of Christmassy gifts, including plenty of smaller items for the children to buy. Urchin Jewellery will be selling their beautiful designs using nickle-free silver plate, freshwater pearls, crystal and semi-precious gemstones. Usbourne Books will also have a stall, along with Chateau Bonbon, Cinderhill Farm, Anny Claire Crafts, Briony Violet and of course each class will also be running their own stall, including one class running a Christmas Cinema, so the children can be entertained whilst you shop!

We have a HUGE fundraising target for this event, so please, make every effort to come along, soak up the Christmas atmosphere and shop, shop shop. It will be the perfect start to the Christmas Countdown!

And as ever, we need volunteers! PLEASE grab Jo, Paula, Christine, Louise or Lex and offer your services - decorating the hall, serving mulled wine, cutting up cakes, running a stall - EVERY offer of help will be gratefully received, so don't be shy - we need you!

See you soon,

Jo and the PTA Team.

