



St Briavels Parochial C of E Primary Newsletter

Letter from Mrs Frey



Dear families,

As I write, we can tell that the Christmas holidays are very near. The children have performed magnificently in their Christmas concerts, they have had their Christmas lunch, the classrooms are festooned with decorations and preparations are well underway for our Christingle services. The sense of excitement for the coming week is palpable and on the way to school this morning, the

radio played a song called Wrap Myself in Paper which references that it's a week and a day until Christmas (hands up who is ready - I most certainly am not).

Our amazing staff team, as ever, have thrown themselves into all of these events with the children with gusto and once we finish on Friday, I am sure they will take a well-deserved break and some time with their families to celebrate what I have always considered our 'second Christmas', the one we have at home. I want to thank them for another wonderful term in school and for all that they do for the children, I am ever grateful.

With all the joy of these festivities, it is sometimes important to take moments of stillness and calm to pause and reflect. Our Christingle service always enables us to take a moment to be thankful, to offer a thought or a prayer for others if that is something important to you, and enjoy those final moments together. I hope that you are able to join us in what has become my favourite service of the year (I lead 3 of them over both schools – all different, all special and all beautiful).

Wishing you much joy and love over the coming weeks.

Natalie Frey

No 103 December 18th 2025

Sunflowers



The Sunflower children had an amazing trip to Perrygrove where they met Father Christmas, his reindeer, had a run around the Twilight village and Tree Top village and a ride on the steam train before having a picnic in the tram shed.



We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to

- The Pantry for raising £300 for Sunflowers through a raffle at their Wine and Cheese evening. We are looking to buy a piece of a multi module climbing frame for our outdoor area.
- Perrygrove for hosting a wonderful Christmas trip
- Matt and Rosie Rees for hosting our Christmas celebration at the Chapel and Ernie Parsons for being a jolly man dressed in red.
- To all of the parents raising money for our sponsored bike ride, which raised £113 towards maintenance of our current climbing frame and some outdoor toys.

- and to the parents for donating a tool station, books and toys.

Bluebell Class



Bluebell Class have had another busy term finding out about people who help us. We have learnt about the Vets, Police Officers, Doctors and Firefighters. Year 1 have been busy mapping the school playground and finding out about where we are in the world. They have also been sorting everyday materials according to their properties, which they have really enjoyed.

Year 1 did a wonderful job of learning their verse for the 'Night before Christmas' and performed their song brilliantly at the Christmas show. Thank you to all the parents who helped their children learn their lyrics. We had a wonderful time visiting Perry Grove and really enjoyed going on the trains and meeting Father Christmas. Bluebell Reception are busy learning their parts for the Nativity and we are sure it will be a huge success at the Christingle.

Have a restful holiday everyone!



Daisy Class



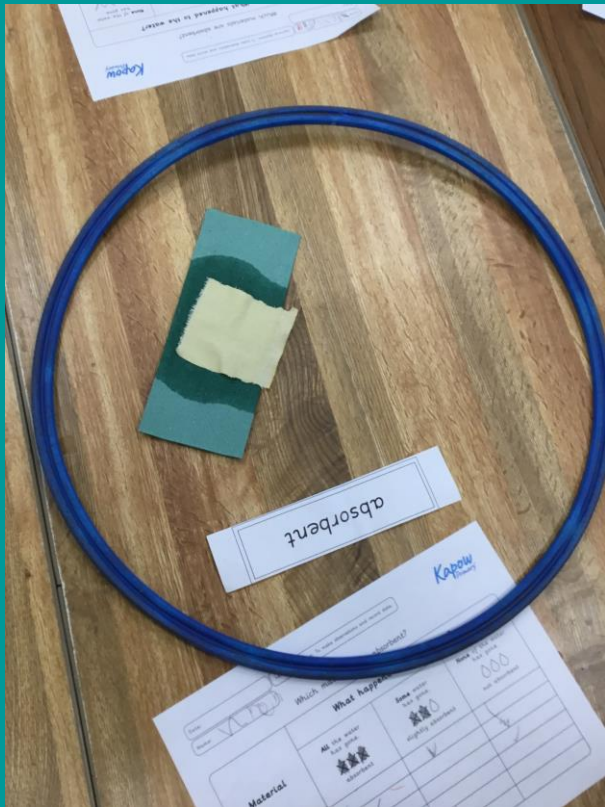
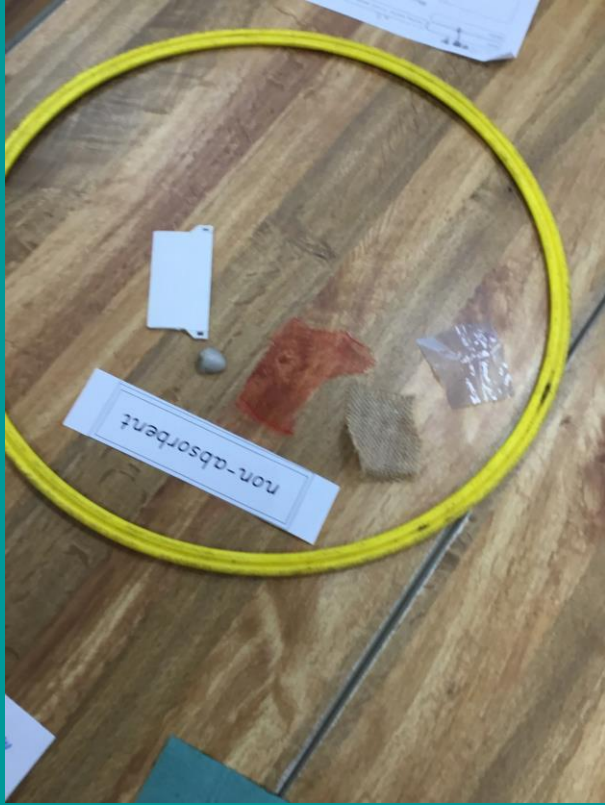
Wow! What a second term we have had.

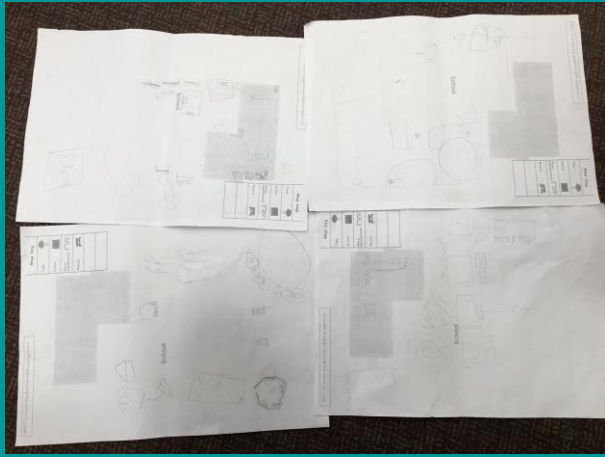
We have enjoyed putting actions to the story The Papaya that Spoke and writing our own versions all about Santa and the objects that spoke to him. In science, we have learnt all about materials and microhabitats. Geography this term has been all about 'Where we are?' and we have created some super maps of our playground and designed a new playground using symbols.

Thank you to everyone who helped the children to learn their poems. 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' the children sang beautifully and performed amazingly.

The children had a super time at Perrygrove and enjoyed seeing Santa and going for a ride on the train.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Poppy Class



Poppy class have had a brilliant term and been really busy. I have been amazed with the homework brought in and we have had great fun exploding all the volcanoes. Our trip to the pantomime was so much fun and the Poppies really appreciated Mr Ford's acting skills! I was so proud of the children's performance in the Christmas concert, they took such care to learn all the sign language and performed with huge confidence. As I write this, we have made and tasted our seasonal tarts. The children were able to show case their cutting and grating skills and turned out to be a superb bunch of chefs. A huge thank you to all the children and their families who have donated books to the classroom, they are very much appreciated. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January.

Mrs Kear and Mrs Morse.









Speedwell Class



Dear all,

Another awesome term has simply flown by. The children have worked super hard through the darkest months of the year and continued building their knowledge and improving their skills across the curriculum.

One of the highlights of the term has been swimming. It has been inspiring to watch all the children give it their best every week, whatever level of a swimmer they are, and to cheer each other on. The tired smiles at the end of each session are just fabulous to witness! In science, the Year 5s explored different types of mixtures and the appropriate methods to separate them, enjoying the practical experiments that they got to perform; whilst the Year 4s found out about the role of the digestive system and compared teeth and diets of different animals as part of a

food chain. In design and technology, the children researched about playground designs before first designing and then creating their own ideal playground designs. Lots of fun was had during these lessons.

We are also immensely proud of all the hard work that the children put into learning the poems, the songs and the actions for our Christmas production; as well as how wonderfully they managed their excitement and nerves before and during the performances.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday with your loved ones.

Miss Wilson and Mrs Lindqvist





Foxglove Class

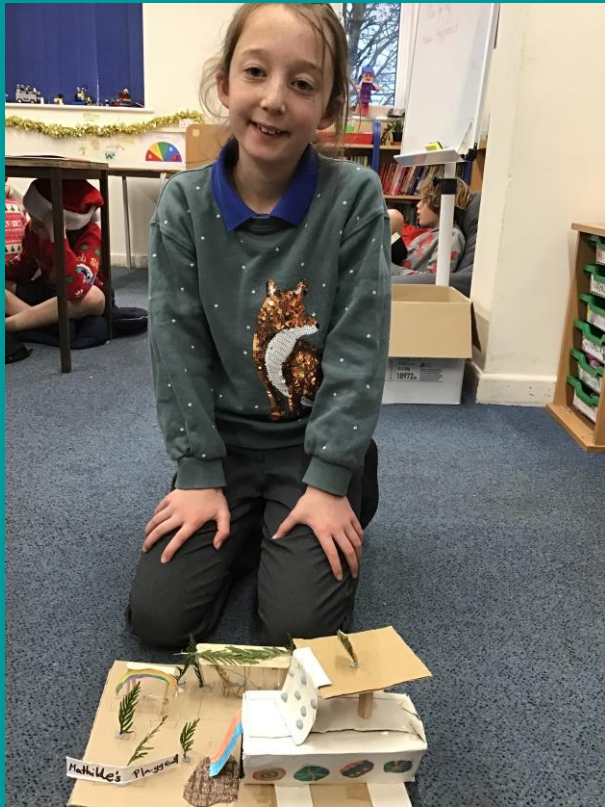


It has been a very busy and exciting term for Foxglove! The children have worked incredibly hard and taken part in so many events this term. We enjoyed performing in our Christmas shows and showing off our amazing singing skills. I was incredibly impressed by how well they not only memorised the songs but the poems and actions too! The children had a further opportunity to share these songs at the Memory Cafe in the village earlier this week. As ever, they did us proud and represented our school beautifully within our local community. Our Christingle celebration will be another special moment, helping us reflect on the meaning of this time of year.

Looking ahead, we are already gearing up for Young Voices next term. In class, we have been focusing strongly on our times tables, and I am extremely impressed by how many children are practising regularly at home.

In our wider learning, we have loved designing and making our own playgrounds, thinking carefully about structures and safety. We have also explored how the growing world population impacts the environment and the world around us. In English, we have dived deep into the Greeks and Mayans and the children have produced some fantastic reports on what the Mayans have done for us.

Well done, Foxglove, what a brilliant term!





ELSA News



This half term, a few children have been learning all about 'regulation'—specifically, how to recognise what 'zone' they are in and what they can do to regulate themselves to feel better. Some children have also been learning how to manage their anxiety by challenging their thoughts and practising strategies to help them.

I really enjoyed watching the children perform their Christmas poems and songs, especially as I hadn't seen them practise beforehand!

The highlight of the festive period, however, was watching the children enjoy the Pantomime in Hereford; there were lots of laughs and memories made that will last a long time.

Have a wonderful festive break.

Mrs Hill

Student Placement - Bluebell Class and Year 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to introduce myself. I am a BEd 3 student and will be undertaking a placement in Bluebell class throughout the autumn and spring term, taking increasing responsibility for leading the teaching and learning with all of the Year 1 children.

As part of my course, I will be undertaking a small research study, focusing on the development of an aspect of my practice as a teacher. The aim of the research is to enable me to understand the impact of my teaching on the children's learning and so improve my teaching. The aspect of my teaching I have chosen to focus on is the use of verbal feedback to improve children's writing within English. The children's learning and welfare will be paramount throughout, and no child will be unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged as a result of the project.

For the purposes of the research study, in order to understand the impact of my teaching on the children's progress, I will be gathering some evidence related to the children's learning. This will include photocopies of children's work, observational notes and notes of things the children say. The evidence will be kept securely and only used for the purposes of my report and will be deleted/destroyed upon successful completion of the module. The report will not be published or made available online. The name of the school will not appear in the report and individual children will not be identified by name.

The project has been discussed with Mr Gazzard and Mrs Frey, and they support the planned approach. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, or if you would prefer your child to be excluded from the evidence gathered, please let me know.

I am really looking forward to working with your child this term and look forward to meeting you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Oakley

PTA news

We had a very successful Christmas Fayre and raffle with takings of around £1500! Thank you to all the volunteers and attendees, it's thanks to you that it had such a positive result.

Thank you to Mrs Frey and all the staff for the wonderful Christmas show. We hope you have a restful Christmas.

Finally we wanted to wish you all Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

From the PTA

Forest Foodbank Christmas Opening Hours



During the Christmas holidays the Coleford distribution centre at the Salvation Army in Broadwell GL16 7BX will be open on Wednesday 24th December but then all the distribution centres will be closed over the Christmas period.

The last session before Christmas for Lydney distribution centre will be on 16th December and for Cinderford will be 18th December.

Lydney distribution centre at the River Family and children's centre, Naas Lane Lydney GL15 5AU opens after Christmas on 6th January 2026, Coleford opens on 7th January 2026 and Cinderford at The Forest Community church will be open on 8th January 2026.

To get help look on their website <https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for the tremendous support that all schools in the area give to us.

Best wishes,

Forest Foodbank



Dates for your diaries

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

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri Dec 19

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon Jan 5 2026

Fri 16 Jan - Young Voices, Birmingham

Mon 26 Jan - Parent Meetings - 3:30pm-6:00pm

Wed 28 Jan - Parent Meetings - 3:30pm-6:00pm

Thurs 5 Feb - Rags To Riches Collection Day

Fri 13 February - Class Photographs

LAST DAY OF TERM - Fri 13 Feb

FIRST DAY OF TERM - Mon 23 Feb

Term Dates 2025/26

Please note these are for the academic year starting in September 2025 .

Term dates can be found on our website here:

https://www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/term_dates/372930

Term Dates 2025/26																			
SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER											
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24		
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		7	14	21	28	Tues		4	11	18	25		
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	2	9	16	23	30	Thur		6	13	20	27		
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		
DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY											
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MARCH				APRIL				MAY											
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Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	3	10	17	24	31	
JUNE				JULY				AUGUST											
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Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		
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Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		
Term Time						Holidays													
Bank Holiday						Inset Days													