

St Briavels Primary School

Newsletter



No. 46 April 20 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back!

It has been delightful to welcome back our rested and restored children and I have heard some fabulous tales of holiday shenanigans. It sounds like a lot of fun has been had by many!

This is a great time of the year to continue moving our learning on as the improved weather means we can enjoy being outdoors more. We have training planned to help staff improve the playtimes and lunch breaks with our children and the school council will be involved in reviewing the available play equipment. If any of you fancy teaching us playground games that you enjoyed as a child it would be fabulous to build a repertoire and to reintroduce forgotten favourites. Let us know if you fancy helping us with this, I am thinking French skipping, jacks..... (if you would prefer to just provide the resources and not get involved in teaching this is equally valuable)

We have interviews planned imminently for recruiting an admin assistant and we anticipate this will help greatly to improve our communication, I look forward to introducing our successful candidate to you in the next newsletter.

Part of our INSET day for staff spent time looking at Guy Claxton's Learning Power Approach and how we can begin to tailor the learning we offer to our children to meet their future needs which we know are beyond passing knowledge recall tests. We had chance to explore what our children will need to be skilled in and how we can ensure that we teach these skills as an integral part of the curriculum offered across the WFF. I will give more information about this at the meetings planned for later this term and in each newsletter but one of the most powerful messages was regarding the use of the word 'yet'. If you could also use this word when your child tackles something new or unfamiliar I am sure we will begin to see an impact. So, for instance, if your child tells you they can't do something, add the word 'yet' to the end of their sentence and ask how they can be helped to achieve. We will be using 'yet' to support new learning and helping children to raise their expectations that they will be able to achieve as we work on promoting our positive learning mindset.

Sarah Helm
Executive Head teacher
The Wye Forest Federation

Attendance

Just to remind you that our expectation is that every child will attend every day that the school is open unless they are unwell. Please inform the school should your child not be attending, this is so we can ensure all children are safe. We are being closely monitored by the local authority to improve both our attendance and punctuality and we greatly appreciate your support in building good patterns of school attendance.

In light of the serious case review into the death of Chadrack Mbala Mulo we will be reviewing our procedures with regard to children's absence from school. We will of course keep you informed of any changes in forthcoming newsletters.

Dates for your diary:

This is on the back page and has all the dates for term on.

We will have also attached the weekly calendar via email for your information as well.

We hope that parents find this easier and would welcome any feedback.

Parents in School

Can we please remind parents not to come into school via the back door. If you need to come in to school please use door by the office so we can ensure you are signed in for safeguarding and fire safety reasons.

Bluebell

Bluebell Class will be looking at seeds and how things grow over the next few weeks. If you have any spare seeds, or seed packets, you could donate we would love to have them to grow in class. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will be arranging a trip to the Meadow. We will inform you of details closer to the time. Please make sure the children have the appropriate Forest School kit in school, it takes place every Wednesday afternoon.

As we are in the summer term now, we are already thinking about preparation for Year One. It would be very helpful if we could prepare the children by encouraging them to say their 'goodbyes' at the gate and coming in independently.

Piano Lessons

The Piano teacher Tracey Gwynne currently has vacancies if any child would like to start lessons.

You will see from our weekly calendar that we have a lovely logo to remind you when piano lessons are.



Budgets

I am sure that you are all aware of the reporting on the impact of the reduction of school budgets and sadly, we have not avoided the inevitable- less money to spend and increased costs. This is an issue both for Gloucestershire schools and nationally and the budget issues will mean that we have to make some difficult decisions. I would like to reassure you that everything we do will have the children and their learning at the centre of the decision making and both the governors and the school leadership team will give consideration to all available options before reaching any conclusions but it is important that you know that we need to ensure all of the available money that is not specifically ringfenced will be spent for maximum impact for **all** of our children. This will mean that for some of the provision at school, specifically wraparound care, that is not accessed equally by all of our children, we will have to review our current offer. It is vital that this provision should be self-funding in order to continue and this may mean that we need to increase the uptake or change the pricing structure in order to continue. We are currently investigating lottery funding that we may be able to access to help us with this. We will undertake consultation and ensure that notice periods given for any unavoidable change is reasonable.

Another impact of reduced available budget means that where we need to buy resources to support learning we may need to look to fund raise as a school to meet these basic needs, where we wish to provide experiences above and beyond our capacity we may need to ask for increased donations to support. It may mean that we need to cancel planned events where we are unable to raise the required funding via donations. If you are able to consider making a regular financial contribution to support the school this would be most welcome and could be set up easily via parentpay or direct debit. The governing board are taking a proactive approach and are forming a committee to specifically look at identifying and accessing grant funding that may be available to support specific projects or areas for development. If you have knowledge or expertise that could support this work we would be delighted for you to assist in any way you feel able to.

Sunshine!

As the weather improves we need to think about protecting ourselves from the sun.



Please send your children in with labelled sunhats, sun cream and water bottles..

Parent's Forum

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th April at 9.10am. Items on the agenda include improving communication, preferences for photographs, ideas for fundraising etc.

Vacancy—Afterschool Club

We have a vacancy for an Afterschool Club Assistant at St Briavels. The club is run on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:10-5:30pm. Please visit the office for further information.

Mrs Roberts—London Marathon

Our TA, Mrs Roberts will be running the London Marathon this weekend. We will let you know her time and the charity she is running for in the next newsletter. Good luck Mrs Roberts!!!!



Cynthia Dallow

After 13 years with the school, our Teaching Assistant, Cynthia Dallow, is retiring. Cynthia has made an invaluable contribution to the school during her time and she will be hugely missed. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Cynthia the very best for the future.



PTA News

We still have a few tickets left for Saturday night, so do sort a babysitter and come along for what promises to be another amazing night of fabulous food, giggles and a bit of dancing! Tickets are just £12 each (which includes your three course Indian meal) and there will also be a well stocked bar. So come on, grab your sari and join us in a transformed school hall this weekend! Call 07584 119592 to reserve your tickets.

And then we shall be on to May, with our next fundraiser being a Zumbathon. There will be more details in the next newsletter, but if you'd like to take part (you don't have to have done Zumba before!) then do get the date - Friday 18th May - in your diaries. Last time we did this we raised a whopping £1000, and don't forget, there will be a fabulous prize for the person who's raised the most sponsorship.

The Bella Mammias will re-start rehearsing from next week. We have an online group for communications, so if you'd like to join, do let Jo or Paula know and we can add you on. We shall be singing at the Whittington Purse festival on Sunday 20th May, so if you fancy being part of that now's the time to join. It really is great fun, and takes up just an hour of your time every fortnight, but what a relaxing and enjoyable hour it is.

Further on into the term, we shall be ending the Carnival in style once again with a Back to School Disco! Tickets will go on sale at the end of May, just before half term. But that date - 9th June - needs popping in your calendar now! It's always a hoot, so do come along. And then we shall once more be closing the year with a Summer Fete on Sports Day, and more details on that one will follow. We've also had some requests for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Discos, so once a date is sorted for that, we'll let you know.

That's it for now, and we hope to see you on Saturday!

Jo and the PTA Team

Sunflowers

Sunflowers are thinking about being kind and helping each other, starting from next week we are using our new Kind Hands display to support the children in helping each other, each day the children will tell us when someone has been kind, or helped them and then they will stick their picture on the display. This has been developed to support the children's PSE development and our school values.

Please could sunflowers have any plastic syringes you can donate these are great for water play and building hand muscles



Maypole

On Monday 7th May (Bank Holiday Monday) The Redbrook Millennium Green Committee and FORS will be holding the Wyelympics and May Fete between 1pm and 4pm on The Green in Redbrook. Everyone is invited to come along and join the fun. Donations of cakes and some help on the day would also be very welcome.

Text Messages from School

It was brought to our attention recently that some text messages sent from school did not appear as they normally would, which understandably raised suspicion as to their authenticity. We have been in touch with the company which provides this service and they have assured us that they have resolved the problem. Additionally, it has been noticed that our IT system has not been updating mobile numbers, so if you have recently informed us of a new number, you may not be receiving texts. We have raised an urgent call with our service providers and hope to have the problem resolved next week. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you experience any further problems in this regard and thank you for your patience.

Lunch Payments

Further to the email from Admin on 29 March regarding the booking and payment of school lunches. Can we please remind parents that if their child is not in school, they are responsible for unbooking lunches before 8:30am.



Term 5 - Summer 2018

St Briavels Primary School



Day	Date	Class	Event
Monday	16/04/2018	Whole School	INSET DAY
Tuesday	17/04/2018		
Wednesday	18/04/2018		
Thursday	19/04/2018	Daisy - Y1	Swimming starts
Friday	20/04/2018		
Monday	23/04/2018		
Tuesday	24/04/2018	Speedwell - Y4	In the Net production at St Whites
		Parents	9.10-10.10 Parent Forum - staff room
Wednesday	25/04/2018		
Thursday	26/04/2018	Daisy - Y1	Swimming starts
		Parents - Y3 & 4	3.10 PGL trip parent meeting
Friday	27/04/2018		
Monday	30/04/2018		
Tuesday	01/05/2018		
		Parents	Parents information meeting 2pm
Wednesday	02/05/2018		
Thursday	03/05/2018	Daisy - Y1	Swimming
		Parents	Parents information meeting 7pm
		Poppy/Speedwell	Y3 & Y4 PGL trip to Ross on Wye
Friday	04/05/2018	Poppy/Speedwell	Y3 & Y4 PGL trip to Ross on Wye
Monday	07/05/2018	Whole School	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	08/05/2018	Bluebell	Vision and Hearing Checks 11.30-1.30
Wednesday	09/05/2018		
Thursday	10/05/2018	Daisy - Y1	Swimming
Friday	11/05/2018		
Monday	14/05/2018	Foxglove - Y6	SATS Week starts
Tuesday	15/05/2018		
Wednesday	16/05/2018		
Thursday	17/05/2018	Daisy - Y1	Swimming
Friday	18/05/2018		
Monday	21/05/2018	Daisy/Poppy Y2	SATS Week starts
Tuesday	22/05/2018		
Wednesday	23/05/2018		
Thursday	24/05/2018	Daisy - Y1	Swimming
Friday	25/05/2018	Bluebell/Whole School	Bluebell Cake Sale 2.30pm