

Redbrook Primary School

Newsletter



No. 40 5th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the start of what promises to be an exciting year as we continue to work to make our school even better! I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our staff, to thank you all for your very kind Christmas gifts. It is not expected that you give gifts and we have been overwhelmed by your generosity. It is nice to be appreciated!

We have been working hard to get our school improvement plan in place and now have both long term aims in the form of a five year strategic plan as well as specific goals for this year. Our main priorities for the remainder of this year are:

- To raise standards for pupils by improving and further developing the quality of teaching & learning across the federation and;

- To enable children to be accountable for, and take ownership of their learning through the teaching of a range of learning skills (metacognition).

(Google 'Building Learning Power' by Professor Guy Claxton if you can't wait to find out more about this.....)

These objectives are planned in conjunction with our local authority advisor, the diocesan board of education and with input from our governing board and we will be reporting back on our successes regularly supported by a range of evidence. We will be working towards these objectives through identified achievable termly milestones and will continually evaluate and measure the impact of our actions towards meeting these. We will be asking for both your and your children's input and feedback as we progress through our plans and will keep you informed and updated. We look forward to doing things differently....and better!

If you want any further information about our improvement plans feel free to contact Mrs Helm, Mrs Kilty or Mrs King.

Staff Federation Responsibilities- The names of the teachers who have responsibility for a subject area across the federation should you need to contact anyone for information or support. More to follow in the next newsletter!

Maths Leader – Anna Ricketts

English Leader- Nadia Arnold

Science Leader- Leanne Griffin

Inclusion Leader (Additional learning needs and pupil premium provision)- Bernie Kilty

Assessment Leader- Clare King

We are looking to increase parental involvement across both of our schools. We realise there is a wealth of talent out there within our parent community and would love you to come and share it with us in one or both schools if you have some spare time. Speak to your child's class teacher or email our admin team to let us know how you feel you could get involved. You could come and hear readers, help out in the forest, teach us a new skill, share your hobby, lead a project, tell us about your adventures.....

Sarah Helm

Executive Head teacher

The Wye Forest Federation

Behaviour in School

We are working hard to support all our children's individual needs at Redbrook including children's behaviour and its impact on the learning of themselves and that of others. I am aware that it can be difficult to be patient where we are unable to give the big picture of the work that we are doing to support and improve this across the school but I would like to reassure parents that we are addressing issues and taking the necessary steps to act on specialist advice whilst we follow the correct protocols to provide the required support to meet all of our children's needs. We are also looking to provide further support for those children who are currently finding it difficult. Mrs Kilty, our federation inclusion leader, Mrs King and I will be working closely with the teaching staff and the class to ensure that all our children can access positive learning experiences.

Website as a source of information

Please do consider the school website as a source of information. We have been working hard over the holidays to update the website. We will do our best to maintain the website regularly until we are able to budget to build a new one for the federation. Letters, Newsletters will be uploaded to the website. Many thanks for your support with this. Don't forget our school information Facebook page too!

Dates for your diary:

KS1 Swimming starts

Tuesday 9th January 2018

Redbrook WOW Day

Thursday 11th January 2018

Art Club—Friday afternoons

Starts on Friday 12th January 2018 3.15-4.15

NSPCC Number Day

Friday 2nd February 2018

Half Term Monday 12th Feb—Friday 16th Feb

Facebook/Social Media

It has come to our attention that there have been posts on Facebook which either name individual staff members or are detrimental to the school. We are a small community and we all take pride in our fantastic village school. Criticisms are natural—sometimes things go wrong but we would far rather parents and community members approached us directly with any concerns rather than post them on social media where we have little control over how far and wide these messages are spread. Other schools have been in the unfortunate position where they have had to take action to stop malicious content being spread as it is hugely damaging to the school community and its wider reputation as well as being deeply upsetting for everyone who strives to make our school a happy and safe environment for the children.

We will be issuing some guidelines in the coming weeks over the safe use of social media but in the meantime if you have any queries please contact us on admin@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk.

Parentpay

Please bear with us as we continue to work to get parentpay right for you. We are aware that there are difficulties as we complete the set up of the system. We are trying to find a solution to booking meals for those who are entitled to free school meals and hope to have this resolved shortly.

Your patience during this time is sincerely appreciated.

Governors

At the Full Governing Body meeting on 5th December, the annual election for chair and vice-chairs was undertaken by the new clerk.

We are really pleased to announce that we have a new Chair of Governors—Mr Phil Hall. The vice chairs remain Mr David Rees and Mr Chris McFarling.

Thanks were given to Mr Jerry Maltman for the huge amount of time and effort undertaken as Chair to the Governors, especially in light of no clerk.

We hope to be able to put more information from the Governors in forthcoming Newsletters.

If you wish to contact the governors then please email

clerk@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

chair@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

Parent Council

I am thinking of setting up a 'Parent Council'. This would be a group of interested parents who would meet termly with me, Mrs Helm to have input into school plans, both long and shorter term, to enable feedback to be shared from parents and to answer any questions. Ideally this would be at least one parent from each class who would come along to represent and share information from and with the parents of their child's class. Parents would put forward items for the agenda as would I. It is anticipated that the meetings would be approximately 1 hour in length, tea and coffee provided! If enough people are interested in opening this as a channel of further communication please leave your name at the office. Should the interest in this mean that it is to run then we will look at days and times to suit the majority and plan to begin early in the new term.