



St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be



No. 79, 21st October 2021

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

Dear Families,

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of the first half term already. Autumnal weather is well and truly upon us and the darker evenings and mornings are creeping in. Although this term brings a reminder that the winter is on its way, it has always been a favourite of mine where children find interesting leaves, bring in conkers and share the fascinating treasures they pick up as they walk to school or search the school grounds. Just this morning, I was greeted by one of our reception children who had been collecting horse chestnuts and wanted to tell me all about them. What a glorious start to my day!

Autumn also brings the Annual Schools Cross Country event and I had the privilege of escorting 24 very enthusiastic runners to Five Acres last week where they raced against girls and boys from across the Forest. Each race had around 130 children take part and to say our teams did us proud is an understatement. They embraced the racing challenge head on and strived together to cheer each other down the final straight. Every single child showed our school values of courage, compassion, respect and resilience over the course of the afternoon and despite not winning, they had a wonderful time, as did I.

Not all days in school though, have been glorious for us this term and our vision has never been so important as we have held together as a team to grieve the passing of a former pupil. Even as adults, we struggled to comprehend the tragic death of Jake Corner but through love and courage we have supported each other and reached out to support the young people who were at St Briavels with Jake when they came back to us. It is a blessing to me that our school and our staff provided them with a place they felt safe to return to and grieve together as they planted a tree in his memory with the support of Mr Gazzard and Mrs Rickets (a former, much loved teacher) alongside Jake's uncle just a couple of weekends ago. Grief, as many of you know, is a journey and sometimes it's the unexpected moments that catch you. Mrs Kear found an old class photo in a cupboard just a few days ago and in it was Jake smiling and happy. For us, this is how we will remember him always.

Now, as we head into the half term break, my staff will take some time to heal and to prepare for what is always an exciting and hectic term leading up to Christmas. I hope you get a chance to take a pause with your families during this week, even if it is just curled up sharing a story together. Please know that if you need us, we are here to support not only your children but you too. If we can help, we will.

With much love

Natalie Frey
Acting Executive Head Teacher



Courage Compassion Respect Resilience

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Thank You Mrs Arnold

I know that many of you will want to join with me to thank and say goodbye to the very fabulous Nadia Arnold as we reach the end of this term. It is with great sadness that we see her move onto pastures new but we would like to celebrate her time with us too...

Nadia trained at St Briavels during the academic year 2002-2003 in reception. She must have made quite a mark as she was then appointed as Reception teacher in 2007 and has taught in our reception class ever since. Nadia has seen around **300** pupils come through her door during that time and she has made a significant impact on every single child that she has taught.

During the past 14 years, Nadia has returned to us after two maternity leaves. She has proven very handy with a paintbrush, and clearly loves decorating and moving the furniture around. She also loves to clean - a very handy attribute during the past 18 months of Covid. Nadia has always been calm and collected and she loves singing; we'd say she actually has an air of Mary Poppins about her! Her amazing acting skills have proven useful and she is particularly good at acting out 'The Little Red Hen'. Many of you will remember her brilliant directing of the nativity and prompting children whilst kneeling down at the side of the stage, keeping the camels in check.

Nadia has been and is loved by the children, parents and staff she works with. We feel privileged to have had her as part of our team for so long and know that even though she will no longer be in our school, we have made friendships that will last a lifetime.

Good luck in your new school Nadia, they are very, very lucky to have you!



Daisy Class at Forest Schools



Courage Compassion Respect Resilience

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Sunflower Class



We have had a wonderful start to the academic year in Sunflowers. We have welcomed back our younger children from last year who have really stepped up to fill the shoes of the pre-schoolers and we have been amazed by their maturity and kindness when welcoming our new children, who in turn have settled in so well.

The children have enjoyed the core texts of **Dear Zoo**, **The Little Red Hen** and **Oliver's Vegetables**. The reading of these texts has been extended to provide activities such as learning the process from planting the wheat seeds all the way to eating the bread. The children even made their own bread hedgehogs. After reading Oliver's vegetables they explored many different types of vegetables, printed with them and made soup.

The children have been engaged with a story and a play every week with Mrs Frey as well as building their friendship, turn taking and sharing skills with their peers with challenges such as pirate boat building outside.

Mrs Hannah Hardinge
Lead Nursery Practitioner





Bluebell Class

Bluebells have settled in beautifully and we are enjoying getting to know the routine and children's interests. Phonics is a huge part of our day, children are learning sounds every week and you will start to see reading books in book bags. A huge thank you to Mrs Deacon who has been in class every week to hear readers. We hope you have a fun half term and come back ready to explore our next 'Big Question'.

Mrs Nadia Arnold



Daisy Class

We have had a fantastic, busy start to the year in Daisy Class!

In English, we have been reading '**The Story Machine**' by Tom McLaughlin. We recorded and wrote our own stories about the main character Elliott, who went on lots of different adventures, including going to the circus, travelling on bright red trains and skipping to the park with friends. As scientists, we have explored different materials and built houses for the three little pigs. We have also been investigating seasonal changes and what Autumn brings, based on our very own seasonal pictures from home!

Last week, as historians, we discussed what toys our parents and grandparents might have played with as children, creating timelines of different toys and sorting toys into old and new.

We have been learning about The Lost Son in RE and we have produced some fantastic story boards! We have also had a brilliant time exploring and learning new skills in Forest School including building fires, making sure we cross the road safely to get there!

Announcements:

Year 2 children will be starting **Forest School** after October half term.

Our Daisy Class Seesaw class page is up and running, so please do look for regular updates coming through.



Headteacher's award achievers for Term 1:

Isla, Mathilde, Olive, Jayden, Sienna, Jobie, Erica and Eira.

Well done to all of you!



The children have all worked very hard and should be proud of how well they have settled into their new class. We look forward to another successful term in Daisy Class in November!

Ms Davis, Mrs Hunt & Mrs Morse



Daisy Class



Poppy Class

Poppy class have been investigating the history of toys. We were extremely lucky that so many families sent in toys for us to look at. We made a toy museum and we all enjoyed looking at the toys and discussing what it would have been like to play with them.

Mrs Kear and Mrs Collins





Speedwell Class

Speedwell have been settling in well to the new school year. We've been enjoying our class book the Borrowers and have been learning all about the Romans and Boudicca's rebellion in the afternoons. I've attached a couple of pictures of us charging the Roman shield wall during the last battle!



In PE we've been doing cross-country and trying out the couch to 5k challenge. Unfortunately, I think I've worn them out for the term already!

Mr Will Ford



Key Stage 2 Harvest Festival

This week Key Stage 2 celebrated harvest by listening to a performance by the Open the Book team (assisted by a number of children) and sang the Harvest Samba that they have been learning this term.




Courage Compassion Respect Resilience

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

As we're getting ready for our first children's events in a while here at PTA Towers (see details below) we hope everyone has had a good term, from the little ones and their first taste of school life to the eldest as they head into their final year at St Briavels.

The week after the half term break we have a **Rags2Riches collection** – Friday 5th November – here's the website so you can have a look at the organisation, how it works and what they will take. www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk So if you've had or are planning a clear out please do consider bringing your bagful(s) to drop off on the 5th and help us raise some money for school! We made almost £150 last time – every bag counts.

Christmas will be upon us before we know it  and even though we can't put on the annual Christmas Fayre this year we do have a few plans to celebrate and raise funds along the way. The **Christmas product** this year will be a full school, full colour tea towel. More details on how to order will come in a couple of weeks – they're a perennial favourite and good for pressies. I absolutely love the apron with my child's self portrait when she was in Bluebell Class from the last time we did something similar.

On the 3rd December there will be a **non uniform day (festive outfit, crazy hair, just plain jeans and jumper** – whatever the children want to wear) and in return we'd appreciate a donation to the **PTA Christmas Raffle Hampers**. We've already got some great prizes in the bag: Perrygrove tickets, Merlin cinema tickets – but if there's anything you'd like to donate to make this a really special year please get in touch.

There are plans afoot for a **Christmas Show** in December but we'll share more about this in the second half of the term.

As the children won't be heading out to the panto this year the PTA have paid for Peter Duncan's **online panto** again so they can watch it in their classes or in larger groups at school (if your child falls ill when their class is due to watch we can give you a link and password so they can watch it at home). This year it's Cinderella www.pantoonline.co.uk/about It was great fun last year and I think they've gone bigger and better this year!

After a meeting with Mrs Frey we also thought it would be fun for the children to have a more hands on theatrical experience too so we have booked the West End in Schools Production Company to put on '**Night Before Christmas**' workshops with the classes www.westendinschools.org.uk/drama/night-before-christmas in December. (On a normal year when the children go out to the panto there is a suggested donation families can pay through ParentPay – this year we'll set up a GoFundMe in November if you'd like to contribute a little something to help cover these costs. This is not compulsory by any means).

Hopefully will get to meet you at one or both of the children's events on the 22nd October.

BLUEBELLS/DAISY/POPPY*: Disco and Talent Show 415-530pm £3 inc snack**

SPEEDWELL/FOXGLOVE: Movie Night 6-745pm £3 inc snack**

**Year 3s can choose which event to attend as I'm aware they really fall between the 2 camps*

***Please let us know of any dietary requirements*

Book your child in on the Facebook page or by email pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk

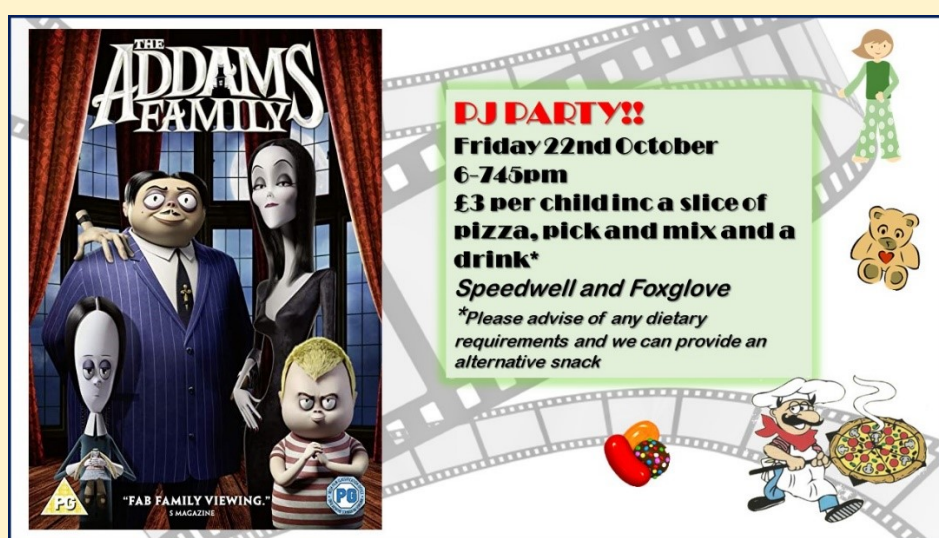
We had a very constructive AGM recently with the new committee successfully voted in. The minutes are attached to this newsletter with all the details.

As it says in the Chair's Report, which you can see on the website (at www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk/web/pta/382158), I will be standing down in January. The role of Chair will then be vacant and ready to be filled with a fresh face and some new ideas. It's such a rewarding position and a huge amount of fun – you get to meet all the fantastic children and their families and put your own spin on what you think a successful PTA can bring to the table. Plus there is an established committee to support you already on board. I've had an absolute ball doing it and can't wait to see it evolve into something a little different. If you'd be interested please come along and help at events and with organising fundraising this term so you can get a better feel of it. I'm available to answer any questions.

See you at the school gates.

Claire and the PTA team

pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk



Free School Meals

Apply online for

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you think you may qualify for free school meals please do apply for them—our school will receive extra funding for each eligible child registered. Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available at:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Courage Compassion Respect Resilience

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

The Forest Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis

With effect from Monday 11th October 2021 the Forest Foodbank will be operating as below:



MONDAY	-	OPEN DELIVERIES TO GL14, GL15, GL16 AND GL17
TUESDAY	-	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	-	OPEN DELIVERIES TO GL14, GL15, GL16 AND GL17
THURSDAY	-	OPEN DELIVERIES TO GL14, GL15, GL16 AND GL17
FRIDAY	-	CLOSED

They will continue to deliver for the Baby Bank on the days we are open.

For further information go to: theforest.foodbank.org.uk

Adult Education In Gloucestershire



Adult Education in Gloucestershire is continuing to run **Wellbeing Courses** to support families across the county including:

- **Calm Kids, Calm Home** is a 6 week course running on Friday mornings. The course look at ways of making the home environment calmer, including discussing effective co-parenting, family routines, parents as role models and self care. This course starts on Friday 5th November from 9:30- 11:00.
- **Calming the Mind** is a 5 week introduction to mindfulness. Parents who attended this course last year have noticed a real change in their lives, which has resulted in building strong bonds with their children. This course is running on Monday evenings, 7:30-8:30, from 15th November

For more information see:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/adult-education-in-gloucestershire/>

Courage Compassion Respect Resilience

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Dates For Your Diary Oct 2021—Jan 2022



Dates subject to change—please check letters home and website for updates

Date	
Friday 22nd October	Last day before half term 4pm-5.15pm PTA KS1 disco and talent show 6-7.45pm PTA KS2 PJ party
Monday 1st November	First day after half term
Monday 8 th November	Parent consultations 3.30-5.50, contact office to book
Wednesday 10 th November	Parent consultations 3.30-6.50, contact office to book
Wednesday 17 th November	Open morning for children starting school in 2022, contact office to book
Thursday 18 th November	School photographer – individual and siblings photos
Friday 19 th November	Children in Need – no uniform or wear spots to school for a donation Open morning for children starting school in 2022, contact office to book
Friday 17th December	Flu immunisations Last day of term
Monday 3rd January	Bank holiday
Tuesday 4th January	INSET
Wednesday 5th January 2022	First day of term
Fri 21 st January	Y6 to Gloucester Cathedral, more info to follow

Courage Compassion Respect Resilience

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

parentview.ofsted.gov.uk