

Redbrook Primary School



No. 64 March 15th 2019

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

Dear All,

It is delightful to see our children enjoying the experiences we are offering, soft play, the daily mile and forest school in addition to our sports and yoga. Everything we look to provide for our children is in order to meet their needs physically, mentally and academically and we are thrilled with the positive impact we can see reflected in their engagement and behaviour. I am so proud of how well our children are doing and what a lovely team they continue to be.

A parent from St Briavels is looking into developing our opportunities for singing and is planning to write a federation song to reflect our vision of 'Striving to Be the Best we can Be'. This will support our children in proudly opening the '**Live on the Wye**' festival this year. It would be fantastic if you could commit to your child being able to attend and sing at this event as we are hoping that this will further develop our shared work as a federation and be part of our local community event. The festival is planned for June 1st. Performance times will be given in our next newsletter and put on the website.

Many thanks to Mr & Mrs Pickett for all their hard work in helping to make our site look its best. We have really appreciated everything you have done and are grateful for your support with this. Thanks also to Marie Balmer and to Kevin Player for putting up a new fence round the outdoor play area (during high winds!).

I'd also like to thank Helen Blanch who continues to help out with transporting our children and by sharing her lovely woodland are to enable forest schools to be provided. It is a really valuable part of what we offer and it is kind of you to share it so freely. Thanks so much.

We are very sad to say that Marie Balmer is leaving us. She has been wonderful at breakfast and lunch club and has worked above and beyond, helping us throughout the school carrying out all kinds of jobs that we would have struggled to fit in otherwise. We wish her well in her move to North Wales.

Sandra Sleightholme has also handed her notice in following having broken her foot. She has mentioned that she would like to come back when she is able so we are hoping to see her in the near future.

Please see my letter within this newsletter to parents and carers regarding Operation Encompass .

Have a great weekend!

**Sarah Helm, Executive Head Teacher,
The Wye Forest Federation**

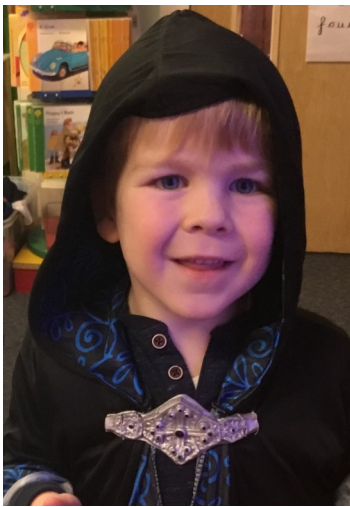


Falcon class

Our Enquiry Question is: '**How does music affect us?**'

Falcon class are having a wonderful time singing, dancing and making music. We have been learning to keep the pulse to music in lots of different ways and have started to make our own rhythms too. We have even made our own castanets and used rhythms to practise counting in lots of different ways. Our youngest children have been counting to 20, year on in 2s 5s and 10s and year 2 saying our 3 times table. Its wonderful how our musical enquiry is also helping us with our maths. We have already enjoyed listening to blues, baroque, Latin and popular music, over the last 3 weeks and the children can talk about what they enjoy the most. You would be surprised at some of falcon class musical tastes. Next we will be making some art in response to what we hear.

Mrs Frey



The children wore book character costumes for World Book Day (left) and enjoyed singing in their music enquiry.



Kingfisher class

Kingfishers have been designing their own eco friendly cars and some striking logos to accompany them in our enquiry. They have been exercising their oracy skills and presenting their cars to the wider class using technical vocabulary. In English we have been learning how to explain different phenomena and this week we have explained how Wallace and Gromit 'Snoozatron' worked. This week in reading we are immersing ourselves in performance poetry, studying Maya Angelou's 'Life Doesn't Scare Me'.

Mrs Jomain and Mrs Le Templier

Parents Evening will be on Thurs 21st March from 3.30-6.30pm

We will be booking ten minute appointments: the booking sheets are in the office or you can email us at admin@redbrook.gloucs.sch.uk to let us know which time you would like.

Forest Schools

Kingfishers enjoyed a wet Forest School this week. The sun came out towards the end. This weeks challenge was working in teams of two to defend the egg! Children had to create a vessel in order to transport a chicken's egg from the beginning of the stream to the end point. It included navigating through a weir, getting past many side crannies and overcoming growing reeds on the banks.

I am happy to report there was fun had by all, with fantastic ideas....it got very competitive, children and adults alike!

Mrs Morse



Thank you to Kevin Player and Marie Balmer for putting up our new fence panels (on a very windy day!)



Dear All,

Safeguarding is a high priority for schools, with statutory duties incumbent upon us, in order to keep all our children safe. I am aware that this has meant changes to the way we do things at Redbrook. I appreciate your support with meeting all of these statutory obligations.

Starting next Monday, all people who wish to come into school beyond the reception area will be asked to sign in and take a visitors badge. We will be keeping the side door to the office locked from now on, anyone wishing to come into the office will need to come through the front door. We need to stop people entering the office and go to the stable door which will be half open. This is not because we are being unfriendly but is a measure to keep our children safe and to not enable anyone to access information that the school holds about your children and family.

When you collect your children at the end of the day please make sure you leave promptly. We cannot allow the children who remain in our care beyond the end of the school day to go outside if there are other adults and children remaining in our grounds. I'm sorry if it feels exclusive however, in order to keep all our children safe we have to assume that everyone is a risk. We have a duty to know who is on our premises at all times. We hope you understand that we are ensuring your children are safe at all times whilst they are at school.

If you wish to take your child during the school day for a medical or other appointment then you will need to complete a form stating the reason. Please ask Anna for the form.

**Sarah Helm, Executive Head Teacher,
The Wye Forest Federation**

Newsletter Changes

Please note that following discussion at Parent Forum, newsletters will now be coming out every term instead of every fortnight. We will be keeping parents up to date through e-mails, letters home and our website from now on.

Newsletters will also be posted onto the website at

www.wyeforestfederation.co.uk

Thanks to Gloucester Highways who cleared the road to Bigsweir after this spectacular tree fall!



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Enquiry Based Learning: What is It?

You may have noticed that we have changed the language of our termly learning focus to be 'enquiries' rather than topics. We have recently been fortunate to start working with a company called Lighting Up Learning who are leading us in developing our creative curriculum using their Curious City enquiry model.

So, why have we decided to take an enquiry based approach to learning?

Enquiries are planned around the distinctive needs of the children and promote their curiosity.

They have a clear outcome, designed to raise standards and use real contexts for the application of basic skills. They generate a greater depth of understanding and ensure that all pupils are motivated, engaged and enthused about every learning experience, inspiring them to question, investigate and enquire to become lifelong learners.

What does an enquiry look like in the WFF?

Enquiries are fast paced (they may be taught through half termly or even shorter topics). They provide learners with key questions that are too big to answer in one go, but that are not so conceptually large that they do not understand. The learning journey is explicitly shared with the children in order to ensure they connect to the big picture of their learning, i.e. knowing what to expect, and will end with a specific outcome such as a performance, a product, a piece of writing – the outcomes are limitless! Each class has an 'Enquiry Working Wall' display that includes a representation of the learning journey, which is referred to and added to as the unit of work progresses. Through our enquiries the children learn skills as well as content, so as they are investigating a science question, they become 'scientists'; if discovering a new art technique through their topic – they become 'artists'. Our initial experiences of this type of learning are very positive and children are extremely excited to engage, explore and become someone else.

Why are Englands Schools at Breaking point?

You will have received emails about how schools are currently lobbying government for more funding. There is an interesting video which explains more about the effects of lack of funding here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/video/2019/feb/28/why-are-englands-schools-at-breaking-point-video>

Allocation date for Reception Children is Tuesday 16th April

This is when parents who are applying for places for children starting reception this September find out which primary school their child has been offered a place at.

Job Opportunity at Redbrook School



We are looking for someone to help out at our friendly breakfast club and at lunchtimes. The hours are term time only, starting April 23rd.

7.45am—8.45am

11.45am—1pm

You will be subject to a DBS check.

Please provide a covering letter (or email) to Redbrook School office asap: admin@redbrook.gloucs.sch.uk

New School Governor required

The Wye Forest Federation governing body are looking for a new parent governor to join our team and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming a governor.

The role of a governor is vitally important to the smooth running of a school but does require some commitment to attend regular meetings in the evenings and also complete school visits during the day. If anyone feels that they have the time and is willing to commit to becoming a governor please contact the chair of governors at chair@wff.gloucs.sch.uk

Philip Hall
Chair of Governors



Live on the Wye is happening at Redbrook on 1st June (**on the second Saturday during half term**) and our schools have been asked to open the event. Is there anyone who would like to come and sing with our children, and practice some songs in order to enable this to happen? This could be during a lunchtime or immediately after school. We would be really grateful for your help and enthusiasm. Please contact the office if you can help.

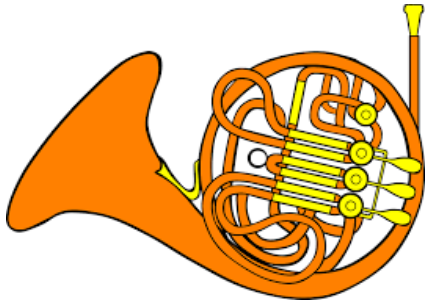
Online Safety

In order to help parents navigate the minefield of digital apps there is now a website which gives recommended age rating for apps and games to support parents in stopping their children accessing age inappropriate material. Hope you find it useful.:

<https://www.commonsense.org/>

Musical Instrument Lessons

Working in partnership with Gloucestershire Music Academy, we can potentially offer flute, brass and cello lessons in addition to piano and drums that are already on offer. If we have enough children who are interested in learning these instruments we can pursue arranging teachers to come into school. These lessons will be paid for by parents or, for those children eligible for pupil premium funding, the funding can cover this expense. We will require a number of children to show interest in an instrument to enable us to commit to a teacher coming into school weekly.



Please let the school office know if this is something that you would like your child to access and we can hopefully make this happen.



Scarlet Fever

We have been informed that there has been a national increase in scarlet fever. Please be aware and see your doctor if you think you might have it:

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include

- sore throat
- headache
- fever
- nausea and vomiting
- After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on the skin of some Black and Asian people, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present.
- Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'.

For more information please look at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>



14/3/19

Dear Parent/Carer

Operation Encompass is a new innovative project in which schools in Gloucestershire will be participating, and which is run in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council, Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board and Gloucestershire Police. Many other Local Authorities both nationally and locally have successfully implemented Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass will commence on 4th March 2019 and aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards, or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with one of the Education Researchers within the Gloucestershire MASH, who will then on behalf of the police communicate relevant, necessary and proportionate information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.

Each school has members of staff who have been fully trained in liaising with police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following the notification of a domestic abuse incident.

I believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our DSLs in school who are Sarah Helm and Mrs Frey at Redbrook, and Sarah Helm and Mrs Kilty at St Briavels.



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Term 4/5 - March / April / May 2019 — Redbrook Primary School



Day	Date	Class	Event
Monday	18/3/19		
Tuesday	19/3/19	Falcon Kingfisher	Soft play morning, Swimming afternoon Forest Schools in afternoon
Wednesday	20/3/19	FORS—Parents!	Meeting 7pm in The Bell
Thursday	21/3/19	Parents evening	3:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Friday	22/3/19		
Monday	25/3/19		
Tuesday	26/3/19	Falcon Kingfisher	Soft play morning, Swimming afternoon Forest Schools in afternoon
Wednesday	27/3/19		
Thursday	28/3/19		
Friday	29/3/19		
Monday	1/4/19		
Tuesday	2/4/19	Falcon Kingfisher	Soft play morning, Swimming afternoon Forest Schools in afternoon
Wednesday	3/4/19		
Thursday	4/4/19		
Friday	5/4/19	LAST DAY OF TERM	
Monday	22/4/19	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	23/4/19	FIRST DAY OF TERM Falcon	Soft play morning, Forest Schools in afternoon
Wednesday	24/4/19		
Thursday	25/4/19		
Friday	26/4/19		
Monday	29/4/19		
Tuesday	30/4/19	Falcon	Soft play morning, Forest Schools in afternoon
Wednesday	1/5/19		
Thursday	2/5/19		
Friday	3/5/19	INSET DAY	INSET DAY
Monday	6/5/19	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY

Friends of Redbrook School (FORS) next meeting Wednesday 20th March 7pm at The Bell Inn

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