



St Briavels Parochial Church of England Primary School Newsletter

Striving Together To Be The Best We Can Be



No. 80, 16th December 2021

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Dear Families,

How this term has flown and now we find ourselves almost at Christmas. If autumn is a time for new beginnings and discoveries in school, Christmas is certainly a time for traditions.

Life in any school at this time of year is a fine balance between celebrating and ensuring the curriculum continues and learning is most valued. Gone are the days when Christmas 'starts after half term' and afternoon upon afternoon is spent rehearsing for plays and making cards, something that certainly was part of my early career! This doesn't mean though that children miss out on those things that are most important. As a Church of England school, Advent turns our thoughts to Christmas and as in your homes, calendars are opened, candles are lit and the anticipation of what is to come starts to build.

Over the past weeks, it has been joyful to share the stories of Christmas with the children; light the advent wreath each week in worship and hear them singing as I have gone around the classes. There has been a wonderful assortment of festive fashion both from the staff and children and excitement is naturally building and with our Christmas dinner and Christingle this week. What a perfect way to end a busy term together.

Now, as the staff and I turn to look forwards to Christmas with our own families, we wanted to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope that your time together, however you spend the holiday is full of joy and love.

With my very best wishes for this festive season.

Natalie Frey

Acting Executive Head Teacher



Thank you!

Well done to all at St Briavels who raised a magnificent £172.53 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Well done!



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Sunflower Class



It has been a very busy half term for the Sunflower children. We are seeing lovely friendships blossoming and observing some wonderful independent teamwork challenges forming, such as in forest school when making aeroplanes and trains from wooden pallets and logs. The children also had to work as part of a team to create enough Gingerbread men for their snack and to follow photographic clues around the village to find the Gingerbread man who ran away from the school kitchen. You will be pleased to know the children did an excellent job finding him and returning him back to the school after a quick treat of hot chocolate and a gingerbread man of their own in the park!



We have also been discussing respect for people and thinking of those special in our lives and who do things to help us and how we can help others. This came in many forms such as creating poppies for someone special, having a visit from a police officer and learning how they can help us, carrying out our own sponsored bike ride/ pram push, the children (and very generous parents thank you) have **raised a staggering £300** so far to go towards a gym climbing set for outside.

The generosity has not stopped there as we have been collecting useful gifts to go into a reverse advent (adding a gift everyday instead of taking a gift) in order to give to the local baby bank. We have got so many wonderful gifts the children have enough to fill 2 amazing boxes. In line with our core text of 'Owl babies' we had a fantastic visit from Lorna and her Little Owl 'Whisper'. We learnt so much about owls and their behaviour and we even got to hold her (see photos overleaf)

We are enjoying creating many different festive crafts over the Christmas period and hope to celebrate in the chapel having learnt the Nativity story and several Christmas songs.

*We wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year
from Sunflowers*

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Sunflower Class (contd)



Bluebell Class

Bluebell Class were finding out about Poppy Day and wanted to make their own wreath. They went for a walk around the village and placed their wreaths alongside the wreaths left by the rest of the St.Briavels community.

Mr Gazzard



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Daisy Class



We have had another wonderful term of learning in Daisy Class! We have been enjoying our class book, Little Red Reading Hood and have been writing instructions on how to make a wolf mask.

As geographers, we have been learning all about the United Kingdom and have had great fun using google maps to find the countries, capital cities and characteristics of the UK.

We have been learning about the Christmas story in RE, thinking about what Christmas means to Christians and all about staying healthy in PSHE.

In the Spring term, please do ask the children to share any outside achievements with us in school, for example sports badges or even some fantastic writing they may have done, so we can celebrate these as a class.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022!

Mrs Hunt & Mrs Morse



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Poppy Class

Poppy class have been working on their Agility in PE and are enjoying working on their different activities.

Mrs Kear



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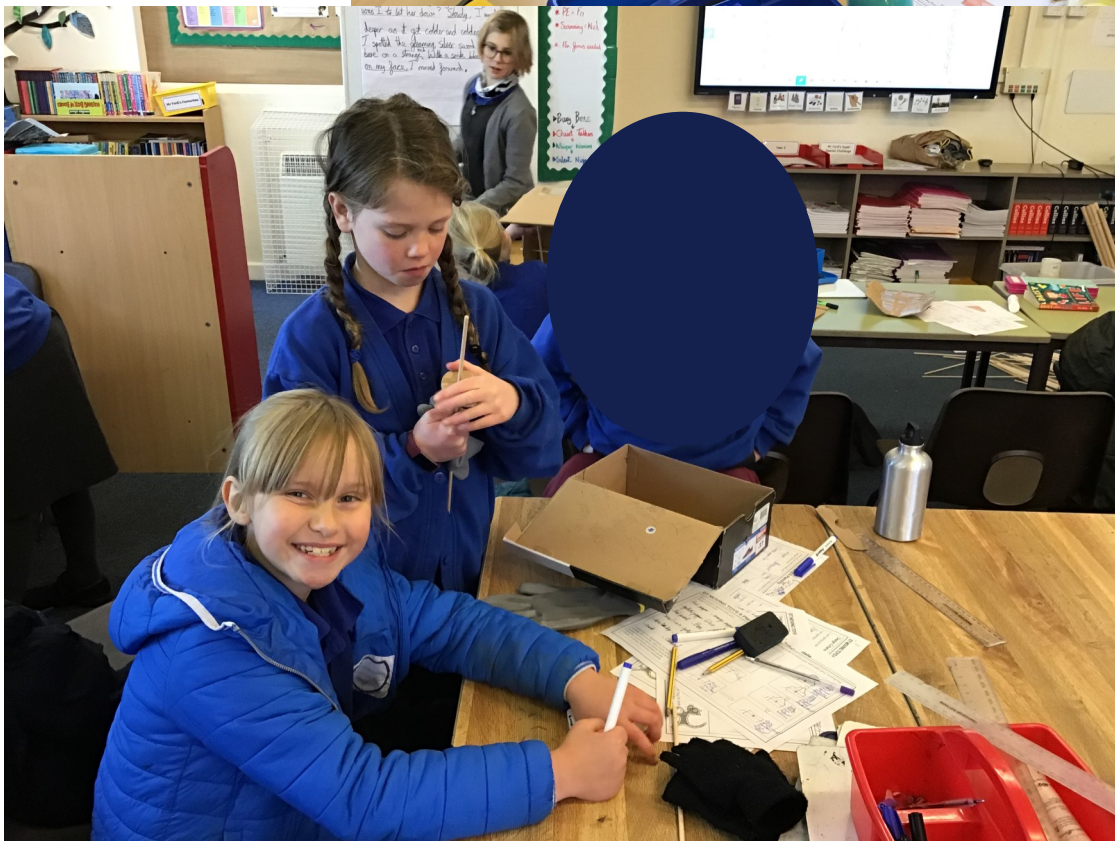
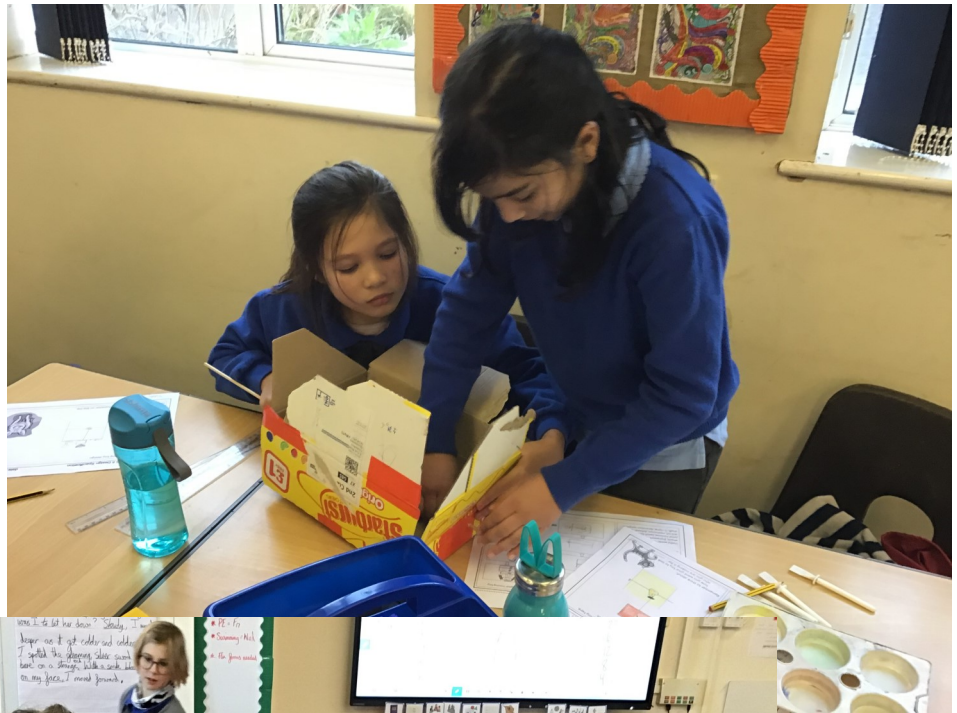


Speedwell Class

Speedwell is having a great term so far and we've still got over a week left! This term we've looked heavily at writing quest stories and building up our characters and settings. We finally got the chance to write our own this week and they've been producing some amazing stories.

As part of D&T we've been looking at Cam mechanisms and we started to create our toys that use them after planning them all out last week. I've attached some pictures of them in their beginning stages.

Mr Ford



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Foxglove

Foxglove have been working on a book called 'Stay Where You Are and Then Leave' by John Boyne this half term and have been completely immersed in the topic of WW1. We have written poetry, acted as characters from the book and went for a thought-provoking walk around the village on remembrance day to view all of the memorials set up around St Briavels.

The children have also enjoyed completing their work on the Romans by producing a final informative project, of which the children engaged their creative minds and were very successful in presenting outstanding final projects in various forms including filmed news reports, large-scale posters and conveying their work through a mini puppet theatre performance.

Foxglove should be proud of what they have achieved this academic year and deserve a well-earned Christmas break! **Mrs Woods**

Dates For Your Diary Dec 2021—April 2022

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



Date	
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, please return consent slips
Tuesday 25th jan	Poppy class Egyptian trip, please return consent slips and payment
Fri Feb 18th	Last day of term
Monday Feb 28th	INSET
Tuesday March 1st	First day of term
Friday 8th April	Last day of term

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FROM PTA TOWERS

As we come to the end of another strange year I'm still not going to mention all the things we haven't been able to do again this term but I would like to highlight what we have managed to squeeze in!

We did get to have a School Disco & Talent Show AND a PJ night in the first half of term both of which were great fun and the kids had a ball. Some fantastic talent on show so a big round of applause to all the children who took part. A round of applause also goes to the grown ups who helped set up and clear up afterwards – many thanks to you all.

Thanks again to the Knight family for providing delicious Thai food from their local business Thai-Zabb by Ging on the nights of the parent's evenings. AND their generous donation of a voucher to the Christmas Raffle!

The children really enjoyed the Night Before Christmas drama workshops we arranged in the absence of the usual panto trip. And they will have got the chance to watch the online panto 'Cinderella' during the last week of term. The PTA provide snacks when the children head out on school trips so we've delivered some panto themed treats for these classroom showings (OH NO YOU HAVEN'T! OH YES WE HAVE!! etc etc.....).

Mr Ford has been curating the school's science equipment and working out what's needed to ensure the children have access to what is most relevant and inspiring in this field. The PTA have pledged to support this and look forward to his shopping list!

You should have all had your school tea towels by now if you ordered one (if you didn't get round to it drop us an email at pta@st-briavels.gloucs.sch.uk as there'll be a few spares in the PTA cupboard). They look fabulous and I'm really happy with how they've turned out.

Heading into next term and the Spring we're REALLY looking forward to the arrival of the new Trim Trail! Alongside that there is the ongoing renovation of the area outside Daisy and Bluebell Classes in which we're involved with the procurement of some new play equipment etc. We'll be looking for a few working parties to help clear and get the areas ready so do let us know if you would like to be involved – more details to follow.

There'll be a PTA meeting (in person or Zoom depending on restrictions at the time) a couple of weeks into the new term – we'll announce the date when we're back at school.

So all's that left for me to say is thank you for your support this term, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we'll see you all back at the school gates in 2022!

Lots of festive love from the PTA elves xxx



[This Photo](#) by Unknown