

Redbrook Primary School

Newsletter



No. 45 23rd March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dear All,

Apologies for the snow day closure but it was felt to be the safest option for all. Now to catch up on missed learning!!! Hopefully that was the last time school will be disrupted by snow this year although looking at the forecasts for the Easter break, possibly not the end of snow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience with our continued state of flux as we make improvements across the federation. I am aware that we are not yet at the point where we have all the required systems and processes in place but we are working hard to get there. Your feedback is really useful in helping us make sure we get it right.

I can tell you that we are looking ahead to ensure dates are planned in advance and enough notice is given for events, to make sure you are informed and invited to be involved in school improvement work and so you can be part of our journey to be even better. Our upcoming INSET training for staff will focus on improving our teaching for learning as well as continuing the process of reviewing the current vision, aims and values that underpin the work of the school. Parents will be asked to be involved in this re-visioning work as part of the meetings planned in May to keep you informed and up to date with what I have found out and what is planned next.

At our recent Parent's evening, you will also be given information as to what their next steps are in learning and how you can support this. In relation to this I am currently looking at our homework policy and provision so that we can ensure consistent expectations across both the federation and the schools but in the meantime regular reading both with and to your child is key in supporting a love of reading and expanding vocabulary to support writing. Learning times tables is becoming increasingly important as this is going to form part of the standard tests from 2020, with some schools needing to trial these earlier (we don't yet know if it will be us....) so practice with both of these areas would be welcomed.

Just to let you all know that we have looked at what we are currently providing in Kingfisher class and in order to improve what we are offering we have increased the hours Mrs Sleightholme works with us. This is in addition to Mrs Woodhouse, Miss Weldon and Mrs King continuing to work with the class. This support has been designed so that staff are able to teach the class in a variety of smaller groupings; by year group, by learning need, by interest and by friendship groups, to meet the various learning and social needs of all our children. This additional support will also mean that we are able to take greater advantage of our federation links and share increased learning opportunities with St Briavels. We believe the benefits of this arrangement will be that all children will have opportunity to thrive whilst experiencing a wider range of learning organisation.

Over the next week we will be discussing with the children a new way to recognize and reward the progress and achievements they make and after Easter this will be introduced across the school so we can really celebrate what our children are succeeding with. This will also inform our positive behaviour expectations which will be shared with children and parents/carers. We are so pleased with the improvements so far and are excited to be continuing to make things even better for all of children.

Reminder—Please remember that we ask that children don't bring toys into school. Unless there is a specific request for items linked to learning then please leave toys safely at home. Many thanks.

Sarah Helm

Executive Head teacher

The Wye Forest Federation

Science Day

On Tuesday 13th March we celebrated a Science Day as part of British Science Week and we were very lucky to be joined by Daniel from Science Boffins. We started the day off with an exciting assembly where he talked about air pressure and showed us some fun experiments with exploding lids on tiny containers! We then had time with Daniel during a science workshop. The children in Speedwell class explained what they enjoyed about the workshop.

I really liked looking at the plasma ball, when we touched it, the electricity travelled to where our hand was.
Maizie

Playing with the balloons was fun! We rubbed them on a friends back to create static electricity and then stuck them to their back or the wall! Ollie

We even made slime to take home using borax, glue and food colouring! Rose

We spent time in class finding out about famous scientists, Beau liked finding out about David Attenborough, especially that he couldn't pass his driving test!

We ended the day with a rocket launch on the school field. There were points when we thought it wouldn't take off, but it all turned out well in the end! The rocket launch was exciting, I liked watching it go up, then the parachute deployed and it came gently back to the field and everyone rushed to find it! Kelyan.

We had a great day and I hope your child came home and told you all about their experiences. Science is fascinating, hopefully the day ignited some excitement back into science for your child! A big thank you to the Science Boffin team.

Mrs Griffin and Speedwell class.

Easter Cake Bake



Please could parents remember to bake cakes for our Easter cake bake on Wednesday 28th March.

Cakes will be sold at the end of the afternoon after the Easter Experience but can be dropped off in the morning at the school office.

The money raised will be spilt between Sports Relief and school funds.

Dates for your diary:

Experience Easter

Wednesday 28th March—time TBC

Easter Holiday Dates

Term Ends Thursday 29th March

Monday 16th April—INSET DAY

Return Tuesday 17th April

News from FORS

FORS are delighted to have purchased a school MayPole and are busy planning a May Fete where the children will dance. This will also be part of the Redbrook Wyelmpic Games and will take place on May Bank Holiday Monday (7th May).

We will be extending a warm invitation to children & parents of St Briavels to join us on the day.

Lunches

Please accept our sincere apologies for the mix up on Friday's menu, the office omitted to inform you of the change in menu (due to the snow), hopefully your children enjoyed the burgers. Sadly Claire Lewis will be off sick next week, school dinners will be available as usual but please be patient with our stand in cooks, we wish Claire a speedy recovery.

Job Opportunity

We have an opportunity for an Afterschool club play assistant to join our team at St Briavels. The club runs on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:10pm-5:30pm. Should you be interested in applying, please contact the school office.