

## Berkley C of E First School

Headteacher: Mrs Thompson

Telephone: 01373 887390

*'Let your light shine'*

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th November 2023

### KEY INFORMATION:

**Drop off: Owls and siblings only – 8.40am**

**All other classes at 8.50am.** The register is taken at 9am.

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time, we close the gate at 9am for security.

**Next Inset Days: Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

### BIBLE REFERENCER OR PRAYER

**May we all be well, happy and peaceful, may no harm come to us, may we all also have patience, courage and understanding .**

### Dear Families,

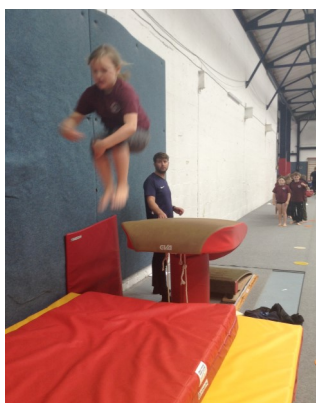
Last week was a busy week and I am sure the children enjoyed their adventures after school with talks of Halloween and gatherings filling the rooms. We had inspectors in the school again and so I would like to thank the team for managing that additional pressure and ensuring our pupils continued with their day. Once we have more information this will be shared. This week our Year 3 and 4 took part in an inter-school festival, as a school we pay to be a part of these fantastic opportunities each year and all classes have either a work shop or visit. The Berkley children were well behaved at the venue and the staff were proud of their achievements.

### Presentation Assembly

We had Harry Woolford, a past pupil, visit our school to talk to the pupils about his experience of Kenya. Harry is part of the Explorer Scouts and he went over to Kenya to work with pupils at school. He had raised money before attending and the money was to be spent on an area of the school. We greatly appreciated this visit as it is important our pupils hear about life in other countries. They learnt that the pupils have to share uniforms and sit on the floor for lunch, with lunch being a simple dish or porridge. Our pupils came up with some interesting questions. Thank you once again to Harry from Frome College for putting this presentation together and for having the confidence to deliver it to the whole school.

### Parent volunteers

We are able to offer our pupils time to read with individuals outside of guided reading and this is due to parents who volunteer and to Sally P who has read with the children for a few years now. Thank you very much to those who can help with swimming, trips and all of the other events, it is appreciated.



### BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to Esmerelda who has celebrated her birthday this week.*

*Best Wishes for a lovely weekend.*

*Mrs S Thompson*

Headteacher



## Diary Dates

Please ensure you have ordered your lunches by **midnight** on a Wednesday on Parent Pay.

Date	Time	Event
Monday 13th November		ODD SOCKS day for Anti-bullying week
	3.15-4.15pm	Blogging Club
Tuesday 14th November	2.00-3.00pm	Rabbit Parents Phonics workshop
	3.15– 4.15pm	Musical Theatre Club
Wednesday 15th November		<b>Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.</b> Flu vaccination whole school @ 1pm
	3.15-4.15pm	Construction Club
Thursday 16th November		Swimming—Owls and Squirrels Collective Worship
	3.15-4.15pm	Football Club
Friday 17th November		Children in Need—Spots Cake Day for Children in Need—Lets get SPOTTY
Monday 20th November	3.15-4.15pm	Blogging Club
Tuesday 21st November	3.15– 4.15pm	Musical Theatre Club
Wednesday 22nd November		<b>Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.</b>
	3.15-4.15pm	Construction Club
Thursday 23rd November		Swimming—Owls and Squirrels Collective Worship
	3.15-4.15pm	Football Club
Saturday 25th November	10.00 am — 12pm	Christmas Fayre held at Berkley school

### Future diary dates.

Thursday 30th November	5.30—6.00pm	Carols in Berkley churchyard
Wednesday 6th December	7.00—9.00pm	Christmas Wreath making
Thursday 7th December	1;30pm & 6;00pm	Christmas Nativity

Please read below taken from our car park procedure.

### End of day pick up

Please only arrive at the time stated, as the school day does not finish before 3pm. Pull in slowly and safely to the carpark/road area and continue to follow the traffic along the carpark, turn in the 'turning space' and pull up alongside the left hand hedge. The first car park should park just after our school gate entrance and the next car then parks behind. All those cars parked along the hedge should turn their engines off and exit their cars safely. All those people then need to walk to the gate entrance to collect the pupil. The last car in this line should not block the pathway to the properties that lie beyond the car park.


**Please do not get out of your car unless you are park alongside the hedge for the safety of everyone.**



Attendance	
For w/c 06.11.2023	
Attendance	Absences
96.22%	3.78%
Learning time lost:	
18.5 Days	

The United Nation Convention on the rights of the child entitles them to a Right to Education (Article 28). If the attendance drops **below 95%, this is classed as poor/unsatisfactory attendance**, which reduces their chances of success. We have seen an increase in term time holidays, please only take holidays in the allocated holidays provided, thank you.

**Please look at which class have earned the Balloons this week!!**

Classes	Rabbits	Squirrels	Badgers	Owls 
w/c 06.11.2023	97.37%	96.67%	91.43%	99.67%

### Communication

In order to deal with any queries or concerns you need to:-

1. Firstly, always contact your child's class teacher.
2. If you have further concerns you can always ask to speak to Mrs Appleby our Senior teacher

### Sickness

Please be aware that we follow strict guidance from Public Health and have a 48 hours rule for sickness and diarrhoea.

**Public Health: Diarrhoea and vomiting 48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting: Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea not the first. Further exclusion may be required for children.**

Please ensure that you phone school every day to keep us updated.

### Term Time Holidays

Any holiday requests in term time need to be sent in writing to The Headteacher via our holiday request form that is available on our website or can be requested through the school office.

We have to follow strict guidelines in partnership with other Frome schools and we can not authorise holidays in term time.

**Please always let us know if you are going away by completing the form regardless of whether it is authorised or not.** Thank you for your understanding.

<https://www.berkleyschool.co.uk/community/parent-information/>

Keep checking our website for all the latest information and any policies you need regarding Berkley School. [www.berkleyschool.co.uk](http://www.berkleyschool.co.uk)



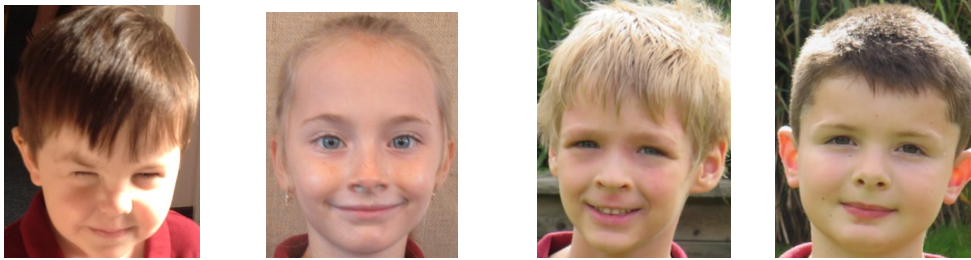




# Our Achievements!

On a Friday we dedicate the assembly to celebrating the successes and wow moments of the week. The children come home with a certificate for their efforts in particular areas. All the adults also have the opportunity to mention a child from any class who has made a difference to their week or who they have spotted doing something wonderful. These children receive a sticker on the day. We link our rewards to the skills they have demonstrated throughout the week and we value each child equally.

## Star of the week



## Reading Superstar



## Demonstrating our Christian Value

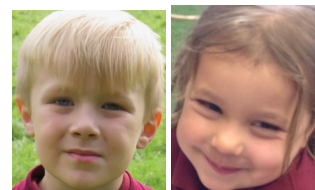


## HEADTEACHER AWARD



***Esmae.S for her support in being a lunchtime leader.***

***Fletcher and Nina for their clever creations in the construction club.***



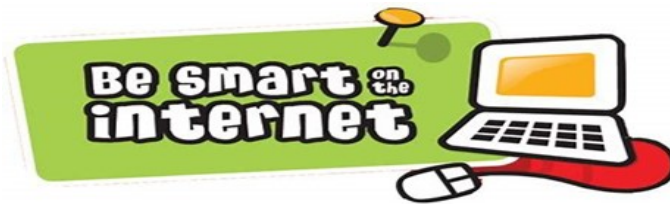


Monday 13th November.

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. We have everything you need to celebrate what makes us all unique and spread kindness! We would like all children to come to school in odd socks and they will taking part in different activities all week focussing on kindness and respect as part of our PSHE lessons.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Mrs Thompson is the Designated safeguarding lead for the school and Mrs Appleby is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. f you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger please contact: • Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224. Please take note of the helplines we always put at the end of our newsletter which will now be once a term. They are there to help and support those in need. We have an open door policy so please do come in if you want someone to talk to over a cup of tea.



Lego, makers of those plastic bricks that really hurt when you step on them, have created some wonderful activities for children aged 6-9 years which I think would be very useful for parents and the classroom. There are six different topics which are designed to help children navigate the online world safely, including conversation starters. The topics include cyber bullying, screen time, false information, and others. All the activities and resources are free. [Click here for the Lego website.](#)

## **Don't forget to order your Christmas Wreaths**

The FBS have once again organised Christmas Wreath making kits. We are going to hold a social Wreath making evening in the School Hall on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm until 9pm if you would like to join us or you can just take them with you.

These kits are available to purchase on Parent Pay up until Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

The cost will be £23.50 per kit.



Monday 20th Nov 1.30-4.30 pm  
Cheese+Grain, Market Yard, Frome, BA11 1BE

Pop-Up  
**Scrapstore**

Do you want access to a warehouse of weird and wonderful objects? One persons waste is another persons treasure.

Join the scrap creation journey .....

scrapstore@thepodcharity.org.uk  
07724315600

Bring a bag for life.

Supporting TOY LIBRARY

The Pod is a registered charity in England and Wales. Charity No 1161092

# SENCO Sharing: Next surgery date: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

## Topic this week: Vision and Visual Stress

Regular eyesight checks are recommended for everyone. Eyesight can change in growing children; we know it deteriorates as we get older too. The general recommendation for an eyesight test is at least every two years. The impact on reading can't be underestimated.

Visual stress can also be a condition that will impact on our ability to read.



It can appear as:

- Words moving, blurring or going double.
- Letters changing size or shape.

Patterns or halos of colour in text.

We may also experience:

- Red, sore, watery eyes

Headaches when reading

Signs to look out for that may indicate visual stress:

- Misreading text or reading words in the wrong order
- Missing out words or whole lines of text
- Losing the place on a page when reading
- Tiring quickly when reading
- Moving closer to or further away from the book
- Moving the book around on the desk or fidgeting continuously
- Using a finger as a marker on the page
- Rubbing eyes or blinking frequently when reading

Poor comprehension of reading content

It can be alleviated by using prescribed coloured lenses or coloured overlays. We can do an informal check in school. Please contact school office for a **school visual stress referral form**.

Advice regarding formal diagnosis may be found here: [Visual stress SLD.pdf \(ruh.nhs.uk\)](https://www.ruh.nhs.uk/visual-stress-sld.pdf)

Thanks, Rebecca