



Berkley C of E First School

Headteacher: Mrs Thompson

Telephone: 01373 887390

'Let your light shine'

NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th December 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

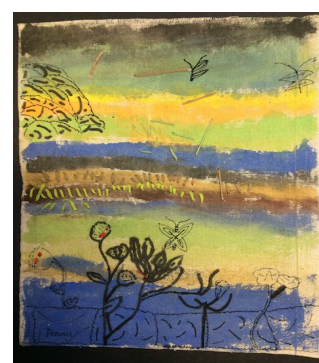
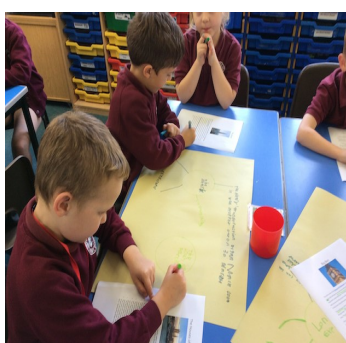
BIBLE REFERENCER OR PRAYER

Please know I have deep feelings about your generous act. I really appreciate you, you're special, and that's a fact! There's so much in God's purpose that sometimes most don't see, *but there is always the potential of what each of us can be.*

Dear Families,

Thank you to all those who volunteer, we appreciate the listening to readers, attending trips, supervising swimming, making cakes, organising events and sharing in the spirit of Berkley.

We took a moment to reflect on 2023 whilst in Church on Monday and we gave thanks for all we have achieved together and for what we have today. As the Head Teacher I continue to work with passion and drive to make sure we get the very best for our children and I do this with a fantastic team of staff and Governors who I am truly grateful for. It is an honor to lead us into 2024, that is not dismissing the challenges we have faced over the years or the most recent inspections we have endured, it is because of those that we are so much stronger and determined to continue living out our vision. Our children are encouraged to take that extra leap of faith when trying new things, they do this in many ways, every day and it brings us all so much joy. As we say goodbye to 2023 we also remember how far our pupils have travelled on their educational journey and again we give thanks for that. Please *let your light shine* this Christmas and enjoy the time spent with family and friends.



TAKE A LOOK AT OUR LEARNING

BIRTHDAYS:

Wishing Skye C a very Happy birthday for the weekend and Leo, Reece and Beatrice who celebrate their birthdays over the Christmas break..

Merry Christmas to you all, I wish you a restful and festive break, thank you for the Christmas cards, they are up on my desk and I have thanked the pupils.

Mrs S Thompson

Head Teacher



[illegible]

Diary Dates

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

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 24th December	4.00pm	St Mary's Service
Monday 1st January		Bank holiday Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.
Tuesday 2nd January		Inset day– Teacher Training with other schools.
Wednesday 3rd January		Inset day Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.
Thursday 4th January	3:15- 4:15pm	First day back for pupils <u>Swimming—Badgers and Rabbits</u> Welcome back assembly– Mrs Thompson Football Club
Friday 5th January		
Monday 8th January		
Tuesday 9th January	3:15— 4:15pm	Musical theatre club
Wednesday 10th January	3:15— 4:15pm	Blogging club Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.
Thursday 11th January	3:15— 4:15pm	Swimming—Badgers and Rabbits Football club
Friday 12th January		

Future diary dates.

Tuesday 23rd January

Bags2School Collection

SAFEGUARDING


Mrs Thompson is the DSL and Mrs Appleby and Mrs Windridge are the Deputy DSLs. If 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. Please email the school in the holidays if you need to contact a DSL.

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.

****Attendance figures this week are calculated up to and including Thursday 14th December (am).**

Attendance	
For w/c 11.12.2023	
Attendance	Absences
95.76%	3.65%
Learning time lost:	
12.5 Days	

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

Classes	Rabbits 	Squirrels	Badgers	Owls
w/c 11.12.2023	99.25%	96.55%	95.92%	92.86%

Communication

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

- Call the school office and request a phone call or meeting
- Ask for contact at the gate, face to face with the class teacher at the end of the day, the teacher will then get back to the parent with a phone call.
- Parent can also email the office and this is sent onto the teachers personal email.

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



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.

Well done to all of our pupils for their hard work, determination and creativity. Keep focused ready for January 2024.



ALL OF OUR SHINING STARS 2023

Rabbits Class

Squirrels Class

Badgers Class

Owls Class



HEADTEACHER AWARD



Reece for his beautiful design and words in our recent lesson



Isabelle for her positive attitude and enthusiasm

Charlotte for being a team player.



The volunteers for trips and swimming.



For Parents - Little Digital Helps Toolkit

This is a really useful toolkit for parents/carers who may be unsure about what parental features are available on their children's devices. Put together by Internet Matters and Tesco it takes around 8 minutes to answer a few questions and then receive a tailored toolkit.

All details about the toolkit can be found here.

[Little Digital Helps Toolkit | Internet Matters x Tesco Mobile](#)



[Little Digital Helps Toolkit | Internet Matters x Tesco Mobile](#)

Receive a tailored toolkit packed full of resources to keep your children safe on connected devices.

www.internetmatters.org



We are a friendly, welcoming support group for families of children with additional needs.

We offer a monthly group session where we can provide support, advice and signpost to other useful organisations.

Dates for 2024

January 15th 10am -12pm
February 12th 10am-12pm
March 18th 10am-12pm
April 15th 10am-12pm
May 20th 10am-12pm
June 17th 10am-12pm
July 15th 10am-12pm
September 16th 10am-12pm
October 21st 10am-12pm
November 18th 10am-12pm
December 16th 10am-12pm

Venue - Frome Town Hall Cafe

Come along for a cuppa, make new friends and share experiences in a private and safe space.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Any questions please email -
fromeautism.adhdparentforum@gmail.com
or join us on Facebook.

🎅🎄 CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE 🎅🎄

Mrs Thompson pulled out the winning raffle tickets with the children yesterday lunchtime and well done to everyone who won one of the lovely Christmas Hampers; Ethan V, Lyla F, Olivia K, Harley D, Perry R, Jackson M, Lucas H and Sam B (in the Office).

Thank to everyone who supported the raffle this year which has raised over £100 for our school and a big thank you to the FBS for organising!

INSET DAYS

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Wednesday 3rd January 2024



SENCo Sharing: Have a lovely Christmas and very best wishes for the new year, Rebecca

Dates in Diary: SENCo Surgery dates for next term: **Thursday January 18th and Tuesday January 30th**. Please contact school to make a 15 minute appointment.

Sensory Needs:

Christmas is a very busy time of year for all of us. Some of us can find it very stressful at the best of times, but some children and adults can find this time of year particularly challenging due to the way they process this heightened activity. Sensory sensitivities can make this a time of year that is less happy than we would wish. With this in mind, I would like to share these articles where advice may be found.

I have included some extracts with the full links. (control and click over the links)

[Tips \(autism.org.uk\)](https://www.autism.org.uk)

Many autistic people will have differing sensory needs; decorations for some are great whereas others may struggle and find them really overwhelming.

"Last year my son chose his own main present, and checked it was right when it arrived, then it was wrapped. He felt better knowing his present was right, and it wouldn't be a surprise, so started the day calm."

Here is a really useful article with some tips from a family about how they spend Christmas with their children, some of them have sensory needs.

[How to help ease overstimulation during the Winter holidays - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Christmas can still be special but keep it as relaxed as possible.

Corinne and her partner Luke have three sons, Caleb (6), Roman (4) and Hugo (3). Caleb and Roman both have autism. Corinne is also waiting for an autism assessment herself.

"There are so many expectations and pressures at Christmas. My advice is do it on your terms and try not to worry if things don't go the way you hoped."

Keep things familiar and relaxed.

"To minimise surprises, we stick with our routines during Christmas, otherwise it can lead to meltdowns and everyone feeling dysregulated. So, we'll have mealtimes at the same time and the boys still eat the foods they're comfortable with.

"We limit other people coming to our house and make sure that if anyone does want to see us, it's only when the boys feel comfortable."