



Berkley C of E First School

Headteacher: Mrs Thompson

Telephone: 01373 887390

'Let your light shine' NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st 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

Thank you for being the person you are:
kind and thoughtful,
sensitive and considerate,
a generous and thoughtful giver.



Dear Families,

Thank you to all those that came along to the carols by candle light last night. It really got people in the mood for Christmas and the warm drinks and minced pies helped. The children did well to read the words of the more traditional songs.



The Rabbits and Squirrels nativity is nearly upon us, they have been learning the songs or words in the afternoon sessions and I am sure we are in for a treat!

The next two weeks will be busy with units of work and Christmas events, please keep an eye on the diary dates for any changes.

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR LEARNING



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 4th December	3.15-4.15pm	Blogging Club
Tuesday 5th December	3.15– 4.15pm	Musical Theatre Club—last one of the term-performance for parents
Wednesday 6th December		Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay. Last day to order your Christmas Lunch
	3.15-4.15pm	Construction Club– last session
	7.00-9.00pm	Christmas Wreath Making
Thursday 7th December		Swimming—Owls and Squirrels Collective Worship
	3.15-4.15pm	Football Club
	1.30pm & 6.00pm	Christmas Nativity (Rabbits & Squirrel sClass)
Friday 8th December		Christmas jumper day—£1 donation
Monday 11th December	9.30am	Christmas Service in Church
Tuesday 12th December		
Wednesday 13th December		Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay. Last Day to order your lunches for the first week back after the holidays.  School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14th December		Swimming—Owls and Squirrels Collective Worship
	3:15-4:15pm	Football Club
Friday 15th December		

Future diary dates.

Inset days

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

First day back to school

Thursday 4th January 2024

Swimming Badgers and Rabbits

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.

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	
For w/c 27.11.2023	
Attendance	Absences
87.92%	12.08%
Learning time lost:	
59 Days	

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

Classes	Rabbits 	Squirrels	Badgers	Owls
w/c 27.11.2023	88.95%	85.99%	88.57%	88%

Break time snacks and lunchboxes:

Please can we ensure we are providing our children with a healthy snack for break time, such as a piece of fruit, veg or cheese. If you are sending your child to school with grapes please can these be cut up length ways.



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.

Star of the week



Reading Superstar



Demonstrating our Christian Value



HEADTEACHER AWARD

Squirrels class—Well done

Georgie in Rabbits for her helpful manners





Parents - Xmas devices

As Xmas is approaching many children and young people will be asking for new devices. It's important that parents think carefully about these devices and the parental features that are available. It's equally important parents think about what the device will be used for, e.g. an all-singing-all-dancing smartphone when it will only be used for messaging and the odd phone call, would a dumb phone be better?

Internet Matters has put together a couple of really good guides for parents: How to choose the right phone for your child

[Mobile phones for kids guide - The Dos and Don'ts | Internet Matters](#)

🎅📺🎄 CHRISTMAS FAYRE 🎅📺🎄

FBS and Mrs Thompson would like to say a big thank you for all your donations and support at last week's Berkley School Christmas Fayre. You managed to raise an amazing **£2186.30!!**

This money is already making a big difference in school, starting with a new Bluetooth speaker and microphone to be used in assemblies and for school Church events.

FBS wish all staff, parents, children and families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

🎅📺🎄 CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE 🎅📺🎄

FBS have made up some beautiful Christmas Hampers all FULL with lots of goodies for all the family. Raffle tickets are £1 each and available via parent pay. You can buy as many as you like!!! All proceeds go to the school.

If you have friends and family who would like to buy raffle tickets please send the cash with their name into school by the morning of Tuesday 12th December.

The draw will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 13th and the lucky winners can collect their Hampers on Thursday 14th December.

You've got to be in it to win it!!! Good luck!!!

You will only be able to buy 1 ticket at a time on Parent Pay. Once you have paid for one ticket, you will be able to go back and purchase another ticket if you wish to do so. Multiple tickets can be purchased, but have to be purchased individually, so one transaction per ticket.



SENCO Sharing: We are creating an area on the website where you will be able to access the 'SENCo sharing' information for future reference. I will let you know as soon as this is up and running.

We are extremely fortunate to have our own ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) in the school- Mrs Hiron.

An ELSA in a school is an **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant**. There is a recognised training course aimed specifically at Teaching Assistants or other specialist school roles. ELSAs are specialists with a wealth of experience of working with children and young people. ELSAs are trained and regularly supervised by Educational Psychologists.

ELSAs are warm, kind and caring people who want to make children and young people feel happy in school. and to reach their potential socially, emotionally and academically. They understand the barriers to learning that some children and young people might have and can help them with this.

They can support the children and young person's emotional development and help them cope with life's challenges. ELSAs will also help children and young people to find solutions to problems they might have.

An ELSA is not there to fix problems but to help them find their own solutions and offer that important support to a child or young person.

Relationships are key in helping children and young people to feel safe and nurtured. ELSA is about creating a reflective space for the child or young person.

What areas does an ELSA help with?

- Loss and bereavement
- Emotional Literacy
- Self Esteem
- Social Skills
- Friendship Issues
- Relationships
- Managing strong feelings
- Anxiety and worries
- Bullying
- Conflict
- Emotional Regulation
- Growth Mindset
- Social and therapeutic stories
- Problem solving

How are children or young people referred for ELSA?

- Class teacher referral
- SENCo referral
- Parent referral
- Child referral
- Outside agency referral

How long should an ELSA Intervention last?

ELSA intervention should be a short-term focus intervention with clear aims. Usually, half a term to a full term in length.