



## Berkley C of E First School

Headteacher: Mrs Thompson

Telephone: 01373 887390

'Let your light shine'

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 15h March 2024

### KEY INFORMATION:

**Drop off: It is only Owls and their siblings who enter at 8.40am.**

**Please remember classes open from 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. **Do not arrive before 8.50am** (unless an Owl) as some classrooms may not be supervised.

### BIBLE REFERENCE OR PRAYER

How are you feeling today? Thus says the LORD:  
"Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

### CLASS NEWS

#### Rabbits

The children have really enjoyed Science week and we have been observing our cress growing, comparing apples in the classroom and in a plastic bag and we have also been weather watchers all week, predicting what the weather will do each day. Well done Rabbits for being Super Scientists! In Outdoor Learning we went on a ladybird walk and chose a bean we would like to grow. We also made salt dough as part of our weighing and measuring in Maths using the vocabulary full, empty and half full.

#### Squirrels

What a lovely week we have had. Helen visited from the Life Education Team and gave us some strategies to help with our feelings. We met Harold, did some balloon breathing, relaxation exercises and bee breathing. We have also taken part in lots of Science activities this week. We made a water clock, a seasons wheel and we are waiting for the sun to arrive to dye our pictures with light and to take part in some other time challenges! Our big challenge was trying to rescue the Paw Patrol pups using materials that we thought would be effective.

#### Badgers

We have had another exciting week in Badgers! We continued reading our book this week and found out that George, our main character decided to design and build a dragon machine. We thought that we could design our own dragon machine, which we did. The dragon machines Badgers created were very imaginative. Some children even included bedrooms and restaurants! On Monday morning Badgers rushed in to the class to see what had happened to their bean! To their amazement some beans had begun to germinate and a small root could be seen! For Science on Wednesday, Badgers and Owls got together to think about the environment and considered what they could do to help protect and save our planet. We shared lots of ideas and then split into three groups. Each group was given a task. One group made bird feeders, another made posters to encourage people to make positive changes to help the planet and the final group went on a bug and animal hunt to find out about the wildlife at Berkley school. It was great fun! Badgers class also made cress heads. We can't wait for the hair to grow.

#### Owls

Owls class have had an amazing week, we have all become budding scientists! The week started by researching famous people who have helped promote the importance of Climate Change and created posters on their work. On Wednesday we joined forces with Badgers to help identify the changes that we can make to our school field to help animals thrive here. We had great fun creating posters, making bird feeders and exploring the current wildlife we have. I would like to give a massive well done to Owls for their Science fair, they all worked independently on their projects and created an amazing, memorable experience for the rest of the school - I am super proud of the young scientists! I look forward to seeing many of you next Tuesday for our class drop in and Mill on the Brue Meeting.



# 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

Skylar, Matilda C, Phoebe & Gracie

## Reading Superstar

Joel C, Beatrice , Skye H & Rory

## Demonstrating our Christian Value

Nina, Finlay, Penelope & Lily

## HEADTEACHER AWARD

Skylar, Lotte and Elsie for their great use of vocabulary whilst make drinks outside in the sand area.

Owls class for the leadership roles during science week. Miss Atkinson, who is our Science lead and planned for them to run a Science Fair. This took place in the hall for all classes to visit. Thank you Owls.

## SCHOOL UPDATES

We have a new lunch menu for after the Easter holiday. This is now live on parent pay. **Please do not forget to order your lunches for the first week back after the Easter break by Tuesday 26th March**. Any orders placed after this date will unfortunately not be processed and you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch.

This week has been action packed with, dance workshops, Archery, Life Education visits and Science week. During this week and next we will do our best to share some of the pictures. Our Curriculum has two strands to it, the subjects and the wider curriculum. The above events really enrich their wider experience and they gain valuable skills.

## Science Week

This week we have celebrated National Science Week. On Monday, the school council introduced Science week and the theme of 'Time'. Throughout the week all classes have been scientists exploring time and learning through various experiments. Owls and Badgers class came together to help think of ways to improve the environment. Squirrels and Rabbits class went on the field to investigate signs of Spring. On Thursday, Owls held a Science fair where everyone went around and tested Owls' experiments. Moreover, the Life Bus visited all classes on Wednesday. We all enjoyed catching up with our friend Harold and helping him with different scenarios. It has been a great week celebrating Science and PSHE.

## Diary Dates

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

Date	Time	Event
Monday 18th March	3:15-4:15pm	Squirrels cake sale—Don't forget £1 for your cake at breaktime. Craft and Play Club
Tuesday 19th March	3:15-4:15pm 4.10—4.30pm 4.30pm	Musical Theatre club Owls Class Parent Drop in Mill on the Brue Meeting
Wednesday 20th March	2.20—2.40pm 3:15– 4:15pm	<b>Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.</b> Rabbits Class Parent Drop in Yoga club
Thursday 21st March	11am—12pm 3:15-4:15pm	Swimming—Owls and Squirrels Outdoor activities morning - Rabbits Class Football club
Friday 22nd March		Starter Sports morning with IG Sports—Squirrel Class (please wear your PE kits to school)
Monday 25th March	3:15-4:15pm	Rabbits school trip to Brokerswood. Meet there at 9.30am Craft and Play Club
Tuesday 26th March	9:35am 3:15-4:15pm	<b>Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.</b> Easter Service, tea, coffee and cake after Musical Theatre club
Wednesday 27th March	3:15– 4:15pm	Yoga club
Thursday 28th March		Inset day
Friday 22nd March		Good Friday

### Future diary dates:

Thursday 18th April—Swimming Badgers and Rabbits

Friday 19th April—Street dance Yr 4's Merlin theatre 1:15pm—2:45pm


### 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	
For w/c 11/03/2024	
Attendance	Absences
91.52	8.48
Learning time lost: 39 Days	

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

Classes	Rabbits 	Squirrels	Badgers	Owls
w/c 11/03/2024	92.94%	91.00%	92.31%	90.34%

**Communication**

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

- Call the school office and request a phone call or meeting with the class teacher.
- 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.
- Parents can also email the office, often they are able to respond on the same day however they will endeavour to get back to within two working days.

Our vision is ‘let your light shine’. That goes beyond our school gates and is a vision for our whole community. If you feel your light may be a little dull please remember we are here to support each other. Please call us and Mrs Thompson would be happy to have a cup of tea and a chat if that is something you needed.

**Reminders:**

**Drop In Sessions for Parents/Carers**

This will be a chance for your child to show you their work. All of the children’s books will be ready and they can show you around their classroom.

**Rabbits Class**—Wednesday 20th March 2.20pm—2.40pm

**Owls Class**—Tuesday 19th March 4.10pm—4.30pm

**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.**

**Protect Your Child**



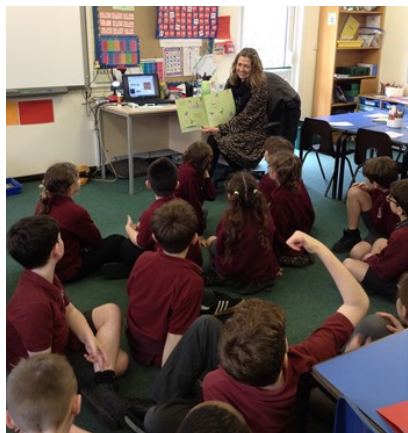
To help protect your child from viewing age-inappropriate content we would advise setting up parental controls. The 4 big internet providers all provide their customers with free parental controls.

Visit this link for a video on how to set this up:

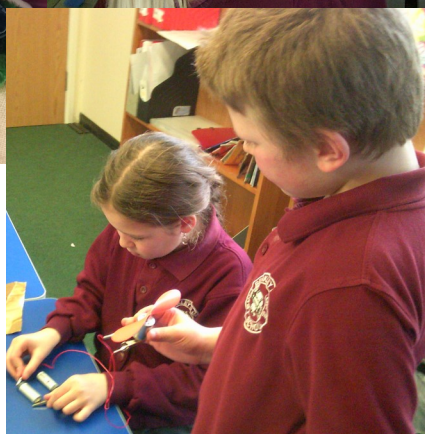
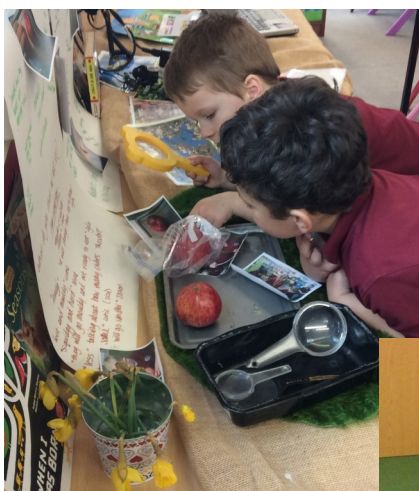
[Parental controls offered by your home internet provider - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

## WORLD BOOK DAY

The children had a guest speaker and hot chocolate with Mrs Thompson. The staff organised a range of activities for the children to enjoy.



## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK



## Frome Kindness Festival 16-22 March

Come and be part of the excitement at this year's Frome Kindness Festival! Get involved by writing down your own experience of kindness, we're especially excited to hear from children, drop it off at The Good Heart, Kind Bank or email to [gemmathegoodheart@gmail.com](mailto:gemmathegoodheart@gmail.com). Or join us for fantastic family events such as the Afterschool Toy Swap and the Family Assembly, or visit the family-friendly Kind Bank located in the HSBC building, open daily from 10-4pm throughout the festival. For the full program of events, visit [www.thegoodheart.uk/2024-programme](http://www.thegoodheart.uk/2024-programme).

# FAMILY EVENTS

## SAT 16TH MARCH

**Kindness Festival Market Stall** 9-3pm People's Market  
**Skip, Swing and Stitch** 10-12, Victoria Park  
**Frome Town Band** 1-1.45pm, Boyle Cross  
**Tea Dance for Young & Old:** 1-3pm, Rook Lane Chapel

## SUN 17TH MARCH

**Kindness Assembly for Families** 2-3.30pm, Bennett Centre  
**Keys to Kindness: A Children's Piano Concert** 2.30-3.30pm, Christchurch

## MON 18TH MARCH

**Babies and Children Clothes Exchange** 9.30-11am, Wesley Methodist Church

## THURS 21ST MARCH

**Afterschool Toy Swap** 2-4.30pm, Silk Mill

## FRI 22ND MARCH

**Scallop Shells Children's Choir: Songs of Kindness** 4.30-5.15pm Christchurch  
**Festival Wrap-Up with Frome Street Bandits** 6-9pm, Kind Bank

**ALL WEEK!** **Kindness Storytime** Mon-Fri 4pm, Frome Library  
**Visit Kind Bank** By the Boyle Cross, 10 - 4pm daily

ALL EVENTS FREE OR BY DONATION

BOOK TICKETS AT [WWW.THEGOODHEART.UK](http://WWW.THEGOODHEART.UK)



**Early Help Assessments** (taken from [Early Help Assessment \(EHA\) \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://somerset.gov.uk))

Sometimes your child or young person may need extra support, and the services who work with you and your child will want to find solutions for you all as soon as possible. We believe a little bit of help at the right time makes a big difference. We want to help you find solutions to small problems before they turn into big ones, and we do this with an Early Help Assessment.

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) is a simple, easy to use assessment, which captures all of a child or young person's and family's needs at the earliest opportunity, and with consent, it is a shared tool which can be used by all agencies in Somerset who are delivering early help in a coordinated way, so that they understand and respond to the needs of children or young people.

It is a tool for practitioners to identify the needs of children or young people and their families and make 'request for services' involvement where required, if services already involved are not able to meet the identified needs. The Early Help Assessment finds out about the strengths and difficulties your child and family may have and explores the best way to help.

**Information that is shared**

With your consent, an Early Help Assessment will gather your story and be shared with practitioners who can help. By doing this you should only need to tell your story once. If we do not feel we can cover all of your needs we will discuss this with you, and with your permission share the information with an agreed team of practitioners who we believe will be able to support you.

The Early Help Assessment is your document and will help practitioners understand what you feel is working well in your family and what you might need help with. It can also be used to access support for you and your child from many different services, so you do not have to fill in other referral forms.

**What happens next...**

Based on the information you and your child provide, the practitioner can begin to complete an action plan with you and all those who can help and support your child. This may take place straight away or the practitioner may need to make some enquiries and contact you again. If there are needs which could be met by a number of different services, then a 'Team around the Child' meeting will be held.

You will be given a copy of the Early Help Assessment and will be told who will see it, where it is stored and how it will be used. Normally only people who need to know about your child will receive the information.

The Somerset Early Help Assessment has been agreed upon by all practitioners who work with children and young people as a good way of helping families explain what help they feel they need. This means that doctors, health visitors, schools and housing associations – to name a few – will be able to work with you in this way.

We hope that you will want to take part in the Early Help Assessment to get the support you need for your child. But, if you don't want to get involved, you can ask for the process to stop. Though this could mean that the support you are asking for is more difficult to access.

**More information and forms:** You can find more information on Early Help Assessments and supporting documents on the [Professional Choices website](http://www.professionalchoices.co.uk) Please feel free to contact the school to discuss further.