



## Berkley C of E First School

Headteacher: Mrs Thompson

Telephone: 01373 887390

# 'Let your light shine' NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th 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

### BIBLE REFERENCE OR PRAYER

Take a moment to really look at how beautiful parts of our environment are, let's be grateful for each other.

### CLASS NEWS

#### Rabbits

What a busy week we have had in Rabbits! We have begun to learn the Easter story and acted Jesus' arrival out in class which the children really enjoyed! And of course we have been celebrating World Book Day by talking about and sharing our favourite books, using lots of book vocabulary and guessing anyone who came dressed up as a character from a book. We continue to also read our class book *The Tiny Seed* and are watching our cress seeds grow in our outdoor area! Rabbits had a surprise visit from Mrs Windridge on Thursday for World Book Day and really enjoyed her reading a story to them.

#### Squirrels

This week in Squirrels we have been exploring ice as part of our marvellous materials unit. We made some great observations about what the ice looked like and what changes after a little time. We took our ice outside and had to find a place where the ice would melt slowly, and a little while later we moved our ice to where it might melt quicker. We also became ice by recreating ice as a solid object and then melting into water and then becoming a gas. Squirrels really enjoyed Mr Miles visiting their class on Thursday and reading to them for World Book Day.

#### Badgers

What another fun week we have had! Dragons it seems, are badly behaved and George, the character in our book, 'The Dragon Machine' is having a lot of trouble with them! Luckily, Badgers have come to the rescue and written some notes of advice for George. Hopefully that will solve it! Did you know that plants don't need to grow in soil? We found out that plants are able to grow just in water! It's called hydroponics. Hydroponics was discovered in the 1600's. Amazing! Some of the food we eat is grown using hydroponic horticulture. They have even been able to grow food in space! Badgers have begun conducting their own hydroponics experiment this week. We're growing beans in a plastic bag and we can't wait to see what happens! Finally, what a great World Book Day we had! The children's costumes were fantastic! Badgers also received a surprise visit from Mrs Logan-Thomas on Thursday and really enjoyed having a story read to them. Well done to the Badgers who read three or more times last week!

#### Owls

This week Owls class have been super creative. At the start of the week, we came up with our own ideas of how everyday items might work. The children created some crazy ideas; did you know: crocodiles flush the toilets, hamsters make the clocks turn and fireflies party inside light bulbs! We had great fun writing these. In science we explored bones in the human body, did you know there are 206 bones in the adult body? We created our own skeleton puppets and used split pins to represent joints, I was super impressed with their knowledge. Owls class were also surprised by Mrs Berryman reading to us as a part of World Book Day, we loved having her read to us. Well done to everyone's costumes today, you all look amazing and I am thrilled to see all the effort gone into them.

**Happy Birthday to Hadley & Olivia who celebrate their birthdays this week**

Enjoy the weekend,

Mrs S Thompson





# 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

Marley, Evie, Imogen & Ezra

## Reading Superstar

Lyla , Dixie-Mai, Theodore D & Bella

## Demonstrating our Christian Value

Luca, Bernie, James & Jeremiah

## HEADTEACHER AWARD

Finlay for his response and attitude when I went into his class this week.

Imogen for the progress she has made in her writing, it is lovely to see and to hear about your work.

Ruben T for his ideas and thoughtful comments when using the building blocks at playtime.

## SCHOOL UPDATES

### **Staff**

On Monday 11th March we will be welcoming Mrs Cornish to Berkley School. Mrs Cornish will take on the role of a Teaching Assistant across the school and we are very thrilled to have her experience and we believe she will be a great addition to our existing team. We hope she settles into our lovely, nurturing school in no time at all. For the rest of this academic year she will be working in Badgers class every afternoon she will job share this role with Mr Miles. Some of the Squirrels class will also get to know Mrs Cornish during some of their morning sessions.

Next week, on Wednesday we have workshops running as part of our PSHE programme, each class will be visited by an external provider, she has been coming to the school for a few years and you will have received a letter via email regarding this from the school. The children always love meeting her giraffe, Harold!

### **Governor Update**

Thank you to those parents who came along to the drop-in session last Wednesday. We had some good discussions around the questions raised and hopefully, those who attended came away with a bit more information. Suggestions on communication came up and ways to improve and support parents when talking to their children about their learning. Some ideas where more drop-in sessions for parents to see their children's work and meet staff; review of the newsletter, more structure to the 'meet the governors' sessions and an evening meeting to try to make it more accessible to more parents. Relevant points will be discussed at the next staff meeting and we will look to have another governor session in the summer term.

We distributed our email addresses on last week's newsletter email and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us - we can then discuss it in our March governor meeting.

We still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on the board; if you might be interested in the role, please email our clerk in the first instance and she will be able to give you some more information :

[sspoerer@berkleyschool.co.uk](mailto:sspoerer@berkleyschool.co.uk)

Many thanks,

On behalf of the Governing Board

## Diary Dates

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

Date	Time	Event
Monday 11th March	3:15-4:15pm	Craft and Play Club
Tuesday 12th March	3:15-4:15pm	Musical Theatre club
Wednesday 13th March		<b>Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.</b>
	All day	Life education bus in school
	3:15- 4:15pm	Yoga club
	7:30pm	FBS Meeting—3 Horseshoes in Chapmanslade
Thursday 14th March		Swimming—Owls and Squirrels
	3:15-4:15pm	Football club
Friday 15th March		RED NOSE DAY—Children welcome to wear a red nose.
	2.20-2.40pm	Squirrels Parent Drop In
Monday 18th March		Squirrels cake sale
	3:15-4:15pm	Craft and Play Club
Tuesday 19th March	3:15-4:15pm	Musical Theatre club
	4.10—4.30pm	Owls Class Parent Drop in
Wednesday 20th March		<b>Don't forget to order your lunches on Parent Pay.</b>
	2.20—2.40pm	Rabbits Class Parent Drop in
	3:15- 4:15pm	Yoga club
Thursday 21st March		Swimming—Owls and Squirrels
	11am—12pm	Outdoor activities morning - Rabbits Class
	3:15-4:15pm	Football club
Friday 22nd March		

### Future diary dates:

Monday 25th March—Rabbits school trip to Brokerswood

Tuesday 26th March—Easter Service

### **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 04/03/2024	
Attendance	Absences
95.22%	4.78%
Learning time lost: 22 Days	

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

Classes	Rabbits	Squirrels	Badgers	Owls 
W/C 04/03/2024	94.12%	93.00%	95.38%	97.24%

**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 but they will endeavour to get back to within two working days.

**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

**Squirrels Class**—Friday 15th 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.**

[www.berkleyschool.co.uk](http://www.berkleyschool.co.uk)



**Internet Matters**

**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](#)

SENCo Sharing: Next Parent Surgery: 21<sup>st</sup> March 3.15 -4.00pm. Please book a 15 minute appointment.

# Somerset Parent Carer Forum (SPCF)

## Description

Somerset Parent Carer Forum is an independent not for profit Community Interest Company formed by parent carers in 2016. The forum feels passionately about ensuring all our children have the best chance in life and receive the correct support and services in order to achieve their full potential.

Our steering group meets once each half term and consists of parent carers, so together we have a stronger voice that can work towards improving the lives of families, children and young people with disabilities. We can achieve this by putting forward your concerns and issues to relevant key policy makers and service providers. To make this happen, we work alongside Somerset Council and NHS Somerset to have a better understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Somerset. We attend meetings, forums and workshops to make sure parent carers, voices and children, needs are being heard at all levels within health, education and social care services.

The forum runs regular coffee mornings (Chill and Chat) to provide opportunities for families to meet up and share time in a non-judgemental atmosphere with people who get. In addition, throughout the year we run information events, training sessions and produce newsletters. Check [the events page on the local offer](#) or [our website](#) which contains details about the work we do, useful resources and information for parent carers and local service providers. Find out more about specific projects such as the [resource library](#) and [Ollie the Flamingo](#) and [WISE Up Workshops](#).

The forum is open to any parent, grandparent or foster parent of a child or young person (aged 0 to 25 years) with additional needs, these may range from complex medical needs to challenging behaviour, learning or physical difficulties. The forum does not require a diagnosis as we believe help and support should be available at all stages of your journey. We want make information and ways to have your voice heard open to everyone so if you have specific needs then please contact us and we will work with you to help you have your say on local and national things that affect your child.

