Federation of West Leigh Infant & Backwell C of E Junior School

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 3 Federation Value - Respect

On our website - Links

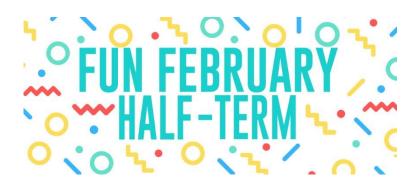
West Leigh - Letters to Parents

BJS - Letters to Parents





Wishing you all a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 20th February.







Important Dates - Term 4

- Thursday 8th February BJS PTA Valentines Disco
- Friday 9th February WL Rabbit cake and uniform sale
- Friday 9th February Last day of Term 3
- Monday 19th February INSET day at both schools
- Tuesday 20th February Start of Term 4
- Tues 20th Feb Fri 23rd Feb WL Arts Week
- Thursday 7th March World Book Day
- Tuesday 12th March WL parents evening
- Wednesday 13th March BJS parents evening
- Thursday 14th March WL parents evening
- Thursday 14th March BJS parents evening
- Thursday 14th March Enrichment Morning 3
- Friday 15th March BJS 4C Cake Sale
- Monday 18th March BJS Y5 Church Day
- Wednesday 20th March BJS Easter Service 2.30pm St Andrew's Church
- Thursday 21st March WL PTA Easter Disco
- Thursday 21st March BJS Swimming Gala
- Friday 22nd March BJS Break the Rules Day
- Thursday 28th March WL Spring Sing at 2.30pm
- Thursday 28th March Last day of Term 4
- Monday 15th April Start of Term 5







Hedgehog News

Hedgehogs started this term with a fantastic superhero WOW day, to kick off their new writing topic which was inspired by Traction Man by Mini Grey. The children created their own superhero characters — we had everything from Rainbow Girl to Adventure Boy! Our writing for the term has been based on our superheroes and their adventures, and we have been honing our writing skills using noun phrases, adverbs, exclamation sentences and questions to write our own superhero comic books. Don't they look fantastic on our bookshelves?

In Science we have been exploring Everyday Materials & their Properties. We have done lots of practical investigations to test the flexibility, absorbency and water resistance of different materials. We have learned about recording and interpreting data and have developed some great science skills!









WL Book Fair



Thank you to everyone who bought books from the book fair last week. We have been given a reward amount of £226.45 to spend on new books for the school.





Enrichment Morning 2

Tuesday 6th February 2024 was our second Enrichment morning of the school year. This year's theme is Mental Health and Wellbeing and the children took part in creative and even messy wellbeing activities! Have a look below to see what each house got up to. Our next Enrichment morning is on Thursday 14th March 2024. If you are interesting in helping out, please let the school office know.

Willow house made dreamcatchers as part of our enrichment morning. We made them as in indigenous American cultures they take away bad dreams and help us to sleep better. Sleep is really important for our well-being as it means our brains and bodies are well rested and ready for the day. To make the dreamcatchers, we had to use our cutting, hole-punching, sticking, threading and colouring skills. They look fantastic!









Our Enrichment days this year are focussed on the theme of Mindfulness. The children from Oak House watched a short video clip about the benefits of exercise and spending time outdoors to our mental wellbeing, then had a go at two activities which involved exercise and the outdoors. They completed a yoga challenge and worked as a team to play some parachute games in the hall, and went outside into the millennium garden to see what signs of nature they could spot. They then collected natural materials such as leaves, twigs and pebbles to create a leaf crown or a nature-themed collage.















Enrichment Morning 2 cont.

Sycamore House talked about how breathing can make us feel calm and relaxed. We enjoyed making breathing wands before watching a video about Belly Breathing and using our wands to help us breathe out slowly and deeply. We also made sun catchers/stained glass windows, choosing colours which make us feel cheerful. The children worked happily together and we were really impressed with their concentration - well done Sycamore!





Beech House have enjoyed a very sticky enrichment morning! They have been designing and making their own string bowls. This activity involved cutting different lengths of string and dipping each piece of string into PVA glue. The string strands were then arranged on an upturned paper bowl and left to dry. We are hoping our bowls, once dried, will look something like this:-











WL Superstars









Dates for your diary!

→ Rabbit Class Cake Sale

Friday 9th February 3.05pm outside the main Hall



Cakes courtesy of the fabulous bakers in Rabbit Class & Pre-Loved Uniform will be for sale straight after school. Cakes are 50p each or 5 for £2 and uniform is £1 an item.

→ The Big Quiz!

Friday 15th March 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start



After the success of two solo quizzes last year, BJSA and West Leigh PTA decided to join forces and create an even bigger and better quiz night this year. The Big Quiz will be held in the Theatre at Backwell Secondary School. Teams to be between 4 - 6 people. Overall winners will receive a prize, trophy/medals and of course get all the bragging rights knowing they are the ultimate quiz champions of Backwell!

To save any hassle remembering login details, you can buy tickets from either BJS or West Leigh as we will be splitting the funds raised between the schools equally.

West Leigh Quiz Tickets: CLICK | HEREBJS Quiz Tickets: CLICK | HEREBJS QUIZ TICKETS |

→ Easter Discos!

Thursday 21st March Reception: 3.15 - 4.00pm Year 1: 4.15 - 5.00pm



We are egg-cited to invite all West Leigh children to an Easter Disco! Party outfits or Easter fancy dress are very much encouraged! Tickets are £3.50 per child and include a cake, a drink, the disco and huge amounts of fun! Tickets can be booked via the PTA events website very soon!

www.pta-events.co.uk/backwellfederationpa/

Westfield Drive is a School Street

West Leigh Infants School Street

Thank you for your help so far











Just a reminder that Westfield Drive will be permanently made a School Street with work being carried out to the entrance of Westfield Drive over half term.





BACKWELL C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Celebration Assembly - 'Backwell B' Awards

Our Backwell B awards include: Be your Best, Be Kind and Be Responsible

Celebration Assembly - 26th January 2024

Year 3 - Aydhin, Raya and Carter

Year 4 - Zara and Eleanor

Year 5 - Monty and Amy

Year 6 - Toby and Rose

Celebration Assembly - 2nd February 2024

Year 3 - Archie and Charlie M

Year 5 - Rosie and Ilya

Year 6 - Archie and Monty

CONGRATULATIONS!







Pupil Chaplains

Our Year 6 Pupil Chaplains have finished their term of office and a new team have started their training for this exciting role. A selection of year 5 children spent the afternoon with Timi and Martin at St Andrew's Church learning all about becoming part of Chaplaincy Team. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the outgoing Chaplains for their time and dedication to the role. Read all about their highlights.....

I loved going to
Taunton and meeting
all the other pupil
chaplains

Being a pupil chaplain helped me learn about God and who he is and how to worship him We did lots of things! Lots of Bible reading and prayers, and had a lot of fun! We did readings in church and wrote prayers, I know that I can pray anywhere now, not just in church. I learned that God is with us all the time, and that he cares.

I learned that love is not just a feeling it's an action and a decision on how we treat people. I like reading the Action Bible, I like the stories and what they teach us. My favourite memory was going to Taunton and acting out the feeding of the 5000.

It's been very fun and exciting to learn, but not just learn like we learn in school but in a more free way.

We learned so many lessons it's hard to pick! I think the stories we learned will help me make decisions later, I will remember them and think about them when I have to decide things.







Enrichment Morning 2

Beech house joined the teachers from Oak House (Mr. Williams and Mrs. Pearson) to create shadow puppet shows based on classic fairytales. In groups of 9, the children wrote a script, cut out their characters and props and performed their show using an old light-projector - all in a morning's work for Beech house! – Mr Williams.

We have had our latest Enrichment day with the theme of paper this week at the juniors. Beech house had the opportunity to make shadow puppets based on fairy tales and using just black cards and split pins - they loved it! Old newspapers were turned into high fashion in Oak house - dress, handbags and accessories all made it to the catwalk. Paper aeroplanes took flight in Willow house with the winners announced for which went the furthest and which stayed in the air the longest. Finally, Sycamore used their origami skills to make creatures such as frogs, cats, dog, giraffes and elephants! Everyone enjoyed having time in their houses.

by Chester, Nell and Bea (School council)

On Tuesday, the teachers of Sycamore house challenged the children of Oak house to make fashion news!! The task was literally to make an item of clothing (or entire outfit) out of newspaper: the ultimate recycling!

We began by looking at fashion examples of clothes made from materials ranging from Subway wrappers, and bin bags, to M&M Packets and Lindor wrappers (Miss Brock offered to eat the Lindor needed to make a replica if anyone wanted to) and even a dress made from £20 and £50 notes!!!

After our research, we split into mixed year group teams and began planning, making and perfecting our designs. Handbags and fans were the 'go to' accessories today with a good selection of hats and crowns adding to the main items of jackets, dresses and tops. There was even an evening gown complete with train!

Each outfit was then expertly modelled on the cat walk to great applause from the audience. Excellent work Oak house!! – Miss Brock





Enrichment Morning 2 – Photos























Enrichment Morning 2 - Photos



















Lego Donations Required

We are very excited to announce that Mrs Pearson is looking at setting up a Lego Club here at BJS, in order for this to be put in place we are asking for any donations of Lego to be brought into school, so during the half term why not have a clear out and if you have any unused or unloved Lego we would be very happy to receive it at school. Thank you in advance (3)



Road Safety



We have received a number of complaints recently regarding speeding traffic on Church Lane, I am sad to say that a number of cars have been identified as parents from BJS. As we are all aware, the roads are very narrow and cars travelling above the speed limit could cause significant harm if a person was to get caught by a car. We are aware that this is a well used road, and lots of local traffic as well as school traffic travels along the road but please please can we ask that all our families drive with caution. I am sure you will all agree that the safety of our children is most important.

A reminder also that the yellow Zig Zags are there for safety – please do not park on them, no matter if you will only be a few seconds, unfortunately a few seconds is all it can take for a child to be injured.





SLOW

Children's Mental Health Week

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH



LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL

ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD? Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parent and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. and act on

C PARENTINGSMART ORGUK

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – It might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.

- - If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age my siblings, cousting, friends, younger teachers at school because they 'get it'.
- Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

For primary children: bit.lv/3PzCGI8

For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK

Q: What was the best thing about today? Y5 Child Answer: Coming into school because I saw my friends

Q: Who would you talk to if you were feeling worried about your Mental Health? Y5 Child Answer: I would talk to my teacher and say I am not feeling that good.

> Q: What was the best thing about today? Y3 Child Answer: **Probably English**

Q: What was the best thing about today? Y3 Child Answer: PE because it was 3J against 3W and 3W won

Q: What was the best thing about today? Y4 Child Answer: Today was a school trip and the best bit was the medical centre and they were showing us how Romans would help the poor people and the rich people.

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place from 5 – 11 February, The theme this

"My Voice Matters".

My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered, there is a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self esteem.

At BJS we have been focusing on this topic through assemblies and class work.

My VOICE



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Some ways to start a conversation with your

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING ABOUT TODAY?

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST STRESS / WORRY IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S YOUR ONLINE LIFE LIKE?

WHO WOULD YOU TALK TO IF YOU WERE FEELING WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP YOU?

CHILDRENSMENTALHEALTHWEEK.ORG.UK





<u>Children's Mental Health Week - Page 2</u>

In school we have been talking about Mental health. We learnt that mental health is all about how you approach things. We learnt to try to move from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. A growth mindset is all about thinking positively whereas a fixed mindset focuses on the negative things,

We know that it is just as important to look after your mental health as it is to keep your body healthy. Remember to think positively and notice the bad but focus on the good!

by Zara, Arun and Pippa





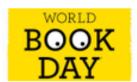




BOOK CORNER

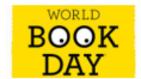


The Book Corner is an opportunity to celebrate everything we love about reading here at Backwell Juniors. From monthly book recommendations to reading support/updates/events-it can all be found here!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Save the date: Thursday 7th March



We know it's still only February but World Book Day will soon be upon us! Further details will be sent out after half term but here is a taster of what we're planning...

The message behind World Book Day this year is 'Read Your Way'. Every reader is different, and there's no right or wrong way to enjoy reading. The emphasis is on encouraging children to think about what reading looks like for them. The 15 fantastic World Book Day books (free with a WBD token) provide adventure, mystery and laughter, with the aim being that children and young people will be able to discover reading on their own terms, and as a hobby. You can find more information about why we celebrate this day here: https://www.worldbookday.com/ along with lots of brilliant resources and author videos and audio stories and books.



Poetry focus

As a Federation we will be focusing on poetry this year- reading, writing and sharing poems in school. If your child has a favourite poem, we'd love them to bring it in on the day and share with their class!

Author visit

On Wednesday 6th March, we will be welcoming author Jack Challoner, a local author from Bristol who specialises in writing science-based books but also science poetry. He's looking forward to working with the children and has promised a few science demonstrations along the way! We're incredibly grateful to the PTA for funding this event ©



Dressing up

In line with tradition, on World Book Day itself, we would love the children to come in dressed as a character from one of their favourite books. There will be a prize to be won for the most creative costume in each class!

World Book Day £1 tokens

We will also be handing out the World Book Day £1 tokens, which can either be spent in bookshops (£1 off books priced £2.99 or more) or swapped for one of this year's specially produced £1 books OR they can also be saved for our BJS book fair which will be running from Thursday 21st March!

MONTHLY MUST READS





Each month, we post a selection of 'hot off the press' recommended reads...

These are taken from 'The Reader Teacher' https://www.thereaderteacher.com/ a fantastic source of reads, reviews and recommendations at KS1 and KS2. These books are not currently on the 30 Reads list but could be added under the 'your choice' section on the 30 Reads log. These books can also be reserved and borrowed from Nailsea Library

FEBRUARY & MARCH



Non-fiction book of the month

Interest age: 7+

Independent reading age: 9+
In this uproariously funny and charmingly
illustrated book, readers are introduced to
incredible animals and the bizarre things
human scientists do to understand them.
Did you know that crows never forget a
face? Or that jaguars have a favourite
perfume? Have you ever wondered how
to pet a yeti crab? Or whether dogs can
tell if you're smiling? And just what is a
burrowing bettong?

Packed with fascinating facts, this hilarious book reveals secrets like why roosters crow and how meerkats make decisions as a group - and how humans can better understand the wild creatures we share the planet with.



Interest age: 8+
Independent reading age: 9+
BEFORE THERE WERE PEOPLE,
THERE WERE BEASTS...The
island of Ramoa was once luscious
and populated with mighty beasts.
Now though, it is home to barren
and tamed cities, where nature is
locked out and trouble is brewing.
When Kayla's beloved animal
companion, a rare winged pangron,
is stolen, she's determined to get
him back. But to do so, she'll have
to leave her city and journey into
the wild and forbidden Beastlands.



Fiction book of the month

Interest age: 9+

Independent reading age: 10+
Combining the warmth and heart of Ross
Welford's The 1.000 Year Old Boy with
the epic adventure and inseparable
friendship of Frank Cottrell Boyce's
Cosmic comes an otherworldly new
middle grade adventure from the awardwinning Benjamin Dean.

Twelve-year-old Zed has always been fascinated by the Demons that fall from the sky. His whole life his dad has worked as a Hunter, tasked with eliminating Demons once and for all, and Zed hopes to one day follow in his footsteps. But then one night Spark appears and disrupts everything Zed thought he knew.



Interest age:7+

Independent reading age: 7+

Join time-travelling penguins Pablo and Splash on an unexpected adventure to the time of the dinosaurs in this brilliantly funny full-colour graphic novel. Perfect for fans of Bunny vs Monkey or Bumble and Snug.

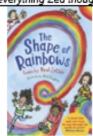
Antarctic penguins Pablo and Splash are polar opposites and besties for life. Pablo is a home-bird and a careful planner. Splash is easily bored and hungry for adventure. Sick to her flippers of the harsh, freezing weather, Splash persuades Pablo to go on a holiday with her. But far from the luxury beach destination that Splash has in mind, the pair end up in a time-travel machine that takes them back to the age of the dinosaurs! Suddenly their icy homeland doesn't seem so dull...



Interest age: 8+
Independent reading age: 8+
While helping in Grandpa's
shop, Bramble discovers a
strange scarlet mask. A tingling
in her fingers tells her to try it on,
but when she does she can't
take it off....

And when she looks in the mirror, the face of a famous highwayman Diamond Jack stares back.

It seems Bramble has been chosen for a mission. Time to stand and deliver – your magic or your life!



Poetry book of the month

Interest age: 7+

Independent reading age: 7+
Do you like peanut butter and popcom?
Would you like to find a friend, or give
yourself a fright? Or maybe go on holiday
with a rhino? See what happens when you
live next door to a Viking = and read about
the boy who ate his school!

This is an inventive and funny new collection from a very popular school performance poet. Entertaining, laugh-out-loud but also thought-provoking, the poems are perfectly matched by Will Hughes's wild and witty illustrations.

We'd love to hear from you if you read any of the above! Write or type a book review and hand in to either Mrs

Barnard or the school office







Backwell Junior School Association & West Leigh Infants PTA present: The Big Quiz 2024!

Backwell Junior School Association and West Leigh Infants PTA are thrilled to invite all parents, carers, family and friends to The Big Quiz on Friday 15th March, 8pm start.

After the success of solo quizzes for both BJSA and West Leigh PTA we decided to join forces and create an even bigger and better quiz night.

The quiz will be held in Backwell Secondary School Theatre. Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start.

Overall winners will receive a prize, trophy/medals and of course get all the bragging rights knowing they are the ultimate quiz champions of Backwell!

For more information please see the links below.

To save parents having to reregister for PTA events logins, you are able to buy tickets from both BJSA & WLI as we will be splitting the funds raised between the schools equally.

BJS Quiz Tickets - CLICK HERE
West Leigh Quiz Tickets - CLICK HERE

Thank you!

So far your generous support has allowed us to raise:

5PB cake sale - £129.89

3W cake sale - £105.35

The money raised by the class cake sales goes directly to the class for them to use for a fun activity/experience.

So far this year we have been able to fund a mural to go on the outside wall of 5PB that is directly to your left as you go in the gate. Work is due to start on this very soon by the wonderful Sophie Rae who also did the mural at West Leigh.

We are also funding new reading books for Year 3 and Barrington Stoke books.



Sophie Rae's Mural at West Leigh

Our School Council have come up with some fantastic ideas for the design at BJS. We are looking forward to seeing Sophie turn these ideas into some beautiful artwork to brighten up the school.

BJSA UPCOMING EVENTS

Fundraising Events-

Children's Disco -8^{th} February BJSA & West Leigh Infants PTA Present - The Big Quiz -15^{th} March Break the Rules Day -22^{nd} March

Class Cake Sales-

4C - Friday 15th March

6S - Friday 10th May

5B - Friday 14th June

3J - Friday 5th July







Aspens Select

The new menu is now live. Please remember to book your lunches for next term so that the kitchen can plan ahead. Many thanks.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please can you ensure that you leave a message or email the office to let us know by 9.30am on the day of absence and each day thereafter.





Norovirus – 48hr rule

As we head into the Winter season we would like to remind parents that if your child is unfortunate to catch this bug, regulations state that they are not able to return to school for a least 48 hours from the last episode. Please also remember to contact the school to record your child's absence each day.

Wrap Around Care – Important Information

Please ensure that Premier Education are contacted directly for any amendments to bookings or collection arrangements, all contact details are detailed here:

Backwell Junior School:

Site Phone: 07707878334 - Active between 7:15 & 8:30am for BSC / Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.

Email - c.clarke@premier-education.com for information regarding updates for the day, or collection passwords if somebody different is collecting.

Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.

West Leigh Infant School:

Site Phone: 07707800019 - Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.

Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.











BOOK NOW AT

www.gymclubs.co.uk/gymnastics-clubs

Let's Knit Tuesday Night 7:30—9:00 February 20, 27 March 5, 12, 19, 26 Learn the basics All yarn and needles supplied Please email to register We want to have enough supplies and coffee for everyone. familiesworker@gmail.com

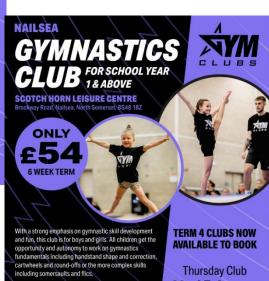
> West Town Methodist Church 41 West Town Road Backwell

SESSIONS NOW AVAILABLE TO BOOK

Monday Club 19th February - 25th March

Session 1: 4.15 - 5pm Session 2: 5pm - 5.45pm

Any enquiries contact Head Coach Bex on 07967 402061



Quality gymnastics coaching

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE. BOOK NOW AT

www.gymclubs.co.uk/gymnastics-clubs

Free parking

State of the art inflatable equipment

Fantastic leisure centre facilities

22nd February - 28th March

Session 1: 4.15 - 5pm

Session 2: 5pm - 5.45pm

Any enquiries contact Head Coach Bex on 07967 402061



