

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 2 Federation Value – Challenge

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Important Dates - Term 2

- Thursday 5th December – BJS 6S Class Assembly 10.15am
- Wednesday 11th December – WL Reception Christmas Performance at 9.20am
- Thursday 12th December – WL KS1 Christmas Performance for Year 2 Parents at 9.20am
- Friday 13th December – WL KS1 Christmas Performance for Year 1 Parents at 9.20am
- Friday 13th December – BJS Christmas Fair 4.30 – 6.30pm
- Tuesday 17th December – BJS Carol Service 2pm St Andrew's Church
- Thursday 19th December – WL Christmas Dinner Day
- Friday 20th December – WL Christmas Jumper Day and Party Food for lunch
- Friday 20th December – BJS Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
- Friday 20th December – Last Day of Term 2
- Monday 6th January – INSET Day
- Tuesday 7th January – Start of Term 3 for BJS and WL

Important Dates



Our next INSET days will be on:

Monday 6th January 2025

Please note!



Class News - Squirrels



This week, Squirrel class have been linking their learning to the storybook Stickman. We have enjoyed listening to the story, creating our own stick people, and did some super writing about the story. One of our favourite activities took part in our Little Explorers session.

First, we went outside to collect three different sized sticks. Then, we brought them back to the classroom to use to assemble our own Stickman. Finally, we used pipe cleaners to attach Stickman's arms and legs, and will add eyes, leaves for hair and a smiley face to finish.



**We think they look great! I wonder what adventures Stickman will get up to when the children take him home?
I hope he doesn't run away!**



Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars

Thursday 14th
November

Badgers - Rowan
Squirrels – Ruby
Hedgehogs – Ronnie
Owls – Brody

Thursday 21st November

Badgers - Eira
Hedgehogs – Aoife
Owls – Harriet
Rabbits - Molly

Thursday 28th November

Badgers - Grace
Squirrels – Esther
Hedgehogs – Elvina & Wilson
Owls – Mollie
Rabbits - Arwen



Mr Webster, Miss Hiscocks and the rest of the West Leigh Team, would like to thank the West Leigh PTA Team wholeheartedly, for organising and running another incredible and successful Christmas Fair. We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU, for everything you do throughout the Year. The amount of hard work, time and effort you put in to every event, does not go unnoticed - You are all AMAZING.

West Leigh PTA – Christmas Fundraising!

A massive THANK YOU for your generous support so far this year – for all your donations, volunteering, baking, attending events and supporting the PTA's activities this term!

Our Christmas and Term 2 activities, have included and will include:

- Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto
- Christmas Raffle (tickets to be returned to school by Friday 6th December)
- Secret Shop - gifts to be received by the last week of term
- Christmas Performance film - more details to come after the event.
- Cauliflower Cards
- Lions Santa Float Collection 18th December.

The Christmas fair alone raised **£1727**, proving yet again to be a successful event for both the children and the school. More will be raised over the coming weeks for the other mentioned events.

Special Thank You's go to:

The two Santas, who were the dads of parents.
School teaching and support staff - including Mr Webster and Miss Hiscocks on the tombola.
Meadowside for holding a craft stall.
In advance to Matt for filming and editing the Christmas Performance.

We have been working with the school on what the money can be spent on so look out for an update on this next year.



Matched Funding

Did you help out at the Christmas Fair?

Do you work for a company that operates a matched funding scheme?

If so, you could really boost the PTA funds!

In previous years the PTA has been really well supported by parents who work at companies who operate a matched funding scheme.

This is where the parents' companies 'match' charity fundraising undertaken by their employees so they donate the same amount to the charity, on top of what has already been raised!

So, if you work in a company that has this amazing scheme in place, please get in touch as we would love to hear from you! Companies we have been supported by in the past are Lloyds and Hargreaves-Lansdown - however, it is a scheme operated by many, so please check with your HR department to find out if this is something available to you too! If so, or you need any more information, please email the PTA on westleighpta@gmail.com.



Party Kit Hire

Love parties, hate waste? Save money and the planet, and raise money for West Leigh PTA at the same time!

Hire our party kit with everything you need for up to 30 children - plates, bowls, cups, jugs, trays and serving bowls. Collection and return is in Backwell. Hire is £5, plus £20 refundable deposit when returned clean and undamaged.

To check availability, book a slot or for any other questions contact Mariam at westleighpta@gmail.com

Pre-Loved Uniform

As all the kids seem to grow in the blink of an eye, the PTA run a pre-loved uniform shop to raise funds for the PTA and to reuse school uniform. This year, the PTA have set up a new system for buying pre-loved uniform to make it accessible all year round. It has now been streamlined via a website and request form. You can check the stock of items, make your order and then the uniform fairies will collate and place the items on your child's peg within a week or so and payment is made online.

Please use this link to see all the info and the items we have in stock:

<https://sites.google.com/view/wlsecondhanduniform/home?authuser=2> All items are £1.



Celebration Assembly - 'Backwell B' Awards

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

Celebration Assembly - 22nd November 2024

Year 3 - Rocco and Nina

Year 4 - Nell and Charlie Co

Year 5 - Eloise and Hugo

Year 6 - Cara and Frances

Celebration Assembly - 29th November 2024

Year 3 - Lucille and Cole

Year 4 - Thomas M and Elizabeth

Year 5 - Arlo and Dylan G-W

Year 6 - Amalie and Eva

CONGRATULATIONS!



Nailsea Big Lunch

Today we have had some wonderful feedback at the Big Lunch, everyone was blown away by the chaplaincy team. They lead morning worship, including asking for volunteers from the crowd and helping with illustrations/ games. The children then lead discussion groups based around “voices of young children”. We discussed things like “How can we include the voice of young people in decision making?” “how do we help young people create a space for faith in their homes?” “Where does home/church/school faith life meet?” etc. The children sat 2-3 to a group, and in the one I was leading Elisa, Oaklie and Hannah basically lead the discussion amongst the 9 adults about young voices in decision making. Asking questions like ‘why don’t churches have something similar to school councils?’. They had so much to say, and then took the mic and summarized the discussion for everyone at the end. I am told all other groups participated well in discussion as well. Georgie and Ollie were mentioned especially: Georgie for being confident in talking and Ollie for listening well and taking amazing notes. The children then ate with the participants of the conference and chatted about school life before returning to school. As the children were leaving, we had quite a few people come up to us to tell them how inspiring and wonderful they had been!

Taunton Pupil Chaplain Gathering



Pantomime – Robin Hood

On Friday 15th November, after a very busy week for staff and children with a visit from Ofsted and 2 parents evenings we could not have been more excited for the arrival of M&M productions to perform Robin Hood, the Pantomime.

They came to our school hall with a full production of Robin Hood, the Pantomime was undoubtedly a highlight of the school year with all children participating and having a truly amazing time, we had lots of shouting and cheering.....OH YES WE DID! Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Curtis were even called upon to perform some amazing Tik Tok Dances – the excitement was unbelievable, I truly hope that children came home that day and told you all about it, it was wonderful to hear the laughter and cheering!

We would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to the PTA for funding this for all our children!



We are fast approaching our annual Christmas Fair and we can't wait!

As ever we need your support to make it a success so please spread the word, pop along and if you can, volunteer to help on the day.

In preparation for it we are holding a non uniform day on Friday 6th Dec in exchange for a children's tombola prize. Think sweets, stationery, small toys, games.....basically whatever your child might like to win. We are also accepting cash too if that is easier and we can buy some extra prizes.

We have also sent some raffle tickets home so if you are able to sell these to your friends and family or buy some yourself, it really will make a difference.

Also, don't forget we need to name our cuddly reindeer! For £1 children can guess the name of the reindeer with the winner getting to take it home. House captains will be in the playground this week and it will be drawn on Friday 6th December



Backwell Junior School

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 4.30-6.30PM

Entry
£1
per family

Games Crafts Tombola
Raffle Tuck Shop

FESTIVE CAFE & BAR
Pork & Stuffing Rolls, Burgers, Mulled Wine, Mince Pies

★ Remember to bring cash!

Poppy Appeal

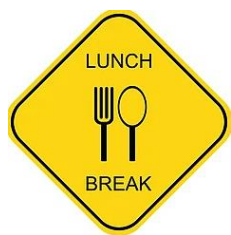
We would like to thank all our families at both Backwell Juniors and West Leigh Infants for a very successful Poppy Appeal – we have received the following message from the Poppy Appeal:

WEST LEIGH INFANT SCHOOL: I write to thank you for your kind donations of £195.22 at West Leigh Infant School and received from displaying our Poppy boxes during our recent Appeal - this compares to £194.41 donations received from your school in 2023.

BACKWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL: I write to thank you for your kind donations of £467.98 received from displaying our Poppy boxes during our recent Appeal - this compares to £443.93 donations received from your school in 2023.

For your information, the Backwell & Flax Bourton 2024 Poppy Appeal contributed over £18,000 - a massive increase on 2023's £6379.48 donations.





Aspens Select

Please remember to book your lunches for rest of the 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. In your message please could you give a brief overview of the symptoms rather than just saying “unwell”. The reason for this is so that we can identify if there is a certain illness that is circulating and take any steps possible to minimise the spread.



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.

Parking at BJS

The school office have received a large number of neighbourhood complaints regarding parking at school and in the surrounding roads. There has been an increase in the number of parents dropping their children off by car directly opposite Backwell Juniors. We'd like to remind everyone that it is not permitted to stop on the painted zig zag lines outside school, but it is also unsafe to park on the road due to the narrowness of the lanes etc.

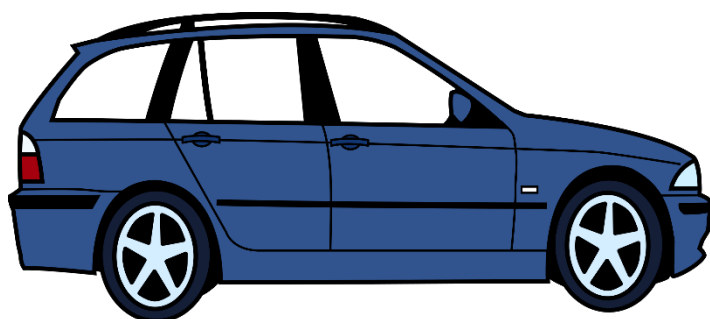
Several children have mentioned that they feel unsafe walking to and from school due to the speed and number of cars on this road and so we politely ask for you to refrain from dropping off in these areas and park on Dark Lane and walk the short distance to school to drop off/pick up. This additional 5 minutes is a small ask given these safety concerns.

Large vehicles have been unable to pass on Church Lane and the congestion level at school times is excessive.

As well as being very concerned about reports of people being rude to other road users and our neighbours we are very concerned that if larger vehicles are unable to pass then emergency vehicles will also be unable to reach a destination in an emergency situation which in turn could have devastating results to the community.

We ask you all to consider your parking – leave a little earlier for a space near school or park a little further away in a safe manner. Community Police have been informed and we have requested assistance in managing this going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation.





MINECRAFT CLUB

Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers



For more information and to register:
<https://codingbug.co.uk/coding-in-minecraft/>

Coding in Minecraft

This is fun monthly club where children learn how to make mini-games, automate builds, and change gameplay behaviour in Minecraft with code.

Suitable for children aged 8 – 12.

WHERE

Yatton Library
BS49 4HJ

WHEN

Sat 7th Dec 2024
9.45am – 12.45pm

codingbug.co.uk

Email: info@codingbug.co.uk or call 07909226520



Scan to book

 facebook.com/codingbug/

Nailsea Library Code Club



**Runs for 10 weeks starting on
14 January**

Tuesdays at 3.45pm–5pm

For ages 8-11

**We have a limited number of spaces. To sign up,
please speak to staff who will put you on the
list.**

**Please note: parents/carers must stay with the
child attending Code Club at all times.**