

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 3 Federation Value – Respect

On our website - Links

West Leigh - Letters to Parents

BJS - Letters to Parents



Important Dates



Welcome Back &
Happy New Year!

2025

**Our next INSET day
will be on:**

Friday 14th February 2025

Please note!

Important Dates – Terms 3 and 4

- Friday 31st January to Friday 7th February – WL Book Fair
- Wednesday 5th February – Ash Wednesday Service, 2.15pm St Andrew's Church
- Friday 7th February – 6S Fundraising Event
- Friday 7th February – WL Yoga Fundraiser 7-8:30pm WL School Hall
- Monday 10th February – Hedgehog Class Cake Sale
- Monday 10th February to Thursday 13th February – WL Art Week
- Thursday 13th February – 6C Class Assembly, School Hall 10.15am
- Thursday 13th February – BJS Valentines Disco at Backwell Parish Hall
- Friday 14th February – INSET Day and End of Term 3
- Monday 24th February – Return to School
- Thursday 6th March – World Book Day – Details TBC
- Friday 7th March – BJS 3J Cake Sale
- Wednesday 12th March – BJS Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm
- Thursday 13th March – BJS Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm
- Thursday 13th March – BJS 3J Class Assembly, School Hall 10.15am
- Friday 14th March - WL "The Big Quiz" Night 7:30pm WL School Hall
- Tuesday 18th March – BJS 5JR Class Assembly, School Hall 10.15am
- Thursday 20th March – BJS 5B Class Assembly, School Hall 10.15am
- Monday 24th March – Friday 28th March – BJS Book Fair
- Friday 28th March – BJS 6C Cake Sale
- Thursday 3rd April – WL Easter Disco (see Federation Calendar for times)
- Wednesday 2nd April – BJS Easter Service, St Andrew's Church 2.15pm
- Friday 4th April – Last Day of Term 4
- Tuesday 22nd April – Return to School for the start of Term 5



Puzzle Maths Morning

Rabbit Class really enjoyed taking part in the Puzzle maths morning. The children worked together in small groups to solve a variety of challenging puzzles. Some of the challenges included tessellating 2-D shape puzzles, a castle building activity and a tricky balancing game with penguins and a very wobbly iceberg!

A great time was definitely had by all.



Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars

Thursday 16th January

Hedgehogs - Carys

Owls - Nathan

Rabbits - Iggy

Squirrels - Sammy

Thursday 23rd January

Badgers - Maya

Owls - Amber

Rabbits - Ada

Squirrels - Erin

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.

We are in desperate need of items with the school logo on, old or new. Especially jumpers and cardigans from age 5 upwards, also blue and white non frilled polo shirts.



Yoga Fundraiser

One of our lovely Reception mums, Emily, who is a certified yoga teacher, is hosting a yoga session to fundraise for the PTA. The yoga will be beginner level, feel good yoga focussed on some stretching, strengthening and a chill out at the end. Followed by optional herbal tea and chats. The session will be held on Friday 7th February, 7-8.30pm at the WI Hall. Tickets can be booked here: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/backwellfederationpa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=92392>

There are 25 spaces available.

All proceeds will go to the PTA to help provide wonderful equipment and enriching experiences for your children in school. We hope you can join us!

If anyone has any other ideas for a one off event that they think would be popular and would be happy to put on then please do get in touch.

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

Celebration Assembly - 'Backwell B' Awards

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

Celebration Assembly - 17th January 2025

Year 3 - Seb T and Eden

Year 4 - Arthur and Mani

Year 5 - Herbie and Alice Ro

Year 6 - Lex and Elisa

Celebration Assembly - 24th January 2025

Year 3 - Harriet and Millie

Year 4 - Loveday and Mason

Year 5 - David

Year 6 - Lydia, Tommy and Iris

CONGRATULATIONS!



Maths Workshops – The Happy Puzzle Company

On Thursday 9th January, all of BJS took part in maths workshops provided by the Happy Puzzle Company.

Many thanks to the PTA for funding this fantastic experience that all the children really enjoyed!

Here is a report of the Year 5 workshop written by Libby and Eloise.

This morning, the whole of Year 5 had the pleasure of being greeted by Lauren from the Puzzle Company. She had brought in some fun maths puzzles. Everyone enjoyed the puzzles even though some were very hard and really got us thinking. We also learnt to stay calm when things got tricky; to work together as a team; to take turns (so we don't mess the whole thing up!); to communicate in a respectful way; and to listen to others' ideas – because they might have a better idea.

Some of the puzzles including stacking penguins onto an unstable, wobbly, plastic iceberg and fitting road pieces together to make one huge road circle. There was one where we had to trapezium pieces together to make one huge hexagon without any of the same colour pieces touching.

All of Year 5 are so grateful for this fun maths experience and say a huge thanks to the PTA for paying for this fun maths lesson. Also, a huge thanks to the teachers for organising and helping this fun maths lesson take place in BJS.





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!

Parent helpers needed!

We are always extremely grateful for parents/ carers who can come and listen to children read in school and are always on the lookout for more!

We know that time is precious but if you are able to spare an hour in the afternoon, we would love to hear from you!

As a school, we will arrange for a DBS check to be made.

If you are keen to help, please email the school office to register your interest with your preference of afternoon and we will be back in touch very soon.

Many thanks!



CALLING ALL FICTION/ NON-FICTION BOOKS



READY FOR A NEW HOME!

Perhaps you've had a clear out at home over the Christmas holidays and now have some books ready for a new home?!



If you do have any books, both fiction and non-fiction, that have been read but are still in fairly good condition and now ready for pastures new, we would love to take them off your hands!

Look out for the collection box just inside the 1862 building (breakfast/ after school club entrance) or hand into the school office 😊

Many thanks!

MONTHLY MUST READS

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

This month the books are taken from the BookTrust <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/> where a great number of recommendations are made. 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 ☺**

JANUARY

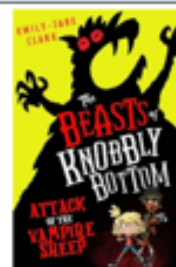


Interest age: 7-8
Independent reading age: 7+
Sidney and Carrie return in this uplifting Little Gem by award-winning author Lisa Thompson as Carrie embarks on a mission to discover her special talent. Carrie's best friend Sidney is planning to show off his tap-dancing skills during Friday Fun Time at school and Carrie wants to join in. She plans an amazing routine where Sidney will dance and she will roller skate. But there's one big problem ... Carrie has never roller skated before. Will the performance end in disaster or will their friendship help them to dazzle the audience?

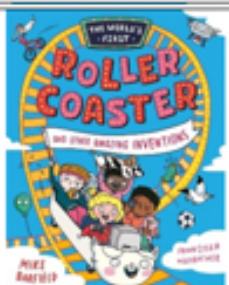


Fiction book of the month

Interest age: 9 - 11
Independent reading age: 9+
A locked-room mystery packed with rooftop chases, hidden codes and mind-bending science, The Clockwork Conspiracy is a must for fans of the Adventures on Trains series and Sharna Jackson's High Rise mysteries. Aspiring inventor Isaac Turner lives with his dad, the horologist in charge of Big Ben. But when his father vanishes from the belfry on the night the clocks go back, leaving behind only a smashed pocket watch and a cryptic message, Isaac determines to find him.



Interest age: 9- 11
Independent reading age: 8+
Maggie McKay is NOT happy that her mum has decided to move to Knobbly Bottom (the most BORING village ever invented). Knobbly Bottom has got NO soft play centres, NO toy shops and NO horse that her mum had (sort of) promised her. There are just fields, church fetes, and a bunch of boring old sheep! But Maggie soon discovers that Knobbly Bottom is also full of SECRETS. The sheep are growing FANGS, their eyes are turning RED, and they're planning to take over the world...



Non-fiction book of the month

Interest age: 7 - 11
Independent reading age: 8+
Did you know that bubblewrap started life as a new type of wallpaper that didn't catch on?! Or that Lonnie Johnson invented the Nerf Super Soaker while working on a NASA mission to Saturn? Blue Peter Award-winner Mike Barfield tells the fascinating true stories behind an amazing range of inventions and innovations. From bubblewrap to the barcode, from pizza to post-its, from trainers to the teddy bear!



Interest age: 10 - 11
Independent reading age: 10 -11
Coll is Wolf. He lives with his clan on a Construct, a huge technological "creature" driven by the clan's combined willpower. Together they roam their world, fighting other clans and absorbing them into their own. But when a new and dangerous Construct attacks them, Coll is thrown clear from Wolf and left behind. Now he must survive life on ground and get back to his clan.



Interest age: 7+
Independent reading age: 7+
Destiny can't wait to go for her first ever sleepover at her best friend's house. But she also can't help feeling a little worried ... they're going to camp outside in the garden - in a tent - but also in the dark! Destiny uses her trusty sketchbook to doodle her ideas and work through her worries. A brilliant new highly-illustrated chapter book series. Destiny uses her creativity to overcome her worries!

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 ☺

After the success of the Christmas fair, we are moving onto our next event. The Valentines Disco!

See the poster for details and click here for tickets or scan the QR code.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/backwelljuniors/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=92492>

Will be a great event and a fun way to start the Feb half term.

Keep an eye out for upcoming cake sales or fundraising events for your class!

BJS Valentines
Disco
DJ KOOL KIDS

BACKWELL PARISH HALL

YEARS 3 & 4: 4.30pm - 6.00pm
YEARS 5 & 6: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

ENTRY £5 in advance
(£7 on door)
Scan QR code for link

13
February
2025





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.

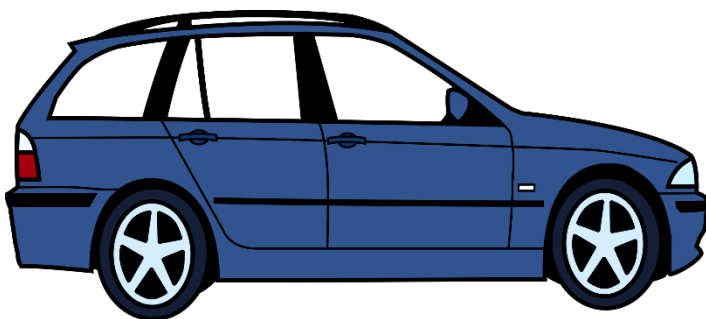
Several children have mentioned that they feel unsafe walking to and from school due to the speed and number of cars on this road and so we politely ask for you to refrain from dropping off in these areas and park on Dark Lane and walk the short distance to school to drop off/pick up. This additional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



Community Notices

PARISH WHARF LEISURE CENTRE
Harbour Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7DD

ONLY £30 PER SESSION



Introducing GymClubs' Fun & Skill-Building Gymnastics Workshops!
Join us for exciting workshops designed to help your child grow their gymnastics skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Led by our amazing team of experienced coaches, these workshops are perfect for gymnasts of all levels—whether your child is just starting out or looking to refine their favourite moves. With a focus on learning, fun, and confidence-building, we'll work on key skills like:

- ✦ Flicks (back handsprings)
- ✦ Front somersaults
- ✦ Aerials
- ✦ Walkovers
- ✦ Vault progressions for front handsprings and half-ons

Our workshops are all about making progress while having a great time, so your child can take their gymnastics journey to the next level—no matter where they're starting from!

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE. BOOK NOW AT
www.gymclubs.co.uk/workshops

FEBRUARY HALF TERM WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE TO BOOK

Half Term Dates
Mon 17th February
Wed 19th February
 10am - 2pm
Thur 20th February
 11am - 3pm

Any enquiries contact Head Coach Bex on 07967 402061

All prices are inclusive of VAT. VAT Registration No. 404812621

nailsea youth musicals

SCAN TO BOOK TICKETS



TICKETS £12.50



ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
 THE MUSICAL JR.

Book by Dennis Kelly
 Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin

February 2025
 Friday 21st - 7pm | Saturday 22nd - 1pm & 5pm | Sunday 23rd - 1pm
 Scotch Horn Leisure Centre, Nailsea, BS48 1BZ

nailseamusicals.org.uk

The amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.co.uk



WELLS CATHEDRAL | Puxton Park

CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

PETTING FARM

AT WELLS CATHEDRAL

Saturday 25 January 2025
11.00am - 3.00pm
 Admission: Included with entry to the Cathedral





Come and meet a variety of furry friends as the Cathedral hosts Puxton Park's petting farm! Enjoy the opportunity to pet, groom, and learn about these beautiful animals and how we can take care of them.

WELLS CATHEDRAL

LUXMURALIS

SPACE

IMMERSIVE SOUND + LIGHT SHOW

28 Jan — 1 Feb 2025



Image © Luxmuralis



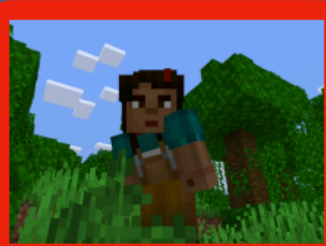
Tickets: £6—£12; available via wells cathedral.eventbrite.co.uk





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 25th January 2025
 9:45am – 12:45pm

codingbug.co.uk

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



Scan to book

facebook.com/codingbug/



PRIORITY FOOTBALL FEBRUARY HALF TERM CAMPS

5 DAYS OF FOOTBALL FUN AT NAILSEA SCHOOL
 MONDAY 17th - FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Year 1 - Year 8 (9:00am - 3:30pm) Reception (9:00am - 1:00pm)

STRIKER DAY FRIDAY
 FRIDAY 21st FEB

PUMA CAMP DAYS
 TUESDAY 18th & FRIDAY 21st FEB



£23 per day | Discounted multi-day tickets | Early drop-offs available

Book online: www.priorityfootball.co.uk/holidaycamps
Pete@priorityfootball.co.uk | 01275 261 004 | Nailsea School

BOOK FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CLUBS at MyShine.co.uk

OUR CHOICE
 OF ACTIVITIES
 INCLUDE:

- ✓ Outdoor Adventure
- ✓ Mega Mashup
- ✓ Creative Extravaganza



BOOK NOW FOR
20% OFF
 Use Code: Early Booker
 Offer ends 26/01/2025



WEDNESDAYS 4-5PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BACKWELL

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A term time choir programme where
 you'll sing everything from folk to pop!
 All children from school years 1-7 welcome!
 £4 per session, payable termly, bursaries available.

MEET ALISON

Alison is an Oxford University graduate and an accomplished pianist, violinist and singer. She is the founder of 'du Pre Chamber Choir' which gave distinguished performances in Oxford. She was a member of the University Church Choir, Lincoln College Choir and a soloist at Christ church Choir. She has a PGCE from Cambridge University and since has rehearsed and conducted school shows. Fun fact- she taught the young Ed Sheeran!

Alison is a mum of two children, who both enjoy music and performing in various settings from choirs to Soul Bands! She is excited to meet our members, both old and new!

To sign up contact us at admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

