

Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 2 Federation Value - Challenge



Message from Mr Webster



As we come to the end of another busy but highly productive period, I wanted to write to you all to thank you for your continued support of all aspects of school life. Positive external validation of what we do is always nice, but the sense of community around both of our schools and the support that you offer our children and staff is what I think makes us really stand out.

The cold weather outside has brought with it a real sense of warmth indoors through our recent school Nativities, productions and carol concerts. The sense of pride, confidence and fun that the children get from these events is huge and I again thank you for supporting them in significant numbers.

As always, I must recognise the huge effort that all staff put into all aspects of school life. Their commitment is admirable and they all deserve a restful Christmas period. Thank you also to our amazing PTAs who have raised significant amounts of funding for our schools through recent cake sales and the wonderful Christmas Fairs.

We are all looking forward to spending Christmas with friends and family and I sincerely hope you all have a fabulous time. A reminder that the **first day back for children is Wednesday 4th January 2023**, as Tuesday 3rd is an INSET staff training day.

**Wishing all of our families a
Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.
We look forward to seeing everyone in January 2023**

[West Leigh - Letters to Parents](#)

[BJS - Letters to Parents](#)



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



Important Dates - Term 2 / 3

- Thursday 15 Dec - WL Carol sing-a-long at 2.30pm
- Friday 16 Dec - Christmas Jumper Day **Both Schools**
- Friday 16 Dec - Christmas Dinner @ BJS and Christmas party food @ West Leigh
- Friday 16 Dec - End of Term 2

2023 - Term 3

- Tuesday 03 Jan - Inset day 4. Both schools closed to pupils
- Wednesday 04 Jan - Start of term 3 for all pupils at WL & BJS

ST ANDREW'S

Crib Service

COME DRESSED UP AS YOUR FAVOURITE NATIVITY CHARACTER AND LEARN ABOUT THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS!

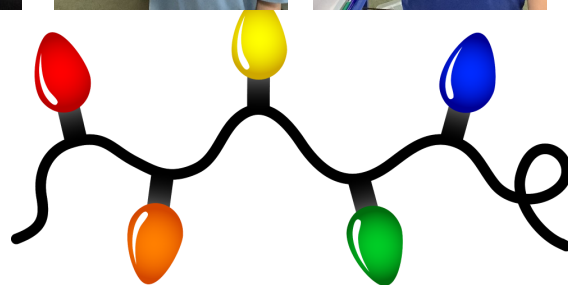
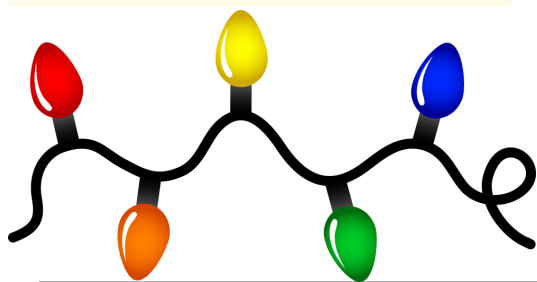
FRIDAY 24TH DEC	4:00PM	ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BACKWELL
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Year 1 Puppets



As part of a design and technology unit, Year 1 have been having great fun with puppets. We started by exploring different types of puppets. These included marionettes, glove puppets and finger puppets. The children were then given the challenge of designing and making their own glove puppets. As part of this process the children had to learn how to sew a running stitch and an over stitch in order to join two pieces of fabric together. The sewing stitches proved a little challenging at times but we had plenty of Mum and Grandparent helpers who sorted out our tangles and knots to get us going again. A BIG thank you!



Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars:

Thursday 1st December
Reception – Daniel, Seb A
Year 1 – Josh, Dylan H
Year 2 – Freya, Charlotte

Thursday 15th December
Reception - Vrutti, Elise
Year 1 - Isla, Elin
Year 2 - Max, Brooke, Breccan, Mason



Badger Class News



Badger class have had a brilliant few weeks in school. To think they only started school in September and this week they were able to perform a whole Nativity in front of lots of people shows just how far they have come. To say their teachers are proud of them is an understatement!

This term we have been learning about celebrations including: Diwali, Hanukkah, Bonfire Night, Weddings, Remembrance Day and of course Christmas. It has been really interesting for the children to learn about different celebrations and be involved with lots of different craft activities linked to them. We made Diva lamps, menorahs, toilet roll tube firework pictures, wax crayon poppy field pictures and Christmas cards and calendars.

Badger class wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we can't wait for more excitement next term.



Polite reminder—please can parents and visitors be careful when driving to school. We have received complaints from neighbours about inconsiderate driving, parking and verbal abuse. Can we remind everyone that parents should not be driving up to school between 8am—4pm. If you are walking please be aware that neighbours will need access during this time so please use pavements and keep children supervised at all times.

Moving to Junior School September 2023

Please follow this link to find out more about applying for junior school places and starting school in September. Applications must be submitted before Sunday 15th January 2023.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/applying-school-place>





KS1 Christmas Performance

Wow...what an amazing Christmas performance by Year 1 and Year 2! After three weeks of learning songs, scripts and stage directions, they finally had the chance to shine in A Little Bird Told Me. It was amazing to see the enjoyment on everyone's faces as they had the chance to perform in front of a large audience. Everyone came away with a huge smile on their faces, a feeling of pride and for many, a new love of performing. Well done everyone for your hard work and thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to come and celebrate with us. Finally, a huge thank you to Miss H-D who worked with the children to create this wonderful performance.



Reception Christmas Performance

We would like to say a massive well done to all of the children that took part in our Christmas Nativity. Lots of hard work went into the performance and the children had lots to learn! They really impressed us with their ability to learn the songs, their lines and the dances, whilst still remaining excited and enthusiastic about putting on a show for others to watch. Thank you to all who came to watch. We hoped you enjoyed it as much as we did!



School and British Value Champions



Each term, we have a focus school value and a focus British Value to learn about. This term we have been learning about challenge and Black History. Although Black History is not a British Value, we choose to celebrate this for the whole of Term 2 rather than just during Black History Month.

Once we have learnt what these values mean, we try our best to demonstrate these values whenever we can in school. We have demonstrated challenge by being confident to fall in the learning pit and finding a way to climb out of the dip, and we have demonstrated Black History by choosing books from the library to read and sharing knowledge we have learnt. At the end of the term, Miss Hiscocks asked our teachers who has been a champion in demonstrating these values and we were rewarded with a special certificate and our photo has been displayed on the School and British Value Champions board in school. Congratulations to our champions of this term:

Challenge = Elise, Charlie, Fearne, Elin, Loveday and Grace.

Black History = Amara, Ronnie, Freya, Harriet, Imogen and Charlie.

Congratulations and well done everyone!



Pond

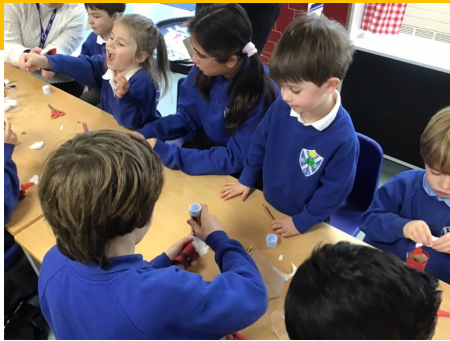
Thank you very much to the parent volunteers Joe and Steph and to Mr Steel for all their hard work on the pond renovations!



Christmas Craft (Reception and Year 5)



Last week, the children from Year 5 joined us to make Christmas decorations. Each Year 5 child was paired up with a child from Reception and helped them to follow the steps to make their Santa decoration. The children got on so well together and the Year 5 children were so kind and helpful with the Receptions. The children really enjoyed making their decoration and we would like to say a big thank you to all of the Year 5 children who helped us.



Christmas Craft (Year 1 and Year 4)

Year 1 really enjoyed having the Year 4s come to visit for our Christmas Craft activity this week. The Year 4s were fantastic at helping their Year 1 partner to create a Stretchy Santa. It was great to see the children cutting, sticking and chatting as they worked together!



Christmas Craft (Year 2 and Year 3)

Year 2 had a fantastic festive time with the Year 3s turning themselves into elves. The Year 3s were kind, patient and brilliant tiny teachers. Thank you for sharing our Christmas Craft activity.



West Leigh PTA - Christmas Fundraising



A huge THANK YOU for your generous support so far this year – for all your donations, volunteering, baking, attending events and supporting generosity with the PTAs activities this term!

So far this year, an amazing £8k has already been raised from:

- Circus Comes to Backwell (£1.5k)
- Halloween Disco (£400)
- Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto (£1.5k)
- Secret Shop (£620)
- Christmas Raffle (£715)
- Christmas Performance film (£360)
- Cauliflower Cards (£140)
- Lions Santa Float Collection
- PTA Preloved Uniform sales
- Class Cake Sales
- Matched employer funding – Lloyds Bank & Hargreaves Lansdown (c£2k)



A planned £10k is to be spent soon on new laptops, iPads and IT equipment for the school classrooms. Other plans for the new year include playground picnic benches, equipment for the Reception playground, teacher classroom equipment, WOW days and new wildlife pond planting.

Christmas Fair - It was great to hold an in-person Christmas Fair this year (the first for 3 years) including a special visit from Father Christmas!

Special Thank-You's go to:

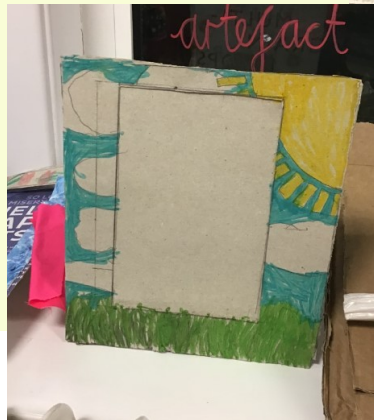
- Mr Steel and his helpers Billy & Archie
- School teaching and support staff -including Mr Webster on the tombola and Mrs Steel warming the mulled wine.
- Will Westaway from Rokethouse for filming the Christmas Performances (and Kate for arranging!)

Finally, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to more fun fundraising in 2023!
Your West Leigh PTA Committee



Year 3 DT DAY

This week, Year 3 were lucky enough to have a Design and Technology Day! The children were given the task of making their own photograph frames using cardboard. We looked at examples of photograph frames and discussed their purpose, how the photograph could be put inside and how they were able to stand up. WE all had a very creative, enjoyable day.



Year 4 Church Day at St Andrew's Church

Recently, Year 4 attended an Advent themed Church Day at St Andrew's. Hannah C from 4JC has written an account of the day.

"We were split into 6 groups of 10 children. Each group took turns to go round 6 activities that had been planned for us. These included: Hand bells, Advent Wreaths, Angels, Stars, Carols and Advent Journey. With the hand bells, we were taught to play 'The first Noel'. It sounded beautiful. With the advent wreaths we were given a green floral sponge (oasis) and some season foliage. We put candle in the middle of the sponge and decorated round the outside with the foliage. With the stars, we had 2 star shaped pieces and we decorated them with colouring pens & stickers. For the 'Carols' activity, we had to pick either 'Silent Night' or 'Ding Dong Merrily'. Our task was to write alternative words to the carol. For our 'Angels' activity, we were given a clay head mask and we painted it to look like skin, we then added wool for hair and a fabric body and some wings to complete the look. For the advent journey activity, we played a board game all about the Nativity.

We all had such an interesting and enjoyable day at Church. It was a lovely start to Christmas and we learnt a lot.

Thank you to Rev. Katy, Timi and all of the kind helpers at St Andrew's for giving us such a wonderful experience.



We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BJS—Celebration Award Winners

Friday 02 December

Year 3 - Aimee & Lara
Year 4 - Hannah G & Jackson
Year 5 - Arun, Kate & Zoe
Year 6 - Holly Mo, George & Joe W

Friday 16 December

Year 3 - Dylan G-W & Elly H
Year 4 - Elisa, Bobbie-Mai & Lydia
Year 5 - Toby & Noah P
Year 6 - Molly & April H

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Backwell B' awards include:

Be your Best, Be Kind and Be Responsible



YEAR 5 ANCIENT GREEK WOW DAY- THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Year 5 travelled back in time today to experience what life was like as an Ancient Greek! Our day started when we were greeted by a Spartan soldier in the school hall! Andronicus Alexiou explained what it was like to live as a Spartan and how different his life was in comparison to an Athenian. Knowledgeable about many aspects of Ancient Greek life, he was also able to tell us about Ancient Greek medicine and the Battle of Marathon.

We then returned to our classrooms to plan and design a Greek flatbread. We thought about what filling we'd like to include- either rosemary, garlic or olives and prepared to make it in the afternoon.

Before lunch, we experienced some of the activities that children attending school (Athenian boys!) would have completed. This included writing using the Greek alphabet, the Greek number system and astronomy.

The afternoon saw us making the flatbreads and then eating them during our very own Ancient Greek feast.



Book Fair Success



Last week BJS were visited by The Travelling Book Fair

Thank you so much everyone who helped with the book fair and to everyone who came along and purchased a book or two. We sold in excess of £900.00 of books, which will give us a whole heap of money to spend on books and reading resources for BJS!

A huge 'THANK YOU' to Mrs Barnard for organising the event.



Backwell Junior School Association



BJSA would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the Christmas Fair! We are delighted to share that we raised approximately £2500, with hopefully more to come via matched giving. It was lovely to see so many of the children enjoying themselves and having fun with all the festive activities and games available. Thank you all for your support throughout 2022 and we hope you have a lovely Christmas break!

BJSA events coming in

2023:

Children's Disco
Parent's Quiz Night
Fun Run
Joint Summer Fayre with West Leigh



BJSA would also like to thank our fabulous raffle prize donors.

Farleigh Decorating, The Clayton Hotel Bristol, Optika Opticians, Matt Willis Photography, The Rising Sun, Mendip Activity Centre, National Geographic, Somerset Distillery, Conscious Food Co, Helen Chuter Ceramics, Waitrose Nailsea, Backwell Tennis Club, Box Twenty, The Beauty Rooms, Fanatic Design, Boden, Oliver Bonas, Unique Hair, The Entertainer Bristol.

Also thanks to One Big Circle for sponsoring the café at the fair and Farleigh Decorating for sponsoring the raffle.

FEEL FAB CHRISTMAS STARS



NAME _____

HOW MANY



DID YOU COLLECT?

FIND YOUR CHRISTMAS BEANS

IF YOU NEED TO RESEARCH SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES ONLINE MAKE SURE YOU ASK PERMISSION FIRST. IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO ASK FOR SOME HELP FROM AN ADULT & STAY SAFE WHEN TRYING ANYTHING NEW. Activities can be done in any order. Certificates are available from your school.
Can you achieve CHRISTMAS GOLD by collecting at least 7 stars from the list? Let your teacher know if you do!

We would love to see some of your attempts on Twitter using #FeelFabChristmasStars and tagging: @AshtonSSP @CSETSports1 @NSSPEA1

Go for a 'Christmas light walk' as a family - where are your favourite lights?

Make a Christmas table decoration and design your own name place markers for your family

Set yourself a daily Christmas Star Jump challenge e.g. 3 sets of 10. How many can you do a day?

Perform at least one random act of kindness a day

Make Christmas cookies or go big and make a gingerbread house!

Host a 'Christmas Fun Night'... games, karaoke, disco etc

Design and lead a workout or dance routine for your family and friends. Must have at least 5 activities!

Ride your bike, walk or scoot for at least 10 minutes a day

Organise a Christmas movie night or even a week, then everyone gets a chance to watch their favourite film

Go for a run, walk or jog for 1km

Turn your Christmas cards into next year's present tags

Donate or gift a toy or something else in new or good condition to charity

Make up your own game using balloons. Give it a name and play it with your friends or family

Make a reindeer or other Christmas character out of recycled materials

Persuade someone in your house to do some yoga with you. Find 'Cosmic Yoga' online

Learn and practise a new trick to show to your family e.g. juggling, keepie-uppies etc

FEEL FAB CHRISTMAS STARS



GOLD

CERTIFICATE AWARDED TO



HAPPY CHRISTMAS BEANS



Welcome to our Book Corner where we share everything we love about Reading!

30 READS

It was fantastic to see many more children gaining more 30 Reads certificates/ badges in assembly this week.

More information about the 30 Reads Challenge can be found on our website here:

<https://www.backwellfederation.co.uk/page/?title=Reading+Resources&pid=294>

BOOK FAIR- THANK YOU!



We are thrilled to announce that with your fantastic support, we raised a whopping **£1,100** at last week's book fair!

This means that we will have around £660 to spend on books in school! We aim to use this money to boost both our first free reader titles as well as replenishing our topic-related non-fiction titles. Thank you to both our book fair volunteers and everyone who supported the fair 😊

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

And finally...wishing you a very Merry Christmas!!

You might even want to add some of the titles from December's 'Monthly Must Reads' to your Christmas List...!

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and hearing about any new books that you might have received or listened to over the holidays 😊



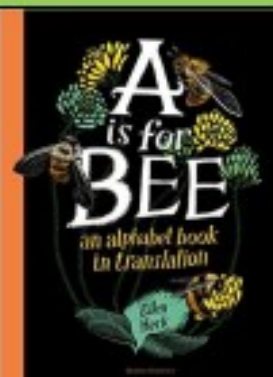
MONTHLY MUST READS

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.

DECEMBER



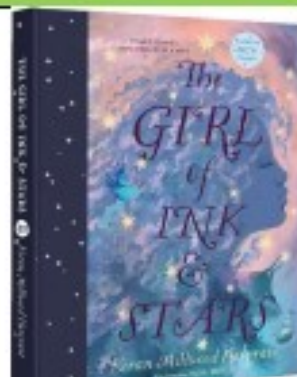
Picture book of the month

Interest age: 7+
Independent reading age: 7+
What letter does the word bee start with? If you said "B" you're right - in English! But in many, many languages, it actually starts with A. Bee is Anu in Igbo. Ari in Turkish. Aamoo in Ojibwe. And Abelha in Portuguese. Come and explore the gorgeous variations in the ways we talk about familiar things, unified and illuminated through Ellen Heck's eye-catching illustrations.

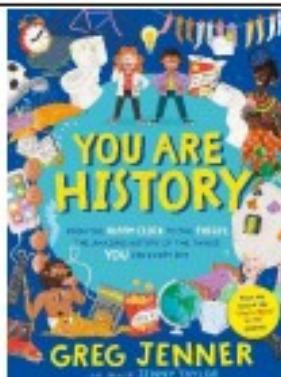


Fiction book of the month

Interest age: 8+
Independent reading age: 9+
On a summer holiday in Wales, Portia and Ben find a mysterious door set in a bramble hedge in the middle of a forest. It is a portal to the Otherworld and should never be opened, but how are they supposed to know that? After all, the old stories about the wonders and dangers of the Otherworld have long been forgotten ...



Interest age: 8+
Independent reading age: 9+
Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.

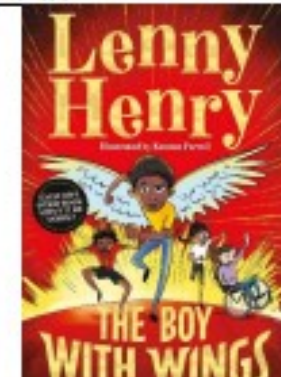


Non-fiction book of the month

Interest age: 7+
Independent reading age: 7+
From the alarm clock to the toilet, discover the incredible history all around you in this hilarious and fascinating book from popular historian and podcaster Greg Jenner. Thought history was only in museums? Think again! Join Greg Jenner as he takes you on a trip through the amazing history hidden in the things you use every day.



Interest age: 7+
Independent reading age: 7+
No one knows who Grace is. One day, she appeared in a shop doorway in a sleeping bag, with a cat called Luna, surrounded by strange things. When Jess and her mum strike up a friendship with Grace, Jess has questions: why did she leave her home? Does she have enough to eat? And what happens when the cold weather comes?



Interest age: 7+
Independent reading age: 8+
Wings? Check. A super-cool, super-secret past? Check. An impossible mission to save the world from a furious enemy? Check. When Tunde sprouts wings and learns he's all that stands between Earth and total destruction, suddenly school is the least of his problems. Luckily, his rag-tag group of pals have got his back, and with his new powers, Tunde is ready to fly in the face of danger.

Extracurricular... Extra Fun!

Join us for fun sports and arts activities
before school, at lunchtime, and after
school!

WEST LEIGH INFANTS

Premier Education Club's at West Leigh Infants Year 1 & 2

Wednesday After School: Dodgeball

Cost: £25

Dates: 11th January - 22nd March (10 sessions)

Friday After School: Multi-Sports (Including Archery)

Cost: £25

Dates: 13th January - 24th March (10 sessions)

Time: 3:05 – 4:05pm

Payment can be made online at

www.premier-education.com

Any questions email kbranson@premier-education.com



Premier

Extracurricular... Extra Fun!

Join us for fun sports and arts activities
before school, at lunchtime, and after
school!

Backwell Junior School

Premier Sport Club's at Backwell Juniors

Monday After School: Girls Football

Cost: £25

Dates: 9th January - 20th March (10 sessions)

Tuesday After School: Football

Cost: £25

Dates: 10th January - 21st March (10 sessions)

Thursday After School: Netball

Cost: £25

Dates: 12th January - 23rd March (10 sessions)

Time: 3:30 - 4:30pm

Payment can be made online at www.premier-education.com.

Any questions email Kerry at kbranson@premier-education.com



Premier