

Bryn Offa Newsletter

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Friday 12th November 2021

I am really pleased to be able to tell you that we were able to push forward with the planned stepping down measures this week, and we continue to have no infections linked to school. This means that if we have another clear week next week, we can look at stepping the measures down further. I imagine our path to normality could have the odd stumbling block along the way, but it finally feels like we may have turned a corner. In addition to the changes made to the children's break and the toilets, we have also seen some normality return in a number of other areas. Amazingly, when Mr Jones took a hockey team to The Marches this week, it was the first time we have been able to do this since February 2020. We've also got one of our volunteers back in school after an equally long gap, and have also booked our swimming sessions for the Spring Term. These things added together have made me feel optimistic for the first time in a very long time. Going back to the system of the children coming through the main door has also worked well, with us now being able to keep the fire doors closed. The return to the children being able to mix outside on the playground was really well received by the children, and it was lovely to see the children playing together again. It will be another week or so before we look at the next stage of the stepping down measures, when we are able to start to consider changes to the systems inside school as well as outside.

There are a few situations that are causing possible infection risk that I would like to see controlled. We are still having too many parents turning up late to collect their children, which this week has resulted in them having to come back into school and wait in reception for as long as 15 minutes. We are not able to staff this and keep the children apart from children in other classes. Please ensure you are here on time to collect your children when they finish at 3:15pm.

Now we have come this far, it is difficult to imagine us having to go back to stricter safeguarding systems again. Absolutely no-one would want this, so we all have to continue to do what we need to for the benefit of the children. School staff are still having to wear face coverings in all shared areas. We don't like it, it's uncomfortable and annoying but we do it so we don't have to reintroduce any of the restrictions that affected the children. We have to wear face coverings for large parts of the day, so I feel it not too intrusive to ask parents to continue to wear them for a few minutes while on site for the benefit of the children. When deciding whether to wear a face covering on site I would ask you to consider the small comfort benefit you would get from not wearing one, against the risk of what the children could end up losing if we have infections in school.

Armistice slap bracelet; and wrist band;

While it is lovely that so many children have made donations this year, can I please ask that from Monday next week slap bracelets and wrist bands are kept at home please. They are very distracting for the children during class time and we have had occasions this week where some of the children have been hitting other children with them. If children do bring them to school, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of day.

Individual and family photographs



Have you ordered your school photos yet? The closing date for **free delivery** back to school has been extended to **16th November**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Art Lessons at Bryn Offa

We are short of aprons in school for Art lessons and would be grateful for any old large t-shirts or shirts if you have any at home please.



Armistice Day



We have had lots going on this week as part of our commemorations for Armistice Day.



Some of the older children have made poem cards over the last couple of weeks which will be displayed inside and outside Pant Village Hall and around the village itself.

Class One have made this beautiful poppy soldier!



Class 5 have made this amazing poppy display!



Visit from Shropshire Fire and Rescue

Class 1 and Class 3 had a visit from Keiran this week who is a member of the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Team. Keiran discussed fire safety with the children and how the Fire Service help us!



Operation Christmas Child

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated gifts for the Operation Christmas Child project. We have received so many lovely gifts and have been totally overwhelmed by everyone's generosity! We will update once we know where the boxes are going. Thank you again!



Art Project for Schools – BOPTA Christmas Artwork Fundraising



Just a little reminder that the BOPTA APFS Christmas order deadline is this coming Monday! (Monday 15th November). If you would like to make an order, orders need to be made online by Monday with your child's artwork also being returned to school by this date.

The original artwork must be returned to school so it can be forwarded to the company for scanning- we have not kept a copy.

Children in Need – Friday 19th November

To raise money for Children in Need this year we are going to have a dress up day on Friday 19th November. This year our theme is going to be 'when I grow up' so we would like the children to think about what they would like to do when they are older and come in a costume to reflect this (e.g. footballer, doctor, teacher)! This is just a bit of fun so please do not buy a costume especially. A home-made costume if you are able to make one would be fantastic! If your child does not wish to dress up, they can come in non-uniform but it would be lovely if as many children as possible could take part!



We will be collecting donations on the day so please send a small donation into school with your child on Friday. A reminder will be sent out to parents mid week next week.

Bryn Offa Value of the Month- Service

Learn to generously share what you have with those who ask for help, and don't close your heart to the one who comes to borrow from you."
Matthew 5:42

"One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others." -Lewis Carol

Week commencing Monday 15th November

Monday during school:	Closing date for online orders for BOPTA APFS Christmas Artwork and return of the artwork to school
Tuesday during school:	Guitar lessons (pm)
Wednesday during school:	Hockey Tournament at The Marches
Friday during school:	Children in Need! ('When I grow up' theme!)



Stars of the Week



Enzo Shaw-Jones for being a super Mathematician! Enzo matched numerals to ten with pictures, pegs and rings superfast. Well done Enzo!

Tommy Harvey for his excellent Maths work this week on circles and triangles! Tommy printed a fabulous teddy bear using paint and 2D shapes. Good work Tommy, well done!

Amelie Davies for consistently putting a smile on all of Class 2's faces! She is a kind, caring member of the class who works incredibly hard. This week Amelie has written a fantastic fact file about armadillos. Well done Amelie!

Edith Lewis for being a superstar! Edith works so hard and never gives up. She also has a fantastic attitude to learning. This week she has also written a fantastic fact file all about armadillos. Well done Edith!

Archie Prescott for making huge strides in his learning, especially with his reading! Archie loves nothing more than enjoying a book and this is really showing in his writing. He is also a very polite and caring member of the class. Well done Archie!

Leighton Swannick for working incredibly hard! Leighton has a great attitude to learning and is a very mature member of Class 3 and a great role model to the younger children. Miss Harvey is very proud of him. Keep up the amazing work Leighton, well done!

Charlie Edwards for having a great couple of weeks! Several members of staff have mentioned how hard Charlie is working. Well done Charlie, keep being brilliant!

Olivia Harrison-Jones for being a superstar all year! Her work ethic is amazing and, as a result, she has made huge improvements. Keep being brilliant, well done Olivia!

Caitlin Fleet for making excellent progress with her Maths this week! Caitlin is also becoming more independent in all of her lessons. Keep up the hard work Caitlin, well done!

Niamh Evans for making excellent progress with her arithmetic during the last two weeks! This is due to her excellent work ethic and enthusiasm. Well done Niamh, keep up the hard work!