

# Bryn Offa Newsletter

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Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Parents and Guardians

As we move into the second half of the Spring Term, I would like to share some Bryn Offa news about a staffing change in the teaching team. In such a happy school as Bryn Offa it is very rare for any staff to want to leave. However, even Bryn Offa staff can't stop the inevitable passage of time and so we can't keep our great teachers forever.

It is with sadness for us, but with delight for Mrs Prior that I can announce that she will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term for early retirement. Mrs Prior has been at Bryn Offa for 17 years, providing the children with the great start that sets them up so well for the rest of their time in school. I can't imagine how many children (and adults) in our catchment there are who have been taught to read and write by Mrs Prior. Every teacher at Bryn Offa brings far more to the school than just their great teaching, and Mrs Prior has brought many things to school.

Mrs Prior created our Forest School area a number of years ago and now the saplings are full grown trees. Every week I see the children in their Forest School clothing with smiles on their faces as they go out, only eclipsed by the even bigger smiles on their return. I have no doubt that Mrs Prior has stimulated a great interest in nature and the outdoors in many children.

Continuing the outdoor theme, Mrs Prior for many years has run the school gardening club and done gardening with her own class. Always a hugely popular club, with their hard labours helping to brighten the school grounds and have even provided vegetables for our kitchen.

So how can we possibly replace Mrs Prior? The answer is not easily. Fortunately, we have a few things in our favour. The advert will be out very shortly for the position, and we have a quite unique appointment process that has proven to be successful time and time again. Our process takes a huge amount of time and effort from myself and Mr Jones, but each time we have run the process we have found a gem and I am sure we will again. Of course there is no way of dressing up such a loss to the school, and when Mrs Prior leaves she will be dreadfully missed by all of us. Her last day at Bryn Offa will be Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.



## **Changes to the School Dinner Menu** **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**



On Thursday after Half Term, the main hot option will be chicken bakes instead of pizza. The vegetarian option will be jacket potato, cheese and beans.

## **Dodgeball Competition at The Marches**

Our Dodgeball Team attended a competition at The Marches this week and came an impressive third out of ten teams! The team showed some impressive dodgeball skills and they should be very proud of themselves.



## **Class 1 Forest School next week**



Class 1's Forest School session the week after Half Term has been moved to Wednesday afternoon (Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March) instead of Thursday because of World Book Day.

## **Hand cream and Lip Balm**

We have had an increasing number of children bringing in hand creams and lip balms into school. The system we use for medication is for it to be labelled with a child's name, stored in the school office and its use monitored. While we appreciate that lip balms and hand creams can be very beneficial for children who need them, having multiple items in school is not possible and the system we use for medication cannot be extended to hand creams and lip balms. It is also very distracting for the children if members of the class are popping in and out of class to use them. Can we ask that the children use these before school please if needed and that they are not brought to school unless strictly necessary.

## **Keychains on bags**

Can we please also ask that children do not bring key chains into school on their bags. Whilst we do ask that Class 1 have a key chain attached to their bags to allow the children to identify them, the children in other classes do not need key chains. They are often lost in school or broken which is upsetting for children. Parents' cooperation with this would be appreciated.

## **Week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**\*\*We will be open to all classes as normal on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March\*\***

Tuesday during school:	Year 5 John Muir session, Chess Club and Guitar Lessons
Wednesday during school:	Yr 3 and 4 Stepping Out Training, Yr 5 pupils leave for their Condover Residential Visit, Woodwind Lessons, Class 1 Forest School
Thursday during school:	World Book Day, Rota Kids and Book Club Second Hand Book Fair, Choir and Violin Lessons
Friday during school:	Yr 5 pupils return from their Condover Residential Visit



## Stars of the Week!



**Alphonsus Jefferys** for being the Class 1 champion in their pancake races this week! He followed the race rules and was a very good sportsman. Well done Alphonsus!

**Mia Banford** for being a fabulous chef this week when Class 1 made pancakes. She showed lots of enthusiasm. Well done Mia!

**Millie Davies** for being a super star every week! This week Millie has impressed Mrs Machin, Mrs Prior and Miss Korbett with her fabulous phonics knowledge because she was able to read every word with phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs in. Amazing Millie, well done!

**The whole of Class 2** for being amazing, hardworking, polite and kind! They have made Miss Richards' job an absolute pleasure and she will miss each and every one of them. Keep being super stars Class 2, well done!

**Olivia Hamer** for working really hard in English this week! Olivia has written a fantastic rhyming poem about the seasons. She is also always ready to learn, is super organised and always puts 100% into her work. Keep up the great work Olivia, well done!

**Poppy Edward** for being such a kind member of Class 3! Children gravitate towards her sensitive and fun nature. She is really growing in confidence and is making super progress, especially with her Maths. Keep up the great work Poppy, well done!

**Charlie Evans** for being an amazing member of Class 4! This week, Charlie has really impressed Mr Jones with his independent work in Maths. His multiplication knowledge is improving all of the time. In addition to this, he is incredibly kind to every member of Class 4. Keep being brilliant Charlie, well done!

**Isla Gibbs** for really impressing Mr Jones with her RE knowledge this week! Each time the class recapped the pillars of Islam, Isla has had her hand in the air ready to give one of the many facts that she knew. Well done Isla, keep being brilliant!

**Charlie Edward** for being such a kind and caring member of Class 5! Miss Hyde has also been particularly impressed with his focus and teamwork skills this week. He has been taking turns when working in a group and listening thoughtfully to others. Well done Charlie!

**Stanley Waters** for his fantastic attitude to learning! Stanley tries his best in every lesson to be as accurate as possible and to challenge himself. He is also an excellent guru to his classmates. Well done Stanley!

## Bryn Offa Value of the Month – Justice

