



WELLSPRINGS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Wellspringsprimary
(our Instagram name)



<https://twitter.com/WellspringsPri>
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Wellsprings School Group
(our Facebook name)



Wellsprings Website: <https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/>

School blog on our website: <https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/blog-template/>

Volume 32 Number 2

Friday 22th September 2023

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[Please visit our Art section on our school website.](#)

Art week

What an amazing time we had last week, celebrating and sharing some wonderful artwork! We had some excellent art workshops led by Briony Brickell, from the *Magic Lantern* educational charity. Magic Lantern are a national organisation which uses great works of art to help children observe and explore the world around them. Briony helped the children interpret a painting by the painter Henry Roussaue, entitled 'Surprised!'.

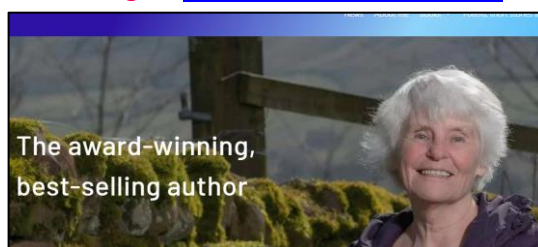
Please refer to *Magic Lantern's* website for further information: <https://magiclanternart.org.uk/>



The children were enthused about the painting following Briony's session, inspiring them to produce some dazzling and varied artworks which we shared with parents/carers in our art exhibition last Friday.

It was really pleasing to see so many parents/carers visit on Friday, and in subsequent days this week.

We also got to meet the poet and author Berlie Doherty in an online assembly. Berlie is a world famous children's author who has written some of the most celebrated books over the last forty years. She performed her poem 'That Stormy Night' to the classes, and gave the children some inspirational advice about how to become successful writers. Her website is a treasure trove of brilliant writing insights- please visit to see a detailed background on her incredible back catalogue: <https://berliedoherty.com/>



Following Berlie's assembly, the children produced some beautiful pieces of handwriting of her poem 'That Stormy night'. This was part of a whole school competition and it was lovely to announce the winners in our sharing assembly at the end of the week.

We were also treated to some whole-class renditions of the poem. Foxes class and some children in Grey and Red Squirrels, 'wowed' the audience with their fluency, having learnt by heart the poem. The performances were aided by movements/gestures which really brought the poem to life. It was a great way to round off the week.



Year 5/6 also had an extra art session led by Mr Gaden, a parent of children in school. Mr Gaden is a well established artist



whose company *Aerosol Art* provide services for commercial and residential settings as well as outreach workshops to schools. The children really enjoyed their session and we hope to do further workshops with Mr Gaden in the future. Please refer to *Aerosol Art's* website for more information: <https://www.aerosolart.co.uk/>

Thank you to Briony, Berlie and Mr Gaden for your inspired contributions, but also to staff, children and parents/carers- it was a truly memorable week.

Early arrivers- REMINDER

The school day starts officially at 8.45 am, with the option for KS2 to go up to class a little earlier at 8.40 am. We do not expect families to be on the premises before then unless for Breakfast Club.

Harvest

We have a Harvest Assembly with Tiff on Friday 6th October, and in anticipation we are asking children to bring in contributions for our chosen charity, the **Open Door project**.

Open Door is a local charity supporting people in Taunton and the surrounding area without homes, rough sleepers, homeless, and those who cannot support themselves.

Please can children bring in their donations in **before this Harvest assembly** (by 6th October at latest) and we will display each classes contribution as part of a Harvest display.

See below a list of possible contributions:

<u>Food Needs:</u>	<u>Other needs:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coffee, tea, hot chocolate • sugar • squash • fruit juices • biscuits • cereals • cooking oil, eggs, cheese • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shampoo and conditioner • shower gel • shaving foam/gel • antiperspirant • toothbrushes • hair brushes/ combs • wet wipes • antiseptic cream • handwash

Food Needs:

- cooking sauces e.g curry
- packet mixes e.g shepherds pie
- cheese sauce mix
- baked beans and tinned vegetables
- gravy granules or stock cubes
- sweets & chocolate
- jam, honey, syrup potatoes, fresh vegetables,
- SR Flour, plain flour
- tinned meats

For more information visit the Open Door website on this link: www.tauntonopendoor.org.uk/

Parent/carer consultations

There will be parent/carer consultations, the week beginning 16th October. We will be using the same booking system from last year, for booking Parents Evening Appointments via Parentmail. All teachers will have 10 minute slots available between 3.30 and 6pm on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th. Some teachers will have to offer appointments on alternative dates, and we will make parents/carers aware these changes.

The system will go live within the next couple of weeks. We will notify parents when this is available.

Guidance on making appointments will be available on Parentmail by visiting



<https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/applications/parents-evening-manager/> .

Holiday Leave in term time

We have had an increase in applications for 'holiday leave' in the last year or so. We wanted to remind you about the procedures for applying for leave of absence to ensure parents/carers are informed before making an application.

Parents/carers who request term time leave should submit a absence form preferably at least two weeks in advance. This can be requested from the school office. On this form, there should be information as to why the leave should be granted under 'exceptional circumstances'. If no reason is provided, we cannot judge whether the leave is exceptional, and we will have to refuse the request.

What are exceptional circumstances?

It is the decision of the school as to what might constitute exceptional circumstances and each request for term time leave will be considered on an individual basis. However, the following are often referred to by DfE guidance about what may be considered exceptional circumstances, or may not.

Exceptional leave MAY be:

- Close relative is seriously ill
- Trauma or family circumstances have occurred and a holiday will benefit the child
- Rare/infrequent occasion that can only happen at that time, eg family wedding/funeral/family experience/unique opportunity.

Exceptional leave is NOT:

- Availability of cheap flights and/or holidays
- Availability of preferred accommodation
- Parent/carer work commitments
- Poor weather experienced during school holiday periods.

If leave has been granted in one circumstance, it does not mean it can be granted in the future for a child/family, as granted leave of absence should be a very rare occasion.

Additionally, if a child's attendance is below 95% we will not grant leave, unless under very exceptional circumstances. If it is early on in the academic year (September/October), the child's attendance in the previous year may also be taken into consideration.

What if you decide to go anyway?

If the school has not authorised the leave, and your child is out of school for 5 consecutive days or more, then you **could** receive a minimum fine of £60 per child, per parent/carer.

Further information is on our school website <https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/term-and-diary-dates/>

Dates and information about the school

25.09.23 European Languages Day
01.10.23 Black History Month starts
02.10.23 Y6 Kilve residential
06.10.23 Harvest Assembly
06.10.23 Parents Open Day
06.10.23 Newsletter out
17.10.23 Parents consultations
18.10.23 Parents consultations
19.10.23 PTA Halloween disco- tbc
20.10.23 Last day of term
20.10.23 Newsletter out
30.10.23 School starts after break



Please visit our website for key dates across the year:

<https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/events>

Wellsprings website school blog is here:

<https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/blog-template/>

Wellsprings School open Facebook page is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/wellsprings.school>

Newsletters are here:

<https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/>

If you need to pass on information or you have a query please contact the office email:

office@wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk or visit our **CONTACT US** page and complete an enquiry form:
<https://wellsprings.somerset.sch.uk/contact-us/>

Wellsprings PTA AGM

The poster features the Wellsprings Primary School logo at the top left, which consists of a stylized 'W' with two figures inside. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'October 2023 Date & Time TBC'. Below the logo, the text says 'Wellsprings Primary School Parent Teacher Association Invite you to their AGM (Annual General Meeting)'. A list of agenda items follows: 'Annual Review', 'Election of Officers', and 'Events, Ideas & Fundraising'. At the bottom of the poster, it says 'Everyone is welcome' and 'Stay informed and get involved'.



Next newsletter: Friday 7th October 2023

Wellsprings *School*

OPEN DAY FOR
RECEPTION 2024



WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU
THERE!

Friday October 6th
10am - 11.30am



OFFICE@WELLSPRINGS.SOMERSET.SCH.UK