



Nerrols' Newsletter

8th September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would like to start our first Newsletter by welcoming you all to the new school year. It has been great to meet our new families who are just starting their journey at Nerrols, as well as to see so many familiar faces. Whether you are returning to Nerrols after the summer break or starting your journey, I wish you a long and successful association with us. It is our aim to send out a Newsletter every fortnight on a Friday. Please make sure you take the time to read the Newsletter in order to celebrate our children's learning and achievements, as well as to stay up-to-date with what's happening. Newsletters are also now available on our school website, and can be accessed here: [News - Nerrols Primary School.](#)

I hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved break filled with rest and enjoyment. It was great to be able to welcome the children back to school and talk about what they have been up to, as well as look ahead to what the new school year will include, in our assembly on Wednesday. As part of our commitment to ensuring the children receive a curriculum that is right for them and that allows them to be creative, to express themselves and to develop their knowledge and experiences, we will be focusing on improving the teaching and learning of the Arts subjects (Art and Design, Music and Design and Technology). We will share more with you as the year progresses, but we hope you will start to hear more about this from your children in the upcoming weeks. The curriculum development work in the Arts subjects captures the 'What' we are teaching, whilst we will also be working to improve 'How' we teach. This includes making sure we are maximising learning time as much as possible, and is why we are asking the children to line up in register order in the mornings when the bell rings. We appreciate any support you can provide with all areas of your child's education and will be sure to keep you updated.

Staff News

We extend a warm welcome to Miss Rapsey, who has joined us as our Year 5 and 6 teacher in Oak Class, and Mrs Gavins, who is teaching our Year 2 children in Birch Class. Both of our new colleagues have settled into life at Nerrols really smoothly and we are excited to see how they can further enhance what we already do.

We are also delighted to be able to let you know that Amy, our Nursery Practitioner, and her family welcomed the arrival of their son Brooks over the summer holidays. Amy, Brooks and family are doing well and enjoying some special times together. We send our congratulations and warm wishes to them all.



Sadly, we will be saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Court-Smith, one of our Learning Support Assistants, at the end of the month as she moves to work in a Nursery setting closer to her home. We thank Mrs Court-Smith for her years of commitment, professionalism and

support for the children, families and staff of Nerrols Primary School and Nursery and will miss her greatly. We also wish Mrs Court-Smith the very best of luck in her new role!

Key Stage 2 Choir

Some exciting news for KS2 performers! As part of our curriculum priority mentioned above, we are setting up our first Nerrols Choir for KS2 children (Maple, Rowan and Oak Class). The Choir will take place on Thursdays after school, 3:30-4:30pm, for the duration of the year. Choirs can be a great confidence booster and fantastic social atmosphere. We would ask for full commitment to this club for those joining to ensure we can make the Choir the best it can be and effectively build up the children's repertoire for performances. Please do talk to your child to ensure they understand the importance of remaining committed to the Choir if they want to join.

A letter will be sent home next week with further details. If you have any questions, please do contact Mrs Marriott.

School equipment

We are really excited to be able to provide climbing and learning equipment for our children to give them first hand opportunities to experiment, take risks, have fun and overcome challenges through play. We know that such opportunities will also promote play that fills our children with a sense of wonder and imagination, develops their gross motor and social skills and helps them to make sense of the world around them.

A reminder that the equipment should only be used during school or nursery hours and when supervised by a member of Nerrols staff. We therefore ask parents and carers who collect/drop off their children around any school equipment not to allow their children to play on or with it. This includes the climbing equipment installed in the area outside Blossom Class, as well as any other equipment or resources such as the wooden blocks, and the new planters we have installed outside Willow Class because these areas are being set up for the children's learning that day. Thank you for your support with this matter.



Calling grandparents!

As part of their learning in History, Willow Class will be finding out more about what life was like when their grandparents were children. This will include learning about toys, shops and school. To develop their oral history, we would love to provide the children with the opportunity of hearing from grandparents about what life was like when they were a child. This will involve the children asking some questions, perhaps a grandparent bringing in some of their toys and talking to the children about some pictures taken when they were a child to describe similarities and differences to now.

If this is something you or your child's grandparent could help us with (ideally from Willow Class but doesn't have to be), either as a visitor or if you have any old toys children could look at, please do speak to Mrs Marriott.


After School Clubs – from September 2023

A reminder that we are teaming up with Huish Tigers to provide our children with opportunities to develop their sporting skills as part of our extra-curricular provision! This term, children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will be able to take part in a Football Club after school on Thursdays, and children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) will be able to take place in a Basketball Club on Mondays. Please visit <https://store.huish.ac.uk/products/details/huish-sport-events-trips/nerrolls-basketball-after-school-autumn-term-2023> or <https://store.huish.ac.uk/products/details/huish-sport-events-trips/nerrolls-football-after-school-autumn-term-2023> where you can book your child's place.



We will also be working with Premier Education again to provide even more after school opportunities for our children. Children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will be able to take part in a Gymnastics Club on Fridays, and children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) will be able to take place in a Gymnastics or Tag-Rugby Club (both on Tuesdays due to availability of the sports coaches). Please visit [Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](http://premier-education.com) where you can find out more about these clubs and book your child's place.

This means that the following after school clubs are available for our children this term:

Mondays	KS2 Basketball (Huish Tigers)	
Tuesdays	KS2 Gymnastics (Premier Education) KS2 Tag Rugby (Premier Education)	
Thursdays	KS2 Choir (see above) KS1 Football (Huish Tigers)	
Fridays	KS1 Gymnastics (Premier Education)	

Applying for Secondary School

Now that we have our first-ever Year 6 children, we wanted to let you know that to find out more about what secondary school life is like there are a number of Open Events taking place this autumn.



The Pyrland School (formerly The Taunton Academy) have let us know about the following events:

Open Evening: Thursday 28th September (4:00pm-7:30pm)

Open Mornings: Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th October (all 10:00am-12:30pm)

Please contact reception@thetauntonacademy.com for further information.

Heathfield Secondary School are holding their Open Evening on Thursday 14th September (5:00pm-7:00pm). Please contact office@heathfieldcommuintyschool.co.uk for further information.

Parents and carers of children in Year 6 wishing to take their children to visit any secondary schools within the school day are encouraged to do so, but please do remember to let our Office Team know so we can ensure we know where they are and do not need to worry or contact you.

We encourage parents, carers and children in Year 6 to visit as many secondary schools as possible in order to make the most informed decision about the next stage of their learning. All applications for secondary school admission for September 2024 must be made by 31st October 2023 via Somerset Local Authority. You can find out more about applying for a place at a Somerset Secondary School by reading this guide: [Secondary admissions guide \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/secondary-admissions-guide/). The online application form for secondary applications goes live on Monday 11th September 2023.

Emotion Coaching Workshop

We are excited to let you know that an Emotion Coaching workshop for parents and carers, aimed at building emotional intelligence and creating positive, long-lasting effects for our children, has been arranged for Thursday 28th September at 2:30pm in the School Hall and will be delivered by the Mental Health Support Team (for Schools). All parents and carers are welcome to attend and it will be great to see you there!

PE Kits

PE Kits should be brought into school every Monday where they will stay before being brought home for washing on a Friday. Although each class will have a set day for PE lessons, we like to be able to be flexible and have the children's PE kits if we decide to head outside. Please visit our website to view our PE Kit expectations should you need to - [School Uniform - Nerrols Primary School](#).

The Pupil Premium Grant

You may be aware that the government currently allocates additional funding to schools in the form of 'The Pupil Premium Grant' in order to help children do their very best. The purpose of Pupil Premium Funding is to raise achievement and improve outcomes for eligible children (those children who are registered as eligible for free school meals and children of service personnel).

At Nerrols Primary School, the additional funding is used to provide children with a wide range of extra educational, social and emotional support. In common with most schools, it is likely that a number of parents and carers whose children attend Nerrols do not claim free school meals, even though they are entitled to them. If you think that you may be eligible to apply for free school meals for your child, you can do so using this link <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>, alternatively contact the school office for more information. The process for applying is confidential. Even if you are not sure it would still be worth asking.

If you are entitled to receive free school meals but do not wish for your children to have them, you should still apply as this will entitle our school to more money, which can be used to benefit your children.

Office Updates – ParentMail

Parents and carers are politely reminded to ensure they have made their children's menu choices for school meals in good time and before the Tuesday of the week before (even if ParentMail allows you to book after this day) so that we can organise the ordering of the right amount of food. Any

selections made after the deadline will not be included and you will be asked to provide your child with a packed lunch. To book your school meals, please visit the Accounts section of ParentMail.

We also ask all parents and carers to ensure that they check to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of ParentMail to ensure they are receiving our communications and so that they can make bookings. Some parents and carers have explained that they've not been able to make bookings for things such as lunches or Wraparound Care because they've not updated the app and so we encourage you to check this regularly.

The School Office will be closed from 10:00am-12:00pm on Thursday 14th September 2023 for staff training.

Friends of Nerrols Update

Hello from the Friends of Nerrols. We hope you have had a lovely summer holiday! Please find attached to this Newsletter our Agenda for the upcoming meeting on Monday 11th September at 2:30pm in the School Hall. Everyone is welcome and I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards

Rachael

Chair for 'Friends of Nerrols'



Dates for the diary

Monday 11 th September	Friends of Nerrols Meeting (2:30pm, School Hall) – all welcome!
Thursday 14 th September	School Office closed for staff training (10:00am-12:00pm)
Monday 18 th September	KS2 Basketball Club begins, 3:30-4:30pm (run by Huish Tigers)
Tuesday 19 th September	KS2 Gymnastics and KS2 Tag-Rugby Club begins, 3:30-4:30pm (both run by Premier Education)
Thursday 21 st September	KS1 Football Club begins, 3:30-4:30pm (run by Huish Tigers)
Friday 22 nd September	Flu Vaccinations for children – more to follow from the NHS!
Friday 22 nd September	KS1 Gymnastics Club begins, 3:30-4:30pm (run by Premier Education)
Thursday 28 th September	MHST Emotion Coaching Workshop for parents and carers (2:30pm, School Hall)

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Kerton'.

Matt Kerton
Headteacher