



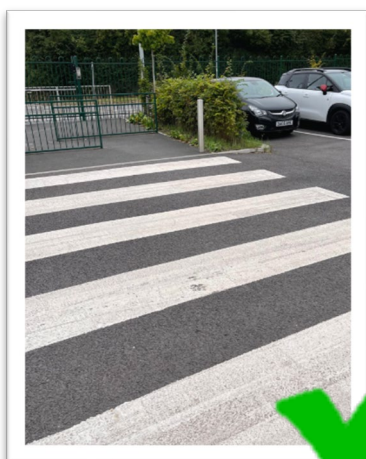
Nerrols' Newsletter

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to our second Nerrols Newsletter of the academic year and I hope you are all starting to get into the rhythm and routines of being back at school!

I want to start this Newsletter with a very serious message about keeping our children safe, especially around the roads surrounding, and leading into, our school. Many parents and carers have rightly raised their concerns about the speed of some of the cars that drive up and down Nerrols Drive, and I am aware that these concerns have previously been raised with the local council with varying degrees of success. Parents and carers should be assured that we continue to raise our concerns with those responsible for our roads, which is the council and unfortunately not us as a school. I would also like to stress the importance of road safety for our community as pedestrians, who also have a responsibility to keep themselves safe when using the roads. We ask that parents and carers park considerately around our school site and not on pavements or the verges as this affects those walking or cycling, sometimes forcing our families and members of the public onto the roads. For those that travel by foot, bike or scooter to school, the vast majority of you are extremely safe and careful with your journeys and we thank you on behalf of all of our children. I politely remind parents and carers that they should encourage their children to respect all things road safety by setting a good example themselves. This includes using our zebra crossing to enter and exit our front gate and not walking through the car park, and certainly not allowing children to enter the site via the vehicle gate as this could be extremely dangerous.



Parents and carers are reminded to ensure their children use the zebra crossing (left) to enter and exit school safely, and that they avoid walking through the car park. Under no circumstances should parents, carers or children enter the site on foot via the car park entrance (below).



This week, I spoke to all of the children in our assembly about the importance of keeping themselves safe around the roads. The children all showed a great level of understanding of how to cross roads

safely (STOP! – LOOK! – LISTEN! – THINK!) and where safe places to cross roads are and are not, but still need your support in keeping themselves safe at all times.



Finally, we do have two accessible parking spaces in our car park which are reserved for parents, carers, staff and visitors with a disability. We ask that any parents or carers wishing to use these spaces do so respectfully and are mindful that others may need to use them from time to time also. For any parents and carers wishing to use them to drop off and collect their children, we request that they do not arrive at the school before 8:30am or 3:00pm respectively.

Staff News

We extend a warm welcome to Miss Haynes, who has joined us this week as part of our Learning Support Assistant (LSA) team. We are excited to work with Miss Haynes and see how she can support our children’s learning even more! Next week, we will also be welcoming Miss Wood, who will be working in Willow Class as part of her Teacher Training Placement with Bath Spa University.

Attendance and punctuality

At Nerrols, we believe that all children should enjoy learning, experience success, and realise their potential. We expect our children to attend school every day unless they are really not well enough to. We believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest benefit from their education.

The table below indicates how what might seem like just a few days absence can result in children missing a significant amount of learning:

Attendance during school year	Days lost in a year	Which is approximately	Approximate number of lessons missed
95%	9.5 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons

We also recognise that, from time-to-time, parents and carers might be running late for school, for reasons sometimes out of their control. If you do find that you are running late and your child’s classroom door has already been closed, we ask that parents and carers bring their children to the Main Office and wait with them until a member of school staff is available to take them to class. As school will have already started by this time, the vast majority of our staff are unavailable because they are with the children and getting them ready to begin learning, as I’m sure you would expect. This is why it is really important to be on time for the start of the school day and that all children are ready to enter their classroom at 8:45am. There will always be a member of staff available to take children to class, but this will not always be straight away. We understand that sometimes lateness cannot be helped and we will work in partnership with all parents and carers to support them if needed. I’d also like to take this opportunity to reassure everybody that classroom doors will not close before 8:45am and to thank everybody for their understanding with this.

Holiday requests

We are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, and holiday requests do not fall into this category and will rarely be approved as an

authorised absence. In law, parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their children at school. Therefore, any unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays in term time, can result in a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. Failure to pay a Fixed Term Penalty Notice may result in a criminal conviction and a fine in the Magistrates Court of up to £1000. If, after carefully considering all of the above, you still wish to request permission for your child to be absent from school, please complete an absence of leave request form (available from the School Office) and submit the application with any supporting documents. Please note that your application must be submitted before your child is absent from school, regardless of whether or not it is likely to be unauthorised.

Curriculum Focus: Music

In our last Newsletter, I shared that 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). As part of this, we were delighted to be able to hold our first KS2 Choir session! Led by Mrs Marriott, Choir practice will take place after school on Thursdays (3:30pm-4:30pm) and we look forward to hearing them perform in the near future.

We also look forward to hearing Rowan Class perform using the ukulele, as this week they started weekly lessons in school supported by colleagues at Somerset Music. They will be taught how to play the ukelele for the whole year, which is just another way in which we are promoting our Music offer for our children!

Online Safety: Helping to keep our children safe online

As part of our children's broad and balanced curriculum, we regularly teach them about the importance of keeping themselves safe when they are online. This week, we are encouraging all parents and carers to keep a close eye on the games their children are playing online. Some of our children have told us about, and at times like to 'play', games such as Fortnite, Call of Duty and World of Warcraft. All of these games have recommended age ratings of at least 13 due to their graphic violence and use of strong language and can encourage children to engage in such behaviour at school, which as you would expect causes us difficulty, upset and has an impact of the children's learning. We appreciate all of our parents and carers taking the time to talk to their children about keeping themselves safe online. We have a whole range of resources to support with this, including more Online Safety Guides for Parents and Carers, available on our website at: [Online Safety - Nerrols Primary School](#)

Furthermore, we will soon be distributing our Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for children and their parents or carers to sign in order to keep themselves safe when using our IT systems. Because we ask for signatures (from the children and their parents or carers) these will be printed out and sent home with the children. Your child's class teacher will spend some time talking to the children in their class about the AUP before asking them to sign it in school, and they will then take it home for parents or carers to sign before returning to school. Class teachers should keep these until all have been returned to school and then hand to our Office Team. Mr Bethell will also be going through this in an Online Safety Assembly on Tuesday 26th September.

After School Clubs – from September 2023

This week, we also started our extra-curricular sports provision with support from Huish Tigers and Premier Education. It's not too late for any parents and carers to sign their children up to attend these clubs, and should visit the relevant links below should they wish to.

KS2 Basketball: <https://store.huish.ac.uk/products/details/huish-sport-events-trips/nerrolls-basketball-after-school-autumn-term-2023>



KS1 Football: <https://store.huish.ac.uk/products/details/huish-sport-events-trips/nerrolls-football-after-school-autumn-term-2023>

KS1 and KS2 Gymnastics: [Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://premier-education.com)

Unfortunately, there was not enough interest this time in the KS2 Tag-Rugby Club, which has been cancelled and will not be running this term.

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.

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 is now live.

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 would be great to see you there!

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 – All day Breakfast on Thursday 5th October

We will be making a change to our school menu on Thursday 5th October by offering the children the option of an all-day breakfast! We are really proud of the food that we are able to serve our children from our very-own production kitchen, and are wanting to encourage as many of you as possible to sample our menu on this day. We will be sending out a revised menu **for this day only** via ParentMail very soon for parents and carers to order from. Please remember that for children in Blossom, Willow and Birch Class, and for children entitled to free school meals, this is completely free!

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 26 th September	Blossom, Willow and Birch Class Expectations Meetings (Classrooms, 3:15pm-3:45pm)
Wednesday 27 th September	Maple, Rowan and Oak Class Expectations Meetings (Classrooms, 3:15pm-3:45pm)
Thursday 28 th September	MHST Emotion Coaching Workshop for parents and carers (2:30pm, School Hall)
Monday 16 th October	Friends of Nerrols
Monday 16 th October	Parents' Evening – booking information soon!
Tuesday 17 th October	Parents' Evening – booking information soon!
Thursday 19 th October	Last day of Autumn 1
Friday 20 th October	INSET Day – School and Nursery closed
Monday 30 th October	First day of Autumn 2
Friday 3 rd November	Friends of Nerrols School Discos (see below)

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher



Friends of Nerrols Update

Hello,

I am pleased to tell you we now have a vice chair. Kelly Pattison has taken on the role, and she brings years of experience and knowledge with her and we welcome her to the team.

We have been busy planning some fun events for you all to enjoy and we have some important dates for you.

We have set a date for our Christmas Fayre, which will be Friday 24th November. Though this seems early, we break up for Christmas early this year and we had to take into consideration that the hall will have the stage set up for the Nativity play.

We are seeking Christmas jumpers that we could use for our sale/swap stall, we are also looking for some Christmas decorations, so if you happen to have any you can donate, that would be fab.

We are looking for raffle prizes from businesses/ companies and also a large volume of selection boxes/advent calendars. If anyone can help or knows of anyone willing to donate, please speak to us regarding this.

Any help with any of these things would be massively appreciated and I will keep you updated with this event the more we plan.

We are also holding a Halloween Disco with the new revised disco times. 🎃

Date: Friday 3rd November

KS1: 4.50pm-6.00pm

KS2 6.15pm-7.45pm

Arrival will be through the front door of school, pick up will be from the side door coming out of the hall. A letter with a return slip will be sent home in bags very soon.

We would like to decorate the hall and would really appreciate any donations, if you can spare us any please could you bring them to the school office by the 16th October.

We have also decided to hold regular cake sales, being held mostly on a Friday after school. We will be asking each class to take it in turns to bring cakes in for us to sell. These can be homemade or shop bought but we ask as a Nut Free school that they are nut free.

Packaging for shop bought cakes will be kept for reference to ingredients.

We will try our very best to ensure all food allergens/ingredients are clear to the best of our knowledge but it will be down to the parent's/carer's discretion.

We believe in inclusiveness and will try our best to make sure that all food requirements are catered for.

Dates for Cake Sales: 🍩

Please can you bring your cakes into school on the morning of the cake sale.

Date:	Contributions From:
Thursday 19th October	Oak Class (Miss Rapsey)
Friday 8th December	Rowan Class (Mr Bethell)
Friday 26th January	Maple Class (Miss Nelson)
Friday 23rd February	Birch Class (Mrs Gavins)
Friday 22nd March	F.O.N (Easter treats)
Friday 26th April	Willow Class (Mrs Marriott)
Friday 24th May	Blossom Class (Mrs Palmer)
Friday 21st June	Teachers' Donations
Thursday 18th July	F.O.N (End of year treats)

Our next meeting date is on Monday 16th October at 2.30pm 😊

Kind regards

Rachael

Chair for 'Friends of Nerrols'