

Nerrols' Newsletter

6th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would like to start this Newsletter with a genuine 'thank you' to our entire community for your understanding and support regarding our unavoidable and difficult decision to close on Tuesday due to the fire at the local Recycling Centre. Having sought guidance from members of the emergency services at the scene early on Tuesday morning, we were advised that it would not be safe for children to be outside and that all windows and doors of our site should be kept closed to avoid smoke inhalation. The emergency services were understandably unable to let us know at that point how long the fire would continue to burn for, or what it was that was burning, as they tried to get it under control. Given that the vast majority of families walk to and from school at the start and end of the day, as well as managing breaktimes and lunchtimes, I felt that **the safest place** for all of our children was at home. I fully understand that such a decision has an impact on people's day, and it was not a decision that was taken lightly or one that I would ever like to make again.

I would like to pay tribute to the children of our School and Nursery, who returned on Wednesday and picked up with their learning and routines where they left on Monday!

I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff of Nerrols Primary School and Nursery, who showed understanding and professionalism throughout an unexpected and difficult day. Finally, I would also like to thank the dozens of emergency service workers who attended to scene and dealt with the fire. On behalf of the Nerrols community, we are grateful you helped us to stay safe.

Starting School

If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2024, we would love to welcome you for a tour of our school and to discuss admission arrangements. We will be holding tours every Thursday throughout November and would love to see you! To book a place please email office@nr.huish.education or call 01823 792655.



New House Captains and School Councillors

We are excited to announce our new House Captains and School Councillors for the 2023/24 academic year! Our new House Captains and Vice House Captains are:

Montacute House: Myles and Eva

Barrington House: Maddy and Rosie

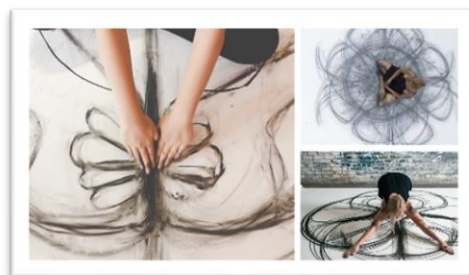
Dillington House: Georgia and Joshua

Hestercombe House: Adrija and Alani

Our new School Councillors are **Dylan, Rosie, Katie, Daisy, Immy, Jonty, Bella, Daisy, Ella, Henry, Darcie** and **Eddie**. We are excited and really looking forward to seeing how our new leaders can help to make our school an even better place to learn! Congratulations to you all!

Curriculum Focus: Art in Maple Class

In Maple Class, the children have been experimenting with using charcoal to draw gesturally in their Art and Design lessons. Next week, the children are very excited to be putting their skills into practise and work in the style of an artist named Heather Hansen where they will be asked to use their full range of movements to draw using charcoal. Therefore, please could we ask that children in Maple Class bring in a spare change of clothes (t shirt and trousers/leggings) for them to work in that you do not mind getting messy. This lesson will be taking on **Tuesday 10th October 2023**.



Staying Safe at Nerrols



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).



Online Safety: Helping to keep our children safe online

Hopefully, you have now received our Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which we are asking for parents or carers to talk through with their child, sign and return to school. If you have not yet returned a signed copy of our AUP, please do so as soon as possible in order to ensure your child can continue to use our IT systems.

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.

Library book amnesty

Please can we remind all parents, carers and children to ensure they return school library books once they have finished with them to ensure that others can enjoy them too! Our children love using the Library regularly and we always want to promote their enthusiasm for reading by providing them with a wide range of books to read. Any book that belongs to Nerrols should have a small sticker of our school logo on the inside front cover of the book. Please could I ask everyone to check at home for any school library books that may have accidentally not been returned and bring them back to school as soon as possible.

Resources for Wraparound Club

We are looking to enhance our Wraparound Club provision to ensure our children are offered the best environment and resources to support their learning and leisure time. We are an eco-friendly school and pride ourselves on re-using or re-homing unwanted toys, equipment and items. We care deeply about looking after our planet and upcycling unwanted items, which we regularly talk to the children about.

We are therefore seeking a variety of used, but still suitable, toys, storage boxes or units (preferably wooden), or items related to science, ICT, craft, den making or construction and building (e.g. Lego).

If you have anything you feel is suitable and are able to donate, please speak to Miss Sumner, Mrs Wade or a member of Wraparound Club in the first instance.

Applying for Secondary School

A reminder to our parents and carers of children in Year 6 that all applications for secondary school admission for September 2024 must be made by 31st October 2023 via Somerset Local Authority. 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. 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). **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.**

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.

Personal possessions

We are reminding parents and carers to please not allow your child to bring personal possessions into school. This is because they cause distractions from children's learning and can be lost or damaged easily, which results in children becoming upset and further distracted from their learning.

We routinely spend time ensuring items such as school uniform are returned to their owners, which is much easier when items are clearly named, but do not want to see children upset because they have lost personal possessions. I am also confident that parents and carers would rather us spend our time working in class with the children as part of their education and development rather than spending time dealing with lost items.

Office Update

Parents' Evening will be taking place on Monday 16th October and Tuesday 17th October. Appointments will be available on both days between 3:30 and 6:00pm. Appointments will be

available to book from Monday using the sign-up sheets which will be with your child's class teacher at the start and end of the school day.

Tempest Photography will be visiting Nerrols on Wednesday 18th October to take individual and sibling photographs. We will arrange for school children to have their photos taken during the school day. If you also have children who do not attend Nerrols and would like to have their photo taken with their school siblings, we will be offering a drop-in session before school at 8:15am-8:35am. Please ensure you arrive in plenty of time to have your photos taken before school starts at 8:45am. Your children should remain with you until the start of the school day at 8:45am.

Friends of Nerrols Update

Given the amount of information we find ourselves needing to let our community know about, we have decided to separate this Newsletter and the Friends of Nerrols Newsletter. From now on, the two Newsletters will continue to be sent home on Fridays but will alternate. This means that the next Friends of Nerrols Newsletter will be sent home next Friday.



Dates for the diary

Monday 16 th October	Friends of Nerrols Meeting (School, 2:30pm)
Monday 16 th October	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 17 th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18 th October	Tempest Photographs – individual and sibling
Thursday 19 th October	Friends of Nerrols Cake Sale – Oak Class
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

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher