



Nerrols' Newsletter

10th November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to the second half of the autumn term, one which has started very actively for us all at Nerrols which sets the tone for what is to come I am sure! This time of year is always incredibly busy, and this Newsletter is packed with upcoming events that we hope you are able to join in with. Please do make sure you take the time to read and understand what is happening over the next few weeks so that everybody benefits from our upcoming schedule. Don't forget that you can also keep up-to-date with what's happening by following our School and Class pages on X (formerly known as Twitter) and by reading all of our Newsletters, which are also available on our school website:

[Nerrols Primary School, Taunton](https://www.nerrolsprimaryschool.com)

Our first event of the new half-term was last Friday, and what a great Halloween Disco it was! The time and effort that must have gone into the children's costumes and make-up was fantastic and undoubtedly helped everybody to have a great time. Thank you very much for your support with this event and for raising money to help support our children even more. A special thanks must go to our Friends of Nerrols team – led by Rachael – for all of their organisation behind the scenes and support on the evening. Thank you as well to all staff, parents and carers who supported to make it a night to remember!



Today (Friday 10th November), our Key Stage 2 children are attending the Remembrance Service at Somerset Wood within Maidenbrook Country Park. We have spoken with all the children in assembly this week about the significance of remembrance and are grateful that our children are able to pay their respects at today's Service.

You may have noticed that we have poppies and a number of other Remembrance resources for sale in the foyer of our Main Entrance. If you would like to help us raise money for the Royal British Legion, please do pop in before or after school with your child and take a look.



Children in Need 2023 – Friday 17th November

We are excited to be taking part in Children in Need on Friday 17th November and are inviting the children to come to school and nursery wearing a spotty accessory – such as socks, a hairband or even some spotty Pudsey ears – in exchange for a suggested donation of £1. The children

should bring their donation to school and hand to their class teacher if they wish to take part, but this is optional and they do not have to if they do not wish to do so. Please note that school-aged children are expected to wear their usual school uniform on this day, alongside their chosen accessory.



Friends of Nerrols Christmas Fayre – Friday 24th November

Christmas Fayre plans are continuing to come together and we would be delighted if you are able to join us straight after school on Friday 24th November for Santa's Grotto, independent stalls, items made by the children of Nerrols, a performance from our newly-formed School Choir and much more! Please do keep an eye on the Newsletter from the Friends of Nerrols with more information next week.

Blossom, Willow and Birch Nativities – 6th-8th December

Our children in Blossom, Willow and Birch will be performing their Nativities on the following dates:

Wednesday 6 th December at 10:00am	Blossom Class
Thursday 7 th December at 10:00am	Birch Class
Friday 8 th December at 10:00am	Willow Class

We really hope that you will be able to join us on these dates, but regretfully we will need to limit the number of family members able to attend in order to comply with health and safety regulations given the capacity of our School Hall and to ensure that members of all of our families are able to watch their children. We will confirm numbers as soon as possible, send home tickets with the children closer to the time and will also check these on the door. We ask family members to arrive no earlier than 9:45am for performances on the relevant days. Finally, we politely request that all parents and carers adhere to our expectations in order to make it a fair and enjoyable experience for us all.

Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service – Monday 11th December

On Monday 11th December, children from Maple, Rowan and Oak Class will be performing a selection of Christmas carols in our School Hall from 2:30pm-3:15pm. As with our Nativities, we will need to limit the number of family members able to attend. We will confirm numbers as soon as possible, send home tickets with the children closer to the time and will also check these on the door. We ask family members to arrive no earlier than 2:15pm and again politely request that all parents and carers adhere to our expectations in order to make it a fair and enjoyable experience for us all.

House Treat – Tuesday 12th December

All of our children have been demonstrating our values of *Be kind*, *Work hard* and *Try your best* this term and as a result have earned lots of rewards, including House Points. On the afternoon of Tuesday 12th December, members of the House with the most House Points will take part in the House Treat

in order to celebrate their achievements. Details of this are still being planned alongside members of the School Council and we will communicate more information about this – including who the winning House are – closer to the end of term.

Children's Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 13th December

Don't forget to order your child's Christmas Dinner via ParentMail if you would like them to have one! Roast turkey or Quorn, meat-free sausages or pigs in blankets, stuffing, potatoes and much more will be served along with some festive music that should make this a very special lunchtime for the children. Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of the full menu should you wish to take a closer look.

Christmas Pantomime Visit – Thursday 14th December

We have once again arranged for our whole school to visit The Tacchi Morris Arts Centre to watch a pantomime performance of Robin Hood on Thursday 14th December during the school day. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of the ticket and transport in order for the children to attend, which we will send out more information regarding as soon as possible.

Staff Update

We are delighted to let you know that this week Mrs Harvey joined us as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) in Blossom Class, and next week Miss Kean will be joining us also as a LSA and will be working across the School. We are looking forward to working with Mrs Harvey and Miss Kean at Nerrols and having a long and successful association with them.

From January, we will also be welcoming Mrs Challis as our new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-Ordinator (SENDCo). Mrs Challis will bring a high level of knowledge, experience and expertise to our School and Nursery and we are excited to begin working with her. Mrs Challis's working days will be Monday-Thursday, and she will be replacing Miss Littlechild who has been working at Nerrols on an interim basis since the summer term. We would like to place on record our huge appreciation to Miss Littlechild for the fantastic job that she has done in supporting the children, families and staff of Nerrols over the past few months.

We will be saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Karunaratne and Miss Bill over the coming weeks as they have taken the difficult decision to leave Nerrols to pursue other opportunities. We would like to extend our appreciation and best wishes to Mrs 'K' and Miss Bill for their support for our community over the past few years and wish them the very best of luck with their new roles.

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.



Staying Safe at Nerrols

A reminder to all our families that we aim to be a completely nut-free school. We aim to protect children who have allergies to nuts yet also to help them, as they grow up, take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We therefore **do not allow any nuts or nut products in children's school lunchboxes**, including packets of nuts, products that contain nuts (such as fruit or cereal bars) and peanut butter sandwiches. We regularly remind the children about good hygiene before, during and after eating which helps to reduce the risk of secondary contamination. Likewise, children are reminded and carefully supervised to minimise the act of food sharing with their friends. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

If your child has any known or suspected allergies that we are not aware of, please make sure you notify us via the School Office as soon as possible.

As the nights draw in, please make sure you talk to your children about keeping themselves safe. In a recent whole school assembly, we spoke to the children about staying safe if they are out when it is dark and appreciate the support of parents and carers with such matters.

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.

Office Update

If anybody is able to help us with any donations of newspaper before our next Art Club session on Tuesday 14th November or any adult socks (preferably ones with no holes!) for Oak Class by Friday 17th November we would be extremely grateful.

Over the next few weeks and months, we will be letting you know more about a change that we will be making to the way that we communicate and make arrangements for booking things like school lunches and Wraparound sessions. This will include moving away from ParentMail and towards a new app called My Child At School (MCAS). **You do not need to do anything yet** and we will let you know more about the changes through upcoming Newsletters.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 16 th November	School Tours for 2024 admission
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need – spotty accessory in exchange for a donation
Thursday 23 rd November	School Tours for 2024 admission
Friday 24 th November	Friends of Nerrols Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 6 th December	Blossom Class Nativity (10:00am, School Hall)
Thursday 7 th December	Birch Class Nativity (10:00am, School Hall)
Friday 8 th December	Willow Class Nativity (10:00am, School Hall)
Monday 11 th December	KS2 Christmas Carol Service (2:30pm, School Hall)
Tuesday 12 th December	House Treat (School hours, selected children only)
Wednesday 13 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 th December	Whole school pantomime trip (School hours, Tacchi Morris)
Friday 15 th December	Last day of Autumn 2

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher