



Nerrols' Newsletter

19th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would like to wish all our families of school-aged children a very happy half-term! However you decide to spend your time away from school, I hope it is filled with enjoyment and lots of special moments together. We are very proud of how the children have settled into their new classes and of how hard they have worked over the past 6 ½ weeks, and it was lovely to see so many of you at our Parents' Evenings this week celebrating such achievements. I find it very encouraging that we are working so closely together for the benefit of our children's education and development.

As the nights draw in, and as we move into the time of year with events such as Halloween and Bonfire Night, please make sure you talk to your children about keeping themselves safe. When they return, we will be holding assemblies specifically about such things and talking to the children about staying safe if they are out when it is dark.

Have a well-deserved break and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 30th October!

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.



Curriculum Focus: Music Performances!

During assemblies this week, we were treated to some very special musical performances from our children as we gathered to find out more about what the other classes have been learning about in their Music lessons! We heard a rendition of Bon Jovi from Oak Class, Willow and Maple Class performed on the glockenspiels and Rowan Class showed us the progress they've been making with the ukelele! There was some beautiful singing from Blossom and Birch Class too!

At the end of the last academic year, the children told us that they wanted more opportunities to take part in musical performances and we are pleased to have been able to provide this experience for them. We're already planning for the next one!



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.

Online Safety: Helping to keep our children safe online

Please make sure you have returned your child's signed Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) in order to ensure they can continue to use our IT systems.

Remembrance

On Friday 10th November, our Key Stage 2 children (Maple, Rowan and Oak Class) have been invited to attend a Remembrance Service at Somerset Wood (within Maidenbrook Country Park) at 2:00pm.

You may have noticed that we also 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.



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.

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/).



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.

Children in Need 2023

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.



Christmas Pantomime Visit

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 after half-term.

Dates for the diary

Friday 20 th October	INSET Day – School and Nursery closed
Monday 30 th October	First day of Autumn 2
Thursday 2 nd November	School Tours for 2024 admission (see above)
Friday 3 rd November	Friends of Nerrols Halloween Discos
Thursday 9 th November	School Tours for 2024 admission (see above)
Friday 10 th November	Friends of Nerrols non-school uniform day
Friday 10 th November	KS2 Remembrance Service (2:00pm, Somerset Wood)
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need – spotty accessory in exchange for a donation
Friday 24 th November	Friends of Nerrols Christmas Fayre
Thursday 14 th December	Whole school pantomime trip (School hours, Tacchi Morris)

Have a great half-term and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 30th October.

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

Matt Kerton
Headteacher