



Nerrols' Newsletter

8th December 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope this Newsletter finds you well in what is a very busy time of year for you I'm sure! At Nerrols, this has certainly been the case as we try to fit in all of the festive events on top of all other day-to-day school tasks. We kicked off the Christmas season with our fantastic Christmas Fayre, and it was great to see this so well attended and supported. Your kind generosity and support helped us to raise over £2000, which is a wonderful amount and will go a long way to supporting our children even more! A huge thank you to Rachael and the Friends of Nerrols team for organising such a successful event for us all to enjoy with our families! This week, we have continued the festive celebrations with our Blossom, Willow and Birch Nativities. It was another special time and opportunity to bring our community together and celebrate our children, and I am confident that those in attendance agreed the singing, dancing and acting was incredible!

Next week – our final week of the term – is also packed with events as we lead up to the holidays. Please do make sure you take the time to read and understand what is happening so that everybody benefits from our upcoming schedule.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in 2024. A reminder that the first day of term is an INSET Day, and so school starts again for children on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

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. We will need to limit the number of family members to 2 per child who are able to attend. Please make sure you bring your tickets with you as we will 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. We are pleased to announce that the winning House this term is **MONTACUTE!** On the afternoon of Tuesday 12th December, members of Montacute House will take part in the House Treat in order to celebrate their achievements. After discussions with our House Captains, it has been decided that members of the winning House will take part in Christmas craft activities and enjoy watching a Christmas film! Members of Montacute House are also invited to wear non-School uniform on this day as part of their celebrations.

Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 13th December

A big 'Thank you' once again for your support with all of our fundraising events recently. It has been a busy time with our fantastic Friends Of Nerrols' Christmas Fayre last week, cake sales, Halloween Disco and non-school uniform days. In the middle of all of this, we appear to have forgotten Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day!

Although this day is set to be held nationwide on Thursday 7th December, we invite the children and staff to wear a Christmas jumper alongside the rest of their usual uniform on **Wednesday 13th December**. This is the same day as our whole school Christmas Lunch and we hope will make things feel even more Christmassy! We are also aware that there is a financial implication to this, and so if families are unable to take part or contribute this time please do not worry. If children would like to still wear a Christmas jumper but are unable to contribute to the Save the Children charity, this is of course fine too.

Please do remember that this is optional and that if children do not wish to take part they should wear their school jumper or cardigan as usual. If you would like to find out more about Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day 2023, you can do so here: [Christmas Jumper Day 2023 | Save the Children UK](#)

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. Please make sure you have completed the payment of just £11.60 per child via ParentMail to cover the cost of the ticket and transport in order for your child to attend. The performance starts at 9:30am and so we will be leaving school promptly at 9:00am. Please make sure your child is on time on this day to help with our arrangements.

Staff Update

From January, we will 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.

Christmas Cards

As in previous years, we will be placing a large Christmas Post Box outside the main School Office area before and after school each day. Please ensure all cards are named (including class name) so we can identify the correct recipient. Cards will be distributed next week to class teachers to be handed out.

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 a leave of absence 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.

After School Clubs – from January 2024

We are excited to again team up with Huish Tigers to provide our children with opportunities to develop their sporting skills as part of our extra-curricular provision next term! Children in **Blossom** and 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 and a Football Club on Fridays. Please visit <https://store.huish.ac.uk/> where you can find out more about these clubs and book your child's place.

We are also delighted to be working with Premier Education once again in the new year to provide children in **Blossom** and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) with the opportunity to take part in a Gymnastics Club on Fridays, and children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) the chance to take part in a Gymnastics Club on Tuesdays. Please visit [Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://www.premier-education.com/) where you can find out more about these clubs and book your child's place.

Spaces are limited at all extra-curricular clubs so please do ensure you book early to avoid disappointment. Please also note that all clubs will start the **week commencing Monday 8th January 2024**.

Vocabulary Day

At the beginning of this calendar year, we held our first ever 'Vocabulary Day' with schools across Huish taking part. The children had a fantastic day and learned lots of new vocabulary. We are planning to hold another 'Vocabulary Day' on **Friday 19th January 2024!**

On this day, the children are invited to come to school dressed as a particular word. Their outfit should reflect the definition of the word as well as have the word displayed somewhere on it. However, this does not need to be an extravagant costume and just a hat, tabard or a little bit of creativity can really bring a visual representation of a word alive. There is only one rule – no nouns (naming words). There are many costume ideas available online should you need some inspiration.

The word your child chooses may be one that they have come across in a favourite book. Please support them to be adventurous in their choice and hopefully they will choose a word that no-one else has chosen!

Parents and Carers are welcome to join us at 9:00 to see a parade of Vocabulary costumes.

Following Vocabulary Day, we will collate a visual dictionary. It will have a picture of the child dressed as a word, as a visual image, and then the word and a definition.

Office Update – Please return your Data Collection Form

You should now have received a copy of your Data Collection Form, which we are asking all parents and carers to check very carefully to make sure it is accurate, make any necessary amendments and return to us by the end of term. We ask all parents and carers to carefully check all details on this form, **paying particular attention to the email address that we currently hold for you**. This is the email address that we will use to set up your account on the new MCAS app, so it is imperative that we have up-to-date details for you so we can continue to communicate once we switch off ParentMail. Please do make sure you get your Data Collection Form back to us as soon as possible or contact the School Office if you need any support.

Dates for the diary

Monday 11 th December	KS2 Christmas Carol Service (2:30pm, School Hall)
Tuesday 12 th December	House Treat (School hours, Montacute children only)
Wednesday 13 th December	Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day
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
Tuesday 2 nd January 2024	INSET Day – School and Nursery closed
Wednesday 3 rd January	First day of Spring 1
Friday 19 th January	Vocabulary Day

Finally, some personal news. I am delighted to let you that Baby Kerton made his arrival safely into the world on Thursday 7th December! Mum and baby are both doing well and a big thank you for all of your well wishes. I will be taking some time away in January on paternity leave and Mrs Marriott will take over the leadership of the School in my absence.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2024!



Matt Kerton
Headteacher

