



# Nerrols' Newsletter

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a busy couple of weeks here at Nerrols and it is hard to believe that it is nearing the end of November already! As we move into the winter and the cold weather arrives, please do make sure you wrap up warm and that your child always brings a coat to school with them. We like to make sure the children spend time outside and it is important they bring a coat to school every day just in case they need it. Please make sure your child's coat – along with any other items – are clearly named so they can be easily returned if they are misplaced.

Last Friday, our Key Stage 2 children attended the Remembrance Service at Somerset Wood within Maidenbrook Country Park. We were delighted to be invited and to be able to pay our respects at such an important time of year, and very proud of all of the children who set an exemplary standard with paying their respects. The event organiser followed up with an email regarding our children:

*"The children's manners, behaviour, verbal responses are all incredible. I have received many compliments from the Dignitaries who attended as to how impressed they were by your children. You and your teachers should be proud."*



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.co.uk/)

## Blossom, Willow and Birch Nativities – 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> December

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

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December at 10:00am	Blossom Class
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December at 10:00am	Birch Class
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> 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 to 4 per child who are 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 11<sup>th</sup> December

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 to 2 per child who are 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 our House Captains and 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.

## Christmas Pantomime Visit – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> December during the school day. There will be a small charge of £11.60 per child to cover the cost of the ticket and transport in order for the children to attend. We will set up a payment via ParentMail shortly.

## Staying Safe at Nerrols

This week, we have been taking part in Road Safety Week to help make sure our children are kept safe when using the roads. In our assembly on Monday, we explored why it is important for cars to travel slowly because of something called 'stopping distance', safe places for children to cross roads and walk or cycle away from the roads. We agreed that:

- Younger children should always hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- We should all use safe places to cross roads, such as crossings.
- We should walk or ride away from the road on paths (and wear a helmet if we are cycling to protect our head if we fall off).
- Children must sit in a special car seat to protect them when travelling by car.
- Whether we are travelling by car, on our bike or walking, we all have a responsibility to use the roads safely: **never use your phone and always travel at safe speeds.**



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

We are still finalising arrangements for other clubs and opportunities for our children and will let you know more in due course.

## Office Update – MCAS is coming!

In our last Newsletter, we let you know about a new app called My Child At School (MCAS) that we will be introducing. MCAS will be our new way of communicating with all families, as well as managing bookings for things like school lunches and Wraparound sessions and will mean that we will stop using ParentMail. Next week, you should receive a copy of your Data Collection Form, which you will need 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 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 keep an eye out for the Data Collection Form next week and get it back to us as soon as possible!

## Dates for the diary

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Friends of Nerrols Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Blossom Class Nativity (10:00am, School Hall)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Birch Class Nativity (10:00am, School Hall)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Willow Class Nativity (10:00am, School Hall)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Carol Service (2:30pm, School Hall)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	House Treat (School hours, selected children only)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school pantomime trip (School hours, Tacchi Morris)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn 2

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



Matt Kerton  
Headteacher