



Nerrols' Newsletter

1st March 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to the next edition of our Newsletter! I want to start this Newsletter by paying tribute to the children of Oak Class, who took part in Nerrols' first-ever residential visit to Charterhouse, near Cheddar, last week. This is the first-time we have taken a class of children away overnight, and for some it was also the first time they would have been away from home for that long. All of the children made us so proud with their politeness and manners, teamwork, resilience when things got a bit tough (especially in the caves!), support for one another and the overall way in which they conducted themselves. It was a pleasure to spend so much time away with them last week and we are confident that everybody had a great experience! We were able to try new and adventurous activities, which we might not have otherwise had the chance to, such as rock climbing, orienteering, exploring deep underground in the caves and high above ground in the gorge of Cheddar, which was like walking up a waterfall with the amount of rain that fell on Wednesday! The children all slept and ate well, enjoyed lots of time being children and made some memories that we are sure will stick with them for a lifetime!



Please be sure to check out @NerrolsOak and @NerrolsSchool on X (formerly known as Twitter) for more great pictures and videos from our time away!

We had such a fantastic time that we have already provisionally booked this experience again for February 2026 for our current Rowan Class (Year 4) children! We will, of course, send out more information when appropriate.



Staff Update

We are pleased to be able to let you know about a few recent additions to our team here at Nerrols. Firstly, we welcome Miss Emma Hudson who has begun her teacher training placement in Blossom Class alongside Mrs Palmer and her team. Next week, we will also be welcoming back Mrs Chimene Court-Smith, who will rejoin our Learning Support Team. Many of the children will already know Mrs Court-Smith, and we are delighted to be able to bring her back to our team after a short time working in a Nursery. We will also be welcoming Mrs Nicky Ireland, who will be joining us as a Nursery Practitioner in the next few weeks. We are excited to be growing our team across our School and Nursery and look forward to a long and successful association with our new colleagues.

Look Who's Talking!

We are thrilled that Alani (from Oak Class) recently won the Richard Huish *Look Who's Talking Competition* with her poem and presentation! A huge well done to Alani, as well as to Annabelle (from Maple Class) who reached the final, and to all of the children who took part! You can read more about our success in this competition here: [Taunton pupils take part in poetry & public speaking contest | Somerset County Gazette](#)



Bikeability

Just before the February half-term, some of our children from Oak Class had the opportunity to learn more about road safety and how to cycle safely on the road through the National Standard Cycle Training Bikeability scheme, delivered by Somerset Road Safety. This two-day course consisted of cycling activities (such as how to perform a bike check and signalling) on our playground before some on-road cycling and how to carry out manoeuvres (such as turning into a minor/major road and passing parked cars) safely.

We are once again very impressed with the approach our children took to this training opportunity, how seriously they rightly take road safety and the learning they gained from such an exercise. We are pleased to be able to offer this opportunity for our children at Nerrols and extend our appreciation to Somerset Road Safety in supporting us. Well done everyone!



National Offer Day – Secondary School

Today – Friday 1st March – is the day that parents and carers of children in Year 6 can expect to find out which secondary school their child has been offered a place at from September 2024. If you completed the application online, you will receive your outcome via email. Please do be sure to check all inbox folders, just in case your offer has ended up in a Junk folder or likewise, which can sometimes automatically happen when we receive an email from a source we don't usually receive one from. If you completed the application using a paper form, your outcome will be sent via second class post on Friday 1st March, and so it's likely you will receive it at the beginning of next week. As parents and carers of the children, it is quite common and appropriate for you to find out before we

do. If you would like to find out more about this process, please visit: [Secondary admissions guide \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://somerset.gov.uk).

Once all of the places are allocated, we will begin to meet with colleagues from across the secondary schools to discuss and support the children's transition. We will, of course, keep parents and carers updated as necessary. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to me, Miss Rapsey or a member of our school leadership team should you wish to discuss anything further.

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

We will once again be joining in with World Book Day celebrations, which this will be held on Thursday 7th March. We are challenging all the children to create a **'Book in a Jar'** to join in with this special day. Any clear jar can be used (for example, a coffee jar, jam jar or other). The children should then put in carefully selected items to represent a book of their choice. Please make sure your child's **'Book in a Jar'** is clearly labelled with the name of the book and their first name and is carefully brought into class on Thursday 7th March. A winner will then be chosen from each class. Parents are warmly invited to view the display in the Library and Hall at 3.15pm. We have included a few ideas below for inspiration, and you can find plenty more by searching online. Good luck!



Phonics Breakfast – Tuesday 16th April (8:00-8:30am)

We will be holding a Phonics Breakfast Event for parents and carers of children in Blossom and Willow Class (Reception and Year 1). This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to find out more about how they can support their child(ren) in learning to read, including watching demonstrations of teachers reading phonics books with the children. We will be making arrangements to welcome school-aged children of parents and carers attending the event into Nerrols between 8:00 and 8:30am. For now, please save this early morning start in your diaries and look out for more information soon!

Reading – Is your child stuck on reading books by the same author?

If so, have a look at this link to find a fantastic collection of books that they might enjoy from other authors and genres:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/branching-out/>



Library books

Please can we ask all parents, carers and children to check at home for any school library books that may have accidentally not yet been returned. Our children love using our School 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 all books that belong to the School and Nursery be returned once they are finished with. Our stock of non-fiction and picture books is looking particularly low at the moment.



Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March

We will be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March by joining in with Blue Peter's turning **RED**! We are asking the children and staff to come to school dressed in something red, or even 'red-to-toe' if they would like to. So, dust off your ruby slippers, pop on your lobster suit or simply don some scarlet socks - how far you take it is up to you! In exchange, we are asking for a small donation of just 50p-£1 per child if they would like to take part and to support communities in the UK and around the world.

Parents' Forum

A reminder that we are looking to select 1 parent or carer from each year group to be a representative for that year group at our Parents' Forum. Any parent or carer of children currently at Nerrols Primary School is welcome to put themselves forward to become a class representative. We will make sure we hold the meetings at different times to try to enable as many representatives to attend as possible. If you would like to put yourself forward as the representative for your child's year group, please let us know by emailing office@nr.huish.education by 3pm on Monday 4th March. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support.

Academic Calendar 2024/2025

You can now find our Academic Calendar with term dates for the 2024/2025 academic year on our website: [School Term Dates - Nerrols Primary School](#). The new academic year will start for children on Thursday 5th September 2024 and end on Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Parking

A reminder to any drivers that use the smaller road that leads to the car park entrance to our School to ensure that they drive and park respectfully and lawfully.

Online Safety – Mobile Phones

As the age of our oldest children goes up here at Nerrols, we are seeing an increase in the number of children who are bringing a mobile phone to school. We understand that more children are walking to and from school without a parent or carer in preparation for secondary school, and that having a mobile phone on them can help to keep them safe. Our approach at Nerrols is that if children do need to bring a mobile phone into school, it is switched off and handed in at the start of the day to our Main Office and collected at the end of the day. We ask parents and carers to remind their children of our expectations where necessary.

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.

Office Update

We are delighted that MCAS is now being rolled out for all school parents and can see that lots of families have managed to successfully access their accounts. We will be starting to migrate over to MCAS for bookings and parent communication in readiness for switching off ParentMail. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to download the app and familiarise yourself with it as soon as possible to ensure you do not miss any important information and updates.

Dates for the diary

Monday 4 th March	Deadline for Parents' Forum interest
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – 'Book in a Jar'
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day (see above)
Tuesday 26 th March	House Treat (School hours, winning House children only)
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of Spring 2
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday Bank Holiday – School and Nursery closed
Monday 15 th April	First day of Summer 1
Tuesday 16 th April	Phonics Breakfast Event, 8:00-8:30am (see above)

I wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing you next week to celebrate World Book Day!



Matt Kerton
Headteacher