



Nerrols' Newsletter

14th March 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope this latest edition of our Newsletter finds you well, and at a time when it seems as though spring is upon us. The lighter mornings and evenings, as well as the sunnier and warmer weather, can help us all to feel healthier, rejuvenated and refreshed as we welcome the pleasant changes this time of year brings. Last Monday, I spoke to all of the children in our Whole School Assembly about spring, and how it is not only associated with the birth of plants and animals, but also how it can encourage us all to spend more time outside breathing in the fresh air.

I would also like to take the time to recognise the fantastic response to our 'Book in a Jar' event as a way of celebrating World Book Day last week! I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all parents and carers who supported their children with this idea as another way of promoting a love of reading. It is clear that we have some wonderfully creative children and sharing all of their jars brought a real feel-good factor to the day and our school once again. I would also like to thank Mrs Palmer, who helped to come up with the idea and organise the events of the day! To continue to promote a love of reading, we also held special House Assemblies where the children could listen to a story read by an adult they might not usually get the opportunity to hear read, as well as produce some artwork in the style of selected illustrators as we continue to promote the arts as part of our improvement priorities. Finally, don't forget to continue to support our children to read as part of our 'Ready, Steady, Read (or Listen)' event and beyond to help promote a lifetime love for books and further academic success across the curriculum. You should have received a letter about our 'Ready, Steady, Read (or Listen)' initiative, which was also introduced to the children in an Assembly this week.





Staff Update

We are pleased to be able to welcome Miss Abi Nichols to Nerrols as part of Administration Team in our Main Office. Some of you may have already spoken to Abi, and if not yet I am sure you will do soon as she settles into life with us. We are excited to be able to grow our Administration Team and look forward to a long and successful association with our new colleague.

Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March (Tomorrow!)

A reminder that we will be celebrating Red Nose Day **tomorrow** 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.



Our very own Mrs Traynor will be coming dressed as a Red Copper Queen, and so if you do have any old coppers lying around or down the back of the sofa that you are able to donate please do search her out throughout the day!

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. Please would you let us know if you are planning to attend this event via the ParentMail Form that has been sent out by Tuesday 26th March.

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/>



Parents' Forum

We are delighted to be able to let you know that we have now selected a representative for Blossom and Oak Class to be part of our Parents' Forum. I will be meeting these parents and carers towards the end of this term to discuss their experiences of life at Nerrols so far and how we might go about making this even better! We are grateful for such support!

If any parents or carers from any of remaining classes would like to put themselves forward to play a part in shaping the direction of the School and Nursery, we would love to hear from you. Please email office@nr.huish.education or pop in and speak to us.

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 – Tik Tok

Our Online Safety update this time is centred around the video community app TikTok. Firstly, this app has an age-restriction of 13 years and so none of our children at Nerrols should have an account. We are, however, aware that some of our children do have an account and have attached an Online Safety Guide to share everything parents and carers need to know about this app, including some of the risks and tips for managing your children's online behaviour. We encourage all of our parents and carers to regularly discuss their children's online habits and behaviours with them as a way of helping to keep them safe.



Attendance and Holiday requests – updated guidance

You may have seen updated guidance released recently by the Department for Education (DfE) regarding attendance, which will come into effect from the beginning of the next academic year. Amongst other changes, there will be a rise in absence fines payable by parents and carers from £60 to £80 (or £160 if not paid within 21 days) for children with low attendance. Furthermore, the mandatory information released by the government explains that a fine must be considered if a pupil has 5 days of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. This means that parents and carers run the risk of being fined if they choose to take a holiday in term time, as well as any other unauthorised leave for birthdays or other special occasions. 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

A reminder that **the final day of the spring term is Thursday 28th March** since the School and Nursery will be closed on Friday 29th March for the Good Friday Bank Holiday. The Nursery will reopen on Tuesday 2nd April after the Easter weekend, whilst the School will reopen on Monday 15th April after the Easter holidays.

School meals will shortly be available to be ordered for after the Easter break. Please can we politely remind all parents and carers wishing to order a meal for their child from the first day of the summer term to ensure they have done this by Tuesday 26th March.

Dates for the diary

Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day (see above)
Tuesday 26 th March	Deadline for ordering school meals
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)
Monday 6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday – School and Nursery closed

I wish you all a great weekend when it arrives and look forward to seeing you soon!



Matt Kerton
Headteacher