



Nerrols' Newsletter

26th January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I hope the new calendar year has started well for you and that you're back into the swing of school life. After having some time away from school on paternity leave, it's been really great seeing everybody this week and settling back in.

During Monday's assembly, I spoke to all of the children about the importance of regular attendance at school. At Nerrols, **we expect our children to be in school every day unless they are really not well enough to be**. There are lots of reasons why being in school **every day** is important, including helping children to improve their self-esteem and to grow in confidence, making and maintaining friendships, helping them to learn better and helping them prepare for regular attendance in the workplace. We discussed how getting enough sleep, eating a healthy breakfast and being ready to leave the house on time in the morning can all help to be in school each day and on time.

We know that this time of year can often bring an increase in colds and illnesses, which can impact children's attendance. We know it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or nursery when they are unwell, and there are government guidelines about managing specific diseases which you can find out more about here: [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education). If your child has a common cold or minor cough, **it is fine to send them to school**. Please help us to encourage good hygiene practice by reminding the children to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. If you think that your child is well enough to go to school or nursery but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, please let their teacher know.



If you do decide to keep your child at home, it's important to let us know on the first and every subsequent day of illness. Please do make use of our absence voicemail service to let us know your child's name, class and reason for absence by ringing 01823 792655. We do remind parents and carers that if your child has a high temperature they should be kept off school until it goes away, and that they should be kept off school for 48 hours after any last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. This is so that they can make a full recovery before returning to school and so that such illnesses do not spread and impact more children's attendance and learning or result in avoidable staff absences.

Attached to this week's Newsletter is a poster entitled '*Should I keep my child off school?*', which we hope you will find helpful should you need it.

Staff Update

We share the news that Robyn, our Nursery Manager, will be leaving Nerrols Nursery later in the spring to pursue a new challenge away from education and childcare. Robyn has continually shown

herself to be a fantastic leader of our Nursery provision and has been instrumental in the success we have achieved in providing high-quality education for our youngest children. Undoubtedly, she will be missed by our staff, children and families.

We are pleased to be able to also let you know that we have appointed Donna Kershaw to replace Robyn as Nursery Manager. Donna joins us with a wealth of experience and strong track record of providing high-quality care and education for young children. Donna will be visiting us over the upcoming weeks to get to know our community more and meet with Robyn to complete a thorough handover to ensure a smooth transition. Donna will become the Nursery Manager for both Nerrols and Lyngford Park Nursery.

We will let you know any further information regarding this appointment in due course and as necessary. I am sure you will join me in thanking Robyn for her time spent with us, as well as welcoming Donna to the Nerrols community should you see her over the next few weeks.

Parents' Evening

We will be holding our spring term Parents' Evening on the evenings of Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February (timings of both evenings are 3:30pm-6:00pm). This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's learning and development with their class teacher and we look forward to seeing all of you there. Class teachers will have the appointment sheets for parents and carers to sign up and these are available at the beginning and end of the school day from Monday.

Parents' Forum

I have spoken regularly about how important it is for us all to work together to help ensure the very best for our children. One of the ways I would like to continue this commitment is to try again to set up a Parents' Forum – a partnership between parents and carers and Nerrols Primary School and Nursery. I believe this could be a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement. It will give parents and carers the opportunity to get together on a regular basis (probably half-termly) with other parents and carers – as well as myself and other members of staff depending on the agenda items and what we feel we would like to share, such as new initiatives – to have a say on what Nerrols is doing well and suggest ideas of how things could be improved. The meetings would be informal but minutes would be taken so that others know what is being discussed. It is, however, not the forum to discuss concerns or complaints involving individual children, families or members of staff.

We are looking to select 1 parent or carer from each year group to be a representative for that year group at the 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

We are still finalising the details of our 2024/2025 academic calendar and will share this with our community by the end of this half-term. We can confirm that the new academic year will start for children on Thursday 5th September 2024.

Staying Safe at Nerrols

Parents and carers are reminded to ensure their children use the zebra crossing to enter and exit school safely, and that they avoid walking through the car park. Under no circumstances should children enter the site on foot via the car park entrance.

Sadly, we have had complaints around inappropriate language being used by some parents and carers on and around the school site. Please be courteous and consider the language that is being used on our site and around our children. We appreciate that there are some words that may be acceptable at home that might not be acceptable at school (or other places) and that different places have different rules. At school, we do not swear.



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.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our school uniform expectations. Details of our uniform requirements can be found on our website ([School Uniform - Nerrols Primary School](#)) Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the appropriate uniform, including their school tie, and brings their P.E. kit as usual.

Dates for the diary

Friday 26 th January	FON Cake Sale (contributions from Maple Class)
Friday 2 nd February	FON School Discos
Monday 5 th February	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Tuesday 6 th February	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Thursday 8 th February	Last day of Spring 1
Friday 9 th February	INSET Day – School closed (Nursery remains open)
Monday 19 th February	First day of Spring 2
Monday 4 th March	Deadline for Parents' Forum interest

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher