



Nerrols' Newsletter

28th March 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I would like to start the last Newsletter of the spring term by wishing all of our families a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break. It has been a very busy term for all of our children and staff here at Nerrols, in which we have celebrated *Vocabulary Day*, *World Book Day* and *Ready, Steady, Read (or Listen)* to continue promoting a love of reading, raised money for our school through fantastic Friends of Nerrols events such as cake sales and our *Love Yourself* Disco and for communities across the UK during Red Nose Day, and, of course, taken our children from Oak Class on Nerrols' first-ever overnight Residential Visit to Charterhouse! I hope everybody gets a chance to relax and recharge over the upcoming break and returns to school ready for another jam-packed term full of learning and opportunity! A reminder that School resumes on Monday 15th April 2024, and that our Nursery reopens after the Easter Monday bank holiday.

Staff Update

After taking some time away from work, we share that Mr Bethell has resigned from Nerrols due to ongoing family responsibilities. We have accepted this resignation and have agreed to him leaving us effective immediately. We would like to place on record our thanks to Mr Bethell for his contributions to the children, families and wider Nerrols community and wish him the very best for the future.

We are pleased to also be able to let you know that we have appointed Miss Georgia Wood to our teaching team from September 2024. Many of you will already know Miss Wood, who had recently been completing a placement in Willow Class as part of her teacher training course, and we are delighted to be able to welcome Miss Wood back to our team in the near future.

Red Nose Day

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who helped us raise important money on Red Nose Day earlier this month. By turning **RED** for the day, we were able to raise £97.55 (plus a few extra coppers thanks to our Red Copper Queen) to help support communities in the UK and around the world.



House Treat!

Congratulations to the children and staff of **Hestercombe House**, who were this term's House winners and celebrated this week with an Egg Hunt around our school (inside due to the bad weather) and Easter arts and crafts. We are proud of all of our children for continually demonstrating our Nerrols' values of *Be kind, Work hard and Try your best!*

Ready, Steady, Read (or Listen)!

We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to everyone who participated in our recent sponsored reading challenge! We loved hearing all of the children talking so enthusiastically about reading, sharing their goals, and seeing how proud they were with the number of minutes they spent reading!



Across the School and Nursery, we read and listened for an amazing 12,971 minutes, which far exceeded our target of 10,000 minutes! That's around 216 hours of enjoying stories and books with our family, friends or even by ourselves!

We were also blown away by the generous donations from our community and were ecstatic to discover that we raised a fantastic £1550! This means that, with Usborne's 60% extra contribution, we now have £2,488 to spend on brand new books for the children of Nerrols Primary School and Nursery!

I would like to express my genuine appreciation to each and every one of you who were able to support our children in continuing to foster a love of reading and to raise important funds for our school. I would also like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to Mrs Perry from Willow Class, who has been instrumental in organising such a great event for our children to enjoy!,

Football at Nerrols

We were delighted to be able to give our key stage two children an opportunity to represent our school in football tournaments and matches earlier this week! All of our children demonstrated a fantastic attitude during the matches and should feel extremely proud of how they performed and conducted themselves throughout. It was great to be able to give them this chance and we are also grateful to the other schools across our Trust who we played against. Well done to everyone involved, and as far as I'm aware a moment of history was created as Rosie scored our goal in a competitive match during our Year 5/6 match on Tuesday against North Town!



Supporting children's BIG feelings and Test Wellbeing

Would you like to know more about supporting your child's or teen's emotions or how to support them through tests and exams? If so, please see the flyers attached to this week's Newsletter from the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) regarding free online workshops for parents and carers. We are proud to work alongside the MHST service and encourage our community to make the most of such support.

Water and water bottles at school

We remind parents and carers to make sure their children always bring a drinks bottle to school with them already filled with water, which they can also refill during the day. The Eatwell Guide recommends that we should aim to drink between 6-8 glasses of water a day, and that the best drinks to give children are water and milk. The NHS website recommends that children should avoid sugary fizzy drinks, squash and juice drinks completely.



Water	Fizzy drinks, Squash or Flavoured Water
Has NO calories	All have more sugar in them
The best drink at helping our bodies keep a normal temperature	Can lead to children becoming overweight
Cheaper	Can cause increased damage to children's teeth
	Most flavoured waters contain artificial sweeteners and are acidic



It is for all these reasons that children **must only bring water to school in their bottle**. For children who do not bring a bottle to school, there will always be water available for them to drink throughout the day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of some of our further expectations around drinking water and water bottles at Nerrols:

- Our children are, of course, allowed to drink from their water bottle throughout lesson time. To not allow them to do so would be counter-productive to what we are trying to achieve. Our teachers are aware of the health benefits of regularly drinking water, some of which I have referred to above, and recognise that children who are well-hydrated find it easier to concentrate on their learning and to work hard.
- Children's water bottles are kept at the side of their classroom and not on their desks. This is because it helps to ensure the children do not become distracted by their water bottle, so that they can maintain concentration and focus on their learning and so they do not spill their water and spoil their work (or that of the person sitting next to them).
- We expect our children to actively listen to their teacher whilst they are teaching, or those who are speaking, and so are not allowed to leave their seat for a drink during such time. There might be the odd occasion when children are not allowed to drink from their bottle if they try to at an inappropriate time, however this will only be for that small amount of time and does not mean they are 'not allowed to drink water at all'. Again, this is to help them concentrate on their learning and so that they don't miss important information or instruction.
- We also encourage our children to use our water fountains at break and lunchtimes and to help themselves to water in the Lunch Hall, which is always available via the jugs and cups placed on their tables.

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 welcome school-aged children of parents and carers attending the event into Nerrols between 8:00 and 8:30am.

Year 6 SATs Meeting – Thursday 18th April (3:30pm)

We will be holding a meeting for parents and carers of children in Year 6 to share some important information ahead of the children's upcoming end of key stage two tests (more commonly known as SATs). The meeting will take place on Thursday 18th April at 3:30pm in Oak Class, and will be led by Miss Rapsey. We will send out an invitation via ParentMail shortly so that parents and carers can respond and to help us plan for the meeting.

A reminder that the tests for our Year 6 children will take place during the week commencing Monday 13th May 2024. It is vital that all Year 6 children are in school during this week so that they can demonstrate their learning, feel good about completing the tests like all other Year 6 children across the country and do their very best!

After School Clubs – Summer Term 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 (**please note the change of days**)! Children in Blossom and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will be able to take part in a Football Club after school on Wednesdays, 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 Thursdays. 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 from Years 1-6 the chance to take part in a Performing Arts Dance Club on Tuesdays. Please visit [Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://www.nerrolsprimaryschool.com/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.

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

After the Easter break, we will be taking the next step with our migration over to MCAS and will be launching Wrap Around bookings via the app. Please ensure that you have the MCAS app downloaded and are able to access it correctly. This will ensure you do not miss any important deadlines or messages as we begin to move away from ParentMail. If you encounter any issues, please email the school office and we will be able to assist you.

Please also note that the deadline has now passed for ordering a school lunch for the first week back after the Easter break. Although ParentMail will still allow you to book in, please note that our reports have now been completed and sent to the kitchen. If you have not yet booked a hot dinner for the first week back, you will be asked to provide a packed lunch.

The school office inbox will not be monitored over the Easter break. For any urgent safeguarding concerns, please contact Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224. We will deal with all other queries upon our return to school.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 28 th March	Last day of Spring 2
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday Bank Holiday – School and Nursery closed
Tuesday 2 nd April	Nursery reopens
Monday 15 th April	First day of Summer 1
Tuesday 16 th April	Phonics Breakfast Event, 8:00-8:30am (see above)
Thursday 18 th April	Year 6 SATs Meeting, 3:30pm (see above)
Monday 6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday – School and Nursery closed

I wish you all a great Easter break and look forward to seeing you when school resumes on Monday 15th April for the summer term!



Matt Kerton
Headteacher