

Nerrols' Newsletter

20th September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a very busy first couple of weeks to the new school year here at Nerrols, and I hope you all are back into the swing of school life! It has been great to see all of the children settling into their new classrooms, getting to know the new adults that will be supporting them with their learning as well as reconnecting with their friends and continuing to display our Nerrols values:

Be kind

Work hard

Try your best

I would like to strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend our upcoming 'Class Expectations Meetings', which will be taking place after school **next week** across a variety of evenings. This will be an important opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher, as well as to find out more about our learning, attendance and communication expectations and even more ways in which you can support your child's learning journey with us. Please see our **Dates for the Diary** section at the bottom of this Newsletter for the date and time of your child's meeting, which we have tried to stagger as best as possible so that those of you with children in different year groups can hopefully attend all the meetings you need to! On the afternoon of your child's meeting, there will also be a creche facility available for Nerrols school-aged children only. I sincerely hope you can join us!

Playtimes at Nerrols – Four Square!

As part of our Quality Improvement Priority of improving our children's playtimes, you may have noticed some changes to our playground environment. Over the summer holidays we added two grids to our playground to enable children to have a permanent space to play the popular playtime game 'Four Square'. Mr Templeton shared the Nerrols Four Square rules in a recent Assembly, which include children starting the game with Player 4 saying, 'Nerrols Four Square, are you ready?' before they serve the ball. To ensure that every child from Reception to Year 6 can access and enjoy the game, Mr Templeton also demonstrated how to adapt the game in different ways and, if children want to challenge themselves, they can even try versions such as 'Spinball' and 'Flamingo'!



Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) - Parent Group Meeting

We are excited to announce the launch of our first Parent Group, which is part of the pilot program for the new Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project.

Neurodiversity refers to the range of differences in the way people's brains work. There's no one "correct" way for the brain to work; instead, there are a wide range of ways that people perceive and respond to the world. Neurodivergence can take many forms, such as ADHD, ASD/C, Dyslexia, or Dyspraxia. The project aims to bring health and education specialists, as well as expert parent carers, into our school to support positive outcomes for neurodivergent children and their families.

This group will provide an opportunity for you to learn about the project, understand the purpose of the forum, and contribute to deciding the future focus of the groups. All parents are invited to participate, not just those whose children have a medical diagnosis. We hope that these groups will be a place for parents to meet others and share their experiences.

The first session will take place in school on Monday, September 23rd, from 9:15 to 10:45. We look forward to welcoming you.

Parents' Forum

Our next Parents' Forum Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st October, where we will be discussing ways in which we can improve communication. We believe that clear and open communication between us and parents and carers has a positive impact on our children's learning because it:

- ✓ Gives parents and carers the information they need to support their child's education
- ✓ Helps us to improve, through feedback and consultation with parents and carers
- ✓ Builds trust between home and school, which helps us all to better support each child's educational and pastoral needs.

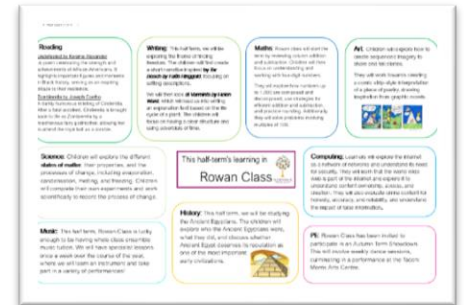
Attached to this week's Newsletter is a new Communication Policy that we have produced. This policy is **still in draft form**, and we invite parents and carers to read it and let us have their views by taking the time to complete the survey in the relevant table below, which we will use to discuss at our next Parents' Forum Meeting and improve the way in which we all communicate. The surveys will close at 9:00am on Tuesday 1st October, and Representatives will also be available to speak to in person after drop-off and before collection on Wednesday 25th September, if you would prefer to communicate your views in this way.

Class	Parents' Forum Class Representative	Communication Survey Link
Blossom (YR)		
Willow (Y1)	Richard (Mikey's dad)	https://forms.office.com/e/rbn7tAbGFw
Birch (Y2)		
Maple (Y3)	Sarah (Ella's mum)	https://forms.office.com/e/viv2RWvh4q
Rowan (Y4)	Kate (Annabelle's mum)	https://forms.office.com/e/gDa3aAjMuP
Hazel (Y5)	Sarah (Thomas's mum)	https://forms.office.com/e/pLtkmMyr25
Oak (6)	Sonya (Alani's mum)	https://forms.office.com/e/mBCJzUiPU5

You'll see that we currently do not have any Class Representatives from our new Blossom or Birch Classes, and invite any parents or carers from these classes who are keen to help share ideas, views and concerns and to play a part in shaping the direction of the School and Nursery to please get in touch as soon as possible. Please feel free to speak to me on the playground before or after school, or email office@nr.huish.education. We would love to hear from you!

Curriculum Focus: What is my child learning about at school?

Following feedback from parents and carers through our Parents' Forum, you should have recently received an 'Autumn Term 1 Overview' document that details what your child will be learning about across the curriculum, which we hope you find useful in supporting your child and talking to them about their education.





On the second page of the document, you should also find some ideas that you may wish to complete at home with your child to support them with their learning. We are aiming to develop a culture in which homework is viewed as an extension of our children's learning, which will also allow them opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge within different subjects and for parents and carers to be involved in promoting discussion around different topics.

To celebrate this extension of learning, we will hold a 'Fair' on the last Wednesday of each half-term. Parents will be invited to attend the Fair to celebrate and explore the range and depth of children's extended learning, which will encourage children's intrinsic motivation to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Homework will therefore not be rewarded in traditional methods (for example, by receiving house points) and it will not be 'marked' by class teachers. Our intention is to use this subject homework as discussion points, driven by the children's interests within a subject.

This half-term's Homework Fair will be held on **Wednesday 23rd October** at 15:00 with a focus on **Art**. Please can your child bring in their homework on the morning of **Wednesday 23rd October** to enable us to set up the fair during the day. We look forward to seeing you and your children there!

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.

After School Clubs – from September 2024

We are delighted to be able to let you know about our plans to provide our children with opportunities to be physically active as part of our extra-curricular provision this year!

Day	After School Club (3:30pm-4:30pm)	Further Details
Mondays	Y1-Y4 Gymnastics (Premier Education)	Begins Monday 9 th September Booking: Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education (premier-education.com)
Tuesdays	Y2-Y6 Dodgeball (Premier Education)	Begins Tuesday 10 th September Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education (premier-education.com)
Wednesdays	Y1-2 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Begins Wednesday 25 th September Book now on MCAS!
Thursdays	Y3-4 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Begins Thursday 26 th September Book now on MCAS!
Fridays	Y5-6 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Begins Friday 27 th September Book now on MCAS!

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST

Staying Safe at Nerrols

To help ensure that we keep everyone in our community as safe as possible, I would like to politely remind those who bring bikes or scooters to school to dismount and push them throughout the site rather than ride them. There have been a couple of near misses recently and ensuring our children push their bikes and scooters will further ensure everybody's safety. It is with regret that we are also unable to accommodate e-bikes or e-scooters on our school site due to fire risks associated with their batteries. If your child wishes to ride their e-bike or e-scooter, it must be left outside of the school site and taken home by parents and carers.



It is also our approach to keep the external gates to our school locked during the school day to further ensure our children's safety. Please can I ask that parents and carers do not buzz the main gate to be let into the school site to collect their children at the end of the school day. The main gate will automatically unlock at 3:05pm, which we believe is plenty of time for parents and carers to make their way to their child's class ready for the end of the school day at 3:15pm.

Finally, a further reminder that parents and carers are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children in all situations before 8:45am and after 3:15pm (the times of our school day), including if they allow their children to play. The School takes no responsibility for any injuries, accidents or incidents with other children that happen before or after such times when the children are in the care of their parents and carers. This applies to all children, including those who arrive at, or leave, school unsupervised, since such arrangements are decisions made by parents and carers and their permission has been granted. All children must be ready to enter the School when the bell rings at 8:45am.

Filming and Photography at Nerrols

On Thursday of next week (26th September), we will be welcoming a professional photographer to Nerrols to film and take some pictures of our children at school in order to update our website and other promotional material. Please be reassured that only children for whom we have image consent from their parents and carers will be included in the final version of any footage released, in line with Pupil Images Policy, and that any disruption to the children's learning will be kept to a minimum. The filming will include our children learning, playing, making use of our facilities and perhaps even arriving or leaving the site at the beginning or end of the day. Therefore, parents and carers might find themselves in some of the photographs or clips, but if anybody would rather not appear please do feel free to speak with a member of school staff or the photographer himself on Thursday.

Office Update

Parents and carers who wish to make use of our Wraparound Provision, either before or after school, must ensure that all balances are cleared by the end of each month and before they are able to make any future bookings. Our MCAS app will not allow you to book any further Wraparound sessions if your account has fallen into a negative balance, whilst any parents or carers who use paper forms to book sessions will not be able to do so until all balances are cleared. We are communicating our expectations around booking Wraparound sessions to avoid any disappointment or frustration when this service is needed the most and appreciate your understanding with this matter.

Dates for the diary

Monday 23 rd September	PINS Parent Group Meeting (9:15am-10:45am)
Tuesday 24 th September	Willow and Birch Class Expectations Meetings (Classrooms, 3:15pm-3:45pm)
Wednesday 25 th September	Maple and Rowan Class Expectations Meetings (Classrooms, 3:15pm-3:45pm)
Thursday 26 th September	Hazel and Oak Class Expectations Meetings (Classrooms, 3:15pm-3:45pm)
Wednesday 2 nd October	Harvest Festival Assembly
Monday 14 th October	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Tuesday 15 th October	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 15 th October	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Wednesday 16 th October	Tempest Individual Photographs
Wednesday 23 rd October	Art Fair (School Hall, 3:00pm)
Thursday 24 th October	Class Music Performances
Thursday 24 th October	FON Halloween Discos
Friday 25 th October	Last day of Autumn 1
Monday 4 th November	INSET Day – School closed to children
Tuesday 5 th November	First day of Autumn 2
Thursday 14 th November	Reception Class 2025 Open Morning (9:30am)

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher