

# Nerrols' Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Nerrols Newsletter! I would like to begin by thanking all of you who took the time to share your views regarding the ways in which we all communicate by completing our latest survey, which was also accompanied by our new Communication Policy to give everybody even more clarity and information. The responses to our survey, as well as the informal feedback that was provided by you to our Parents' Forum Class Representatives, was overwhelmingly positive about how we communicate and what our expectations of everybody in our community are. One of the things that concerns parents and carers more is knowing who to talk to in the first instance, and so we have produced a flow diagram which is included at the bottom of this week's Newsletter that I hope you will find useful. Through our Newsletter, we will continue to provide reminders about communication to best ensure our whole community feels as informed and up to date as possible.

I would also like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' to the Class Representatives of our Parents' Forum for taking the time to collect the views of the parents and carers in their child's class and meet with me to discuss them earlier this week. I can see first-hand that they are making a huge difference to the way in which Nerrols operates now and into the future! You can find out more about our Parents' Forum group in the section below, including the theme and date of our next meeting!

## New House Captains!

We are delighted to let everybody know our new House Captains for the school year have been chosen! Our new Captains will be expected to lead House Assemblies, collect and announce House Points as well as act as overall role models throughout all aspects of school life. The children were awarded their House Badges during a recent Celebration Assembly, and we are grateful to the parents and carers who were able to join us to celebrate with them.



**Our 2024-2025 House Captains are:**

**Hestercombe House: Daisy and Izzy**

**Barrington House: Evie-Pearl and Sirisay**

**Montacute House: Thomas and Mila**

**Dillington House: Emmalia and Bella**

We believe that being a House Captain is a tremendous achievement, which is only possible through consistent demonstration of our Nerrols Values: *Be kind, Work hard and Try your best*. We are in no doubt that during their whole time at Nerrols our new House Captains have done this and will continue to do so. We hope they make the most of their latest opportunity and look forward to seeing how they can add even more value to the Nerrols community! Congratulations to them all!

## Quality Improvement Priority: Playtimes at Nerrols

During this week's Assembly, we began to look at using our Wild Area (next to the 3G Pitch) during lunchtimes. This is an area that has not historically been used as part of playtimes, and we are excited to be able to start allowing the children to explore and play there! A significant part of our Quality Improvement Priority of improving children's playtimes is improving their understanding of risk. We introduced how we are going to expand the use of our grounds at lunchtimes by allowing the children onto the Wild Area. This was followed by looking at different features (e.g. logs and insects) and carefully considering any risks that might arise, such as tripping over a log and how to minimise disturbance to any wildlife. We finished the assembly by agreeing to some simple rules such as 'have fun but be safe' and making sure you dress appropriately for the weather. It has been great to see the children spending some of their lunchtimes making use of the Wild Area, including hunting for insects and making bug hotels! With the weather likely to change in the upcoming weeks, the children have been reminded and encouraged to bring wellies which they will be allowed to change into if they think the grass is too wet!

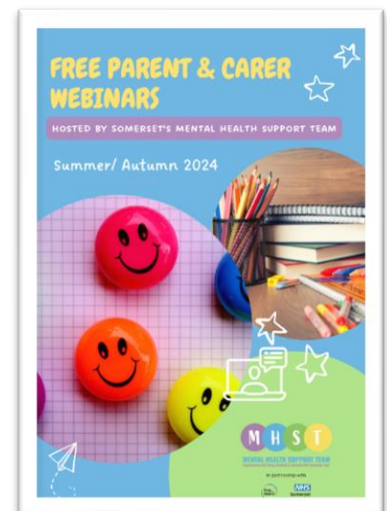


## Quality Improvement Priority: Meeting all our children's needs

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent coffee morning, hosted by Rachel from the Somerset Parent Carer Forum as part of the pilot program for the new Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) Project. Our next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, and more information about this will be shared shortly. All parents and carers are invited to attend, and we hope that these groups will be a place for you to meet others, seek advice and guidance and share your experiences.

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars this Autumn. The Webinars will cover a range of subjects aimed at helping parents and carers to understand and support their children with their feelings and emotions. Autumn topics will include:

- Supporting your child's mental health & wellbeing
- Supporting your child's big feelings
- Understanding & supporting anxiety & low mood



Delivered by the Somerset Mental Health Support Team, these sessions take place online for one hour and are run across the Autumn term during the day and in the evenings. To find out more and register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/mhstwebinars2024>

## Class Expectations Meetings

A big 'Thank you' to the parents and carers who were able to attend our recent Class Expectations Meetings to find out more about the school year! For those of you who couldn't make it this time, we have sent out a copy of the presentation slides that were discussed for your information.

## Mrs Palmer's Regular Read

You may already know but I am really rather fond of reading and I talk about it a lot! In these pieces, I aim to provide thought provoking comments and advice. I think I should give an advance warning that you may may not agree with what I write, you may think that that I am teaching you to suck eggs and even being a bit of a nag, but I promise that all that I write is written with the best interests of your child at heart. It will come from a place of knowing how life is as a working parent but also appreciating the impact regular reading can have.



### Does your child struggle to concentrate?

If so, they are not alone. It is well documented that, in recent years, more and more children find it hard to stay focussed. Technology has been blamed, which could be true, but could it be that children are just reading less? Did you know that regular reading will help to build their ability to concentrate for longer. Reading, and especially comprehension, requires you to concentrate and focus as the brain must actively engage with text to understand and process the information. This, in turn, helps teach the brain how to concentrate which is essential for academic success and is transferrable to other aspects of their lives. Learning to read isn't easy and it takes regular practise and as said, concentration. Even sitting down with a book to read to your child can be a challenge for restless or reluctant readers who struggle to pay attention whilst being read aloud to. So how can we help children to remain focussed to develop the habit of reading and in turn, benefit from better concentration in all areas of their academic and home lives?

Here are four top tips to help concentration and focus when reading.

- 1. Break it down:** Break down reading into smaller, more regular sessions (especially for younger children in Reception and Year 1). If this isn't possible, spend 10 minutes, stop and do another 5. In the middle get them to stop, put down the book and do ten star jumps or run on the spot.
- 2. Observe optimal times:** A child's level of focus and alertness can change dramatically over the course of the day. Observe which time of the day your child is most ready and prepared to sit down and focus on reading. It could be early morning, straight after school, after dinner. I realise this might not be the best time for you. One of my children could only concentrate in the morning. This meant getting super organised the night before and, hand on heart, I couldn't make it work 100% of the time – but I did try.
- 3. Distraction free:** Your child is much more likely to concentrate in a comfortable and quiet place without toys, an iPad or the television.
- 4. Encourage Physical Activity:** Educational experts have long made the link between physical activity and improved concentration levels. Before your child sits down to read, encourage them to engage in a game or run around outside. It might be that just the walk home from school is enough to 'wake up' their mind.

The teachers at Nerrols are all believers of the benefits and importance of reading. Please reach out to your child's teacher for advice and support about reading and books.

## Nursery Update

The children at Nerrols Nursery have been enjoying exploring all things autumnal as part of their new focus this month! Using their fine motor skills and developing their colour recognition, the children have used real flowers to support their own interpretations of flowers as well as using cotton buds as paintbrushes! The children have also used leaves to create their autumnal pictures and explored hedgehogs and their habitats to make their very own from playdough. Their tastebuds have also been ignited by baking their very own cookies! Learning opportunities like this not only allow our children to develop their culinary skills, but also to use their amazing maths knowledge to measure and weigh ingredients, using vocabulary such as 'heavy' and 'light'! The children have even been able to use pumpkins and spiders to enhance their learning and keep in with the autumn theme!



## Parents' Forum

Earlier this week, I met with the Class Representatives at our Parents' Forum Meeting to discuss all things communication! The feedback received was really positive, and we will be pressing ahead with the ways in which we communicate with our community whilst also taking on board, and acting upon, the feedback we have received by incorporating it into our new Communication Policy.

At the meeting, our Class Representatives and I agreed that we would like to focus on involving our **community** more in school life, including after school clubs, what families would like from the Nerrols Holiday Clubs that we will be starting this year and even more ways that we can come together as a community to celebrate our children's achievements and support their education. With that in mind, we will be holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November and warmly invite all parents and carers to join us and share their views about community involvement. We will once again be asking you to complete a survey to let us have your views, but also hope that this informal way of sharing thoughts and ideas will mean even more people feel confident to have their say. I hope you can join us!

## 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)	Booking: <a href="https://premier-education.com">Nerrols Primary School – Premier Education (premier-education.com)</a>
Wednesdays	Y1-2 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Book now on MCAS!
Thursdays	Y3-4 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Book now on MCAS!
Fridays	Y5-6 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Book now on MCAS!

## Harvest Assembly

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our Harvest Assembly on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 10:45am in the School Hall. Due to the availability of our Reverend, we have moved this assembly to later in the term and apologise for any inconvenience caused. We kindly ask that the children bring in any non-perishable food (or household) items on the morning of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, which will be donated to our local food bank. Such items may include cereal, tinned fruit or vegetables, squash, tea, sugar or pasta. Your support with this is, as ever, very much appreciated.

## Office Update

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October (both 3:30pm-6:00pm), parents and carers will have the opportunity to talk with their child's class teacher at our autumn term Parents' Evenings. This important opportunity will allow parents and carers the chance to find out more about how their child has settled into their new class, how they are getting on with their learning and to ask any questions they might have. This year, bookings for the Parents' Evening sessions will be available through MCAS and should now be live. We kindly request that parents and carers book one meeting per child, with each meeting lasting 10 minutes. If you have any difficulties booking a Parents' Evening appointment, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## Dates for the diary

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm) – see above for booking details!
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm) – see above for booking details!
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Tempest Individual Photographs
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	New Date: Harvest Festival Assembly (10:45am)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Art Fair (School Hall, 3:00pm)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Class Music Performances
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	FON Halloween Discos
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of Autumn 1
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	INSET Day – School closed to children
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	First day of Autumn 2
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Community Coffee Morning (8:45am, School Hall)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Class 2025 Open Morning (9:30am)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need 2024!
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Class 2025 Open Morning (9:30am)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Blossom Class Nativity performances (10:00am and 5:30pm)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Willow & Birch Class Nativity performances (10:00am and 5:30pm)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Maple & Rowan Class Christmas Carol Concert (5:30pm)
Week Commencing Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Craft Open Mornings (9:30am-11:00am)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Hazel & Oak Class Christmas Carol Concert (5:30pm)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Pantomime Trip (Tacchi Morris)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn 2

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



Matt Kerton  
Headteacher

## Communication Flowchart (taken from our Communication Policy: Appendix 2)

### Step 1

Your first and main point of contact is always **your child's class teacher**. You should speak with them if you have any questions or would like to share any concerns you have about your child's learning or experiences at our school.

The best way to do this is by speaking with them at the start (8:40am-8:45am) or end (3:15pm-3:25pm) of the school day.



### Step 2

If you are still concerned or would like to talk in private, you should ask to arrange a meeting or phone call with **your child's class teacher**. This will be arranged at a mutually convenient time and will give you more time to explain things.

The best way to do this is to either arrange the meeting or phone call directly with your child's class teacher or by contacting the School Office.



### Step 3a

If, after meeting with your child's class teacher, you are still concerned you should ask to arrange a meeting with our **SENDCo** if your concern is related to SEND.

The best way to do this is to contact the School Office.



### Step 3b

If, after meeting with your child's class teacher (and/or our SENDCo), you are still concerned you should ask to arrange a meeting with our **Senior Teacher**.

The best way to do this is to contact the School Office.



### Step 4

If, after meeting with your child's class teacher, our Senior Teacher and/or our SENDCo, you are still concerned you should ask to arrange a meeting with our **Headteacher**. This will be arranged at a mutually convenient time and will give you more time to explain things.

The best way to do this is to contact the School Office.

As part of this meeting, the Headteacher will explain to you what to do if you are still concerned.