



Nerrols' Newsletter

8th November 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break and have enjoyed coming back to school this week! It has been great to catch up with everyone and find out more about what you got up to during the week away from school, as well as seeing the children settle back into the routines and expectations of school life. It is shaping up to be yet another busy half-term, so please do remember to take a look at our Key Dates section at the bottom of our Newsletters in order to stay in the know about what is happening!

Starting School

If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2025, we would love to welcome you for a tour of our school and to discuss admission arrangements at one of our Open Mornings being held on Thursday 14th or Thursday 28th November (both beginning at 9:30am). To book a place please email office@nr.huish.education or call 01823 792655.



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 2 Overview' document that details what your child will be learning about across the curriculum, which we hope you find useful in supporting your child's 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.

This half-term's Homework Fair will be held on **Wednesday 11th December** at 3:15pm with a focus on **Geography**. Please can your child bring in their homework on the morning of **Wednesday 11th December** to enable us to set up the fair during the day. We look forward to seeing you and your children there! Our first Art Fair, held at the end of last half-term, was a great success and we appreciate your support and celebration with our children's learning!



Mrs Palmer's Regular Read

Welcome to the November edition of my reading update! As I explained in October, I aim to provide thought provoking comments and advice about reading. I think I should give an advance warning that you 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.



Do you and your children see reading as something that should be valued?

Research has shown that the presence of 500 books in a home increases the level of education children will attain by approximately 3.2 years; and is a factor more influential than their parents' income, nationality, or level of education. Importantly, the same research showed that having **as few as 20 books** in the home still has a significant impact on a child's ascent to a higher level of education. (M Evans et al 2010). There's so much to explore here, but a key feature is that parents and caregivers are a child's first and most influential role models and play a pivotal role in their reading journey. I am not suggesting that you should have 500 books in your home, but I am interested in how you (and adults at school) can be good reading role models to your child.

Tip 1

Let your home help you be a role model for reading. A carefully placed box/basket of books on the living room floor, perhaps with a teddy or a blanket, is a great invitation to read or making a reading den is a great rainy-day activity. Why not have some books in the bathroom to share when potty training or at bathtime? Or pop a linked book alongside your child's favourite toys. Even if they don't pick them up, you can guarantee that children see books and reading are valued.

Tip 2

Role models showcase positive behaviours and habits. Reading with your child is one of the best habits you can cultivate together to promote a love of reading. How often do you read in front of your children? I get it – it's hard to even sit down, let alone read, and I'm certain that even if you do, it won't be a relaxing experience. But, trying to make your reading visible is great for promoting yourself as a reading role model as it shows it is a priority for you. You could pick up a book with a cup of tea (even if you only read a sentence) have an audio book on whilst preparing dinner, or just talk to others about what you are reading when children are in earshot. And, I will duck as I say this, could it be instead of checking social media? Adults at Nerrols all aim to be good reading role models. On classroom doors around the school, we are displaying what we are currently reading to inspire the children.



We are also pleased to share that we have now received the books our children raised money for following our sponsored reading challenge! Thank you, once again, for your continued support!



Staying Safe at Nerrols

As we begin the second half of the autumn term, I would like to take the opportunity to remind our community about the importance of staying safe after the recent changing of the clocks and the evenings becoming much darker now. For any parents or carers who wish for their children to make their own way home at the end of the school day, written permission must be given by completing the relevant form available from the School Office or our website: [Collection-of-Children-Policy-2019-1.pdf](#). Please note that we do maintain the right to decide whether or not to allow such arrangements to be implemented, and would always talk with parents and carers in the first instance if we had any concerns. We usually only allow this arrangement for children in Years 5 and 6, whilst parents and carers are also reminded that these arrangements only apply at the end of the school day at 3:15pm, and not at any other time, for example at the end of an after school club.

During our Whole School Assembly on Tuesday, we spoke to the children about keeping themselves safe at this time of year by:

- Staying close to adults if out in the dark.
- Wearing bright clothing.
- Remembering road safety.

We also talked specifically about Bonfire Night and reminded ourselves to always stand well back from bonfires and fireworks, and if we are handling sparklers we remember to:

- Always wear gloves.
- Hold them well away from our bodies.
- Never run or get too close to others when handling them.
- Only use them outside.



Railway Safety Assembly

Years 5 and 6 received a visit from Network Rail on Tuesday where a powerful and thought-provoking message about railway safety was delivered. Did you know that a train can travel up to 125mph and weighs about the same as 80 elephants? Also, it can't stop immediately – it actually takes about 2000 metres to stop (which is equivalent to the length of approximately 20 football pitches)! Did you know that a train can travel 100 metres in 3 seconds? Some trains are electric so you may not even hear them coming. We learnt 3 important rules:

- 1) Always stay off the tracks – this applies to both children and adults. We heard that some adults try to take a short cut across the tracks to save time, but it is never safe. The people that work for the railway have to wear a special uniform, so they are visible and are only allowed on the tracks at specific times and places.
- 2) When on the railway platform, always stand behind the yellow line. This also applies to adults; the turbulence caused by a train passing can be pull a person onto the track.
- 3) At a level crossing, stop, look and listen. When the barriers are down, you must wait for them to lift before crossing.

Harvest Festival

A big 'Thank you' to everybody for their generous donations of food items for our recent Harvest Festival assembly, to the parents and carers who joined us for the morning and to Reverend Jim who led the assembly for us. We have donated the items to Open Door, a day centre for Taunton's homeless community, who were very grateful for our support.



Parent and Carer Survey

Thank you to those of you who took the time recently to complete our parent and carer survey. We really value and appreciate the views of our community, which is why we set up our Parents' Forum and have asked for your feedback about the last school year and all things communication recently. We are always looking for ways to celebrate our successes and in which we can improve, and will continue to put things in place based on your most recent feedback.

Remembrance

Today (Friday), our Key Stage 2 children attended the Remembrance Service at Somerset Wood to pay their respects to those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. On Armistice Day (Monday 11th November), we will continue to honour our Armed Forces with a period of silence at 11:00am.



You may have noticed that we also have poppies and a number of other Remembrance resources for sale in the foyer of our Main Entrance. If you would like to help us raise money for the Royal British Legion, please do pop in before or after school with your child and take a look.

Children in Need 2024

We are excited to once again be taking part in Children in Need, which this year will be held on Friday 15th November. Children across the UK are facing greater challenges than ever, with mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression rising, high levels of poverty leading to inequality and lack of opportunity. Many children are simply carrying a load that's too heavy to manage alone, so this year, we are asking you to help make life lighter for children. As a play on the word 'light', we are inviting the children to come to school and nursery wearing light colours instead of their normal school uniform in exchange for a suggested donation of £1. If your child would rather only wear an accessory that is light in colour, such as socks or a hairband, or not take part at all, that is absolutely fine and they should wear their school uniform as usual.



Office Update

Due to a change of circumstances with our supplier and ordering processes, the deadline for ordering lunches will be the **Monday** of the week before, instead of the Wednesday. Please ensure that any meals are booked 10 days before to make sure your order is included in the lunch numbers. If possible, we recommend booking lunches termly to avoid missing any deadlines. If you have any issues with this, please contact the School Office.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 14 th November	Reception Class 2025 Open Morning (9:30am)
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need 2024!
Thursday 28 th November	Reception Class 2025 Open Morning (9:30am)
Friday 29 th November	FON Christmas Fayre (3:15pm)
Thursday 5 th December	Blossom Class Nativity performances (10:00am and 5:30pm)
Tuesday 10 th December	Willow & Birch Class Nativity performances (10:00am and 5:30pm)
Wednesday 11 th December	Geography Curriculum Fair, 3:15pm
Thursday 12 th December	Maple & Rowan Class Christmas Carol Concert (5:30pm)
Week Commencing Monday 16 th December	Nursery Christmas Craft Open Mornings (9:30am-11:00am)
Tuesday 17 th December	Hazel & Oak Class Christmas Carol Concert (5:30pm)
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole School Pantomime Trip (Tacchi Morris)

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher