



Nerrols' Newsletter

17th January 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Nerrols' Newsletter of 2025! I hope you all managed to enjoy a relaxing, or active, Christmas break – whichever is your preference – and that you have been excited to return to school for the Spring Term.

During our first whole school assembly of the new term, I welcomed all of the children back and spoke to them 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). 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 at least 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.

Staff Update

Unfortunately, I share the sad news that Miss Kean, who works as our Learning Support Assistant and supports our children's emotional literacy development, has taken the difficult decision to leave Nerrols to pursue a new challenge in school administration at The Castle School. Kelsie will be greatly missed by us all and I am sure you will join me wishing her the very best of luck for the future!

This week, we have welcomed Mrs Sarah Leyman as our new Administration Officer in the main office and I am sure many of you have already started to get to know her. Mrs Leyman brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience having previously worked at one of our other Huish primary schools for over 9 years. We have also recently welcomed Lili Durham to our team of practitioners in Nerrols Nursery, who has previously worked in a range of Nursery settings and will add great value to the care and education we provide for our youngest children. I am sure you will once again join me in making both Sarah and Lili feel very welcome to life at Nerrols.

Finally, I wrote to you all earlier this week to set out some temporary changes to the leadership team at Nerrols in light of some changes taking place at another of our Huish schools, Pyrland. From Monday (20th January), I will begin a secondment to Pyrland to support the leadership team until the end of the academic year. I will be retaining the strategic leadership of Nerrols Primary School and Nursery as Headteacher and will still be fully involved in the planning for the next academic year for when I return in September. I will also still be around at Nerrols and look forward to catching up with everybody at events such as Parents' Evening and hearing how well our children have continued with their learning. I will miss everybody greatly whilst I am away but hope to be able to bring back my new learning, ideas and experiences to make Nerrols an even better place to be in the near future.

Quality Improvement Priority: Outdoor play and learning

At Nerrols, we use a Continuous Provision (CP) approach to learning across EYFS and KS1. This enables our children to access the resources and learning opportunities they need throughout the entire school day, which enables them to build independent learning skills, follow their areas of interest and to promote exploration and experiential learning. You will have noticed that we have recently had some new fencing installed outside of our KS1 classrooms to act as an extension to our classrooms, enabling a greater range of activities and space for the children's learning in a similar way to the outside space for Blossom Class. We know that children benefit in many ways from access to the outdoors and so are endeavouring to continue this into more and more areas of our school.



As this space is part of our classrooms it will regularly be set up with learning activities for our children, and we therefore kindly ask that parents and carers wait outside of the fencing at drop off and pick up times.

Parents' Evening

We will be holding our Spring Term Parents' Evening on the evenings of Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th 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. Parents and carers will be able to book appointments to meet with their child's class teacher via MCAS shortly.

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

Following feedback from parents and carers through our Parents' Forum, you should have today received the 'Spring 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'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.

Staying Safe at Nerrols

We kindly remind all parents and carers to please park considerately around the school grounds to ensure the safety and convenience of our community. Please avoid blocking pedestrian pathways, dropped curbs, or access points, as this can create dangerous situations for our children and families walking to and from school. Additionally, we ask that you do not stop or park on the zig-zag lines at the front of the school, as these are in place to keep the area clear. Being mindful of where you park also helps to maintain a smooth flow of traffic and allows for safe and easy access for all everyone, including those with mobility needs. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated in making our school community a safer and more welcoming place for all!

After School Clubs – from January 2025

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 in the New Year!

Day	After School Club (3:30pm-4:30pm)	Further Details
Wednesdays	Y3-Y6 Nerrols Girls Football (with Mr Templeton)	Begins Wednesday 8th January Booking details are now live on MCAS!
Thursdays	YR-Y2 Nerrols Multi-Sports (with Mr Templeton)	Begins Thursday 9th January Booking details are now live on MCAS!
Fridays	Y3-Y6 Nerrols Tag Rugby (with Mr Templeton)	Begins Friday 10th January Booking details are now live on MCAS!

If you have any issues with bookings on MCAS, please contact the School Office.

Office Update:

From next week if your child has a head bump you will receive a text/MCAS message from us regarding the incident instead of a phone call. Please feel reassured that if your child has a significant injury, we will still contact you via telephone. Please ensure you have MCAS notifications turned on and check the app regularly.

Dates for the diary

Friday 20 th December	Last day of Autumn 2
Monday 6 th January 2025	INSET Day – School closed to children
Tuesday 7 th January	First day of Spring 1
Monday 3 rd February	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Tuesday 4 th February	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 th February	History Curriculum Fair (3:15pm)
Friday 14 th February	Last day of Spring 1

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher