

Nerrols' Newsletter

18th July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to our final and jam-packed Newsletter of the 2024/25 academic year! I hope that you will look back on the last year of our children's learning with great pride at what they have achieved, and that you enjoyed reading about this in their end-of-year Report that was sent home at the end of last week. I am so proud of the achievements of all of the children and feel lucky to be part of something very special, which is only possible with us all working together. I look forward to continuing this success together next year!

In this Newsletter, I hope you'll find lots of useful information about next year as well as about several school trips that have taken place recently. We all know that the children greatly enjoy and benefit from such opportunities, and that school trips, in particular, are things they will always remember! Because our school trips are of an educational nature, this means that we are only allowed to ask parents and carers for voluntary contributions and cannot, and would not, prevent any child from attending if their parents or carers do not pay. Of course, school trips are not free and we often need to also pay for transport, which is often of a significant price. On behalf of all the children, I would like to share a heartfelt appreciation to those of you who have contributed to our trips this year which has enabled them to be able to go ahead. We've had some parents and carers very kindly offering to contribute more than their share, some payments received by families whose children unfortunately needed to miss trips because of absences and even anonymous donations made by some of you wanting to cover any shortfalls so that school trips continue to remain financially viable for our school! Your support is very much appreciated in helping us to provide such opportunities for the children and we were delighted that our recent trips were able to proceed!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer break, and encourage you to take the time to rest, relax and enjoy the time away from school. I extend our very best wishes to our wonderful group of Year 6 children, whose time at Nerrols must sadly come to an end as they begin a summer of transition to their new secondary schools. We will be celebrating their time with us during our Leavers' Assembly and Presentation next week, and who were also recently presented with their Leavers' Hoodies that were subsidised through the kind donations you've all contributed this year and organised by our Friends of Nerrols team!



Staff Update

We are delighted to be able to let everyone know that Rosie, our Deputy Nursery Manager, and her partner are expecting non-identical twins this winter! I am sure you will join me in congratulating Rosie and wishing her and her family the very best of luck for their new arrivals!



We are also pleased to be able to let our community know that we have recently appointed Miss Millie Baker to our team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) and a reminder that, in September, we will also be welcoming Mrs Amber Mitton to our teaching team. We are excited to work with our new colleagues and look forward to a long and successful association with them!

Blossom and Willow Class visit to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm!

Last week, our children from Blossom and Willow Classes enjoyed a fantastic day out at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm! This helped our children in Blossom Class to extend the learning they have been doing this term about bug hunting and about the importance of bees, and during the trip the children took part in a workshop 'It's a Bug's Life' where they had the opportunity to hold cockroaches, stick insects and leaf insects. The Zoo staff were wowed by their super scientific vocabulary! Meanwhile, our children in Willow Class have been exploring animal diets, senses and habitats and took part in a workshop explaining how animals use their senses and compared that to how humans use their senses.



During their time at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, the children were also very lucky to see a variety of wild animals including elephants, giraffes, zebras, lions, camels and a rhinoceros! Although the animals live in lovely large recreations of their natural environments, the children were able to get really close to them, whilst they also got to observe the behaviours of some pet and farm animals in another area of the Zoo! The children were brilliant representatives of Nerrols School and the adults accompanying them were really impressed with their listening, questions and enthusiasm! Well done everyone in Blossom and Willow Classes!



Birch Class visit to Cheddar Gorge!

Birch Class had an exciting trip to Cheddar Gorge recently, linking perfectly with their learning in History of the Cheddar Man. The children had the opportunity to explore Gough's Cave and Cox's Cave, where they were amazed by the towering rock formations and sparkling stalactites! In a hands-on Stone Age workshop, the children tried on traditional clothing and learned how early humans made tools. The highlight of the trip was almost definitely visiting the very site where the Cheddar Man was discovered—bringing their classroom learning to life in a truly unforgettable way!



Maple Class visit to Exmouth!

To support their learning in Geography about coasts this half term, the children in Maple Class have also been on an exciting school trip to Exmouth! The children were especially thrilled to go on a boat cruise, where they observed the coastline and eagerly looked out for sea creatures along the way. They also learned some fascinating facts from their guide, who explained the tides and pointed out areas of interest around Exmouth beach.



After the cruise, the children and staff of Maple Class enjoyed a picnic lunch on the beach before spending the afternoon at the RNLI lifeboat station. The children loved seeing the different lifeboats in action and finding out how the RNLI helps keep people safe at sea. They were particularly excited to explore the crew's uniform - and even try on a lifeboat helmet! It was another fantastic learning experience for the children, and one we are sure that they'll remember for a long time!

Curriculum Update: Reports and test papers

You should by now have received your child's end of year School report, which details their areas of success and achievement over the last academic year, and I hope you enjoy celebrating these together! Alongside your child's Report, you will also find a feedback slip which we encourage you to complete and return to us by the end of the school year to let us know your thoughts about your child's successes, achievements and progress this year. Your views are really important to us here at Nerrols and will help us to continue improving; a big thank you to those of you who have already sent these back in!

Soon, your child will also be bringing home some test papers that they completed in class during the summer term and as part of our everyday approach to teaching and learning. The main aims of the children completing these tests are to help us better understand how well they have understood what they have been taught and to help us best plan future learning to help them keep making progress. In the subjects of English reading, Mathematics, and English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, the children's scores from these test papers are converted in outcomes which you will find in their end of year Report. The children's outcomes in English writing are based on teacher assessments made from the work they have produced right across the curriculum and across the whole school year.

Curriculum Update – Reading: Boost mental wellbeing and stop the 'Summer Slide'

This Summer holiday we want to work with you to boost your child's mental wellbeing and avoid the 'Summer Slide' in their reading progress. We know that routines can go a little out the window during the school holidays but prioritising a short amount of time for your child to practise their reading and enjoy a book read by you (at whichever time of the day works for you) will really support their confidence when they move into their new class. We've therefore put together a few ideas to help this happen!

Children on the Phonics Scheme: We will be sending home new QR codes to watch our Phonics videos and many children will also have sound cards.

Children on book banded books: For the first time this year, we've given children the option of keeping their current reading book over the Summer. If your child opted out (and you'd rather they opted in!), please speak to your child's current class teacher.

All readers: Take part in the Somerset Libraries Summer Reading Challenge. **All children** can take part and we encourage your child can bring in their medal and certificate to show us in September! It's really simple to join, and free: [Summer Reading Challenge 2025](#)



Specifically for Key Stage 2: Join the FREE Summer Book Boost to get a fun weekly author video, summer book snippet and ideas and follow on activities. [Summer Book Boost - Reading Rocks](#)

We look forward to hearing all about the children's reading in September!

The Kingfisher Project!

This half-term, the children in Maple Class have been taking part in an exciting local project called *The Kingfisher Project*. As part of this, the children visited a farm in Curry Rivel where they met local experts and learned all about farming and wildlife. Farmer Henry showed the children how wheat is turned into flour, and they also discovered the important role that trees play in providing habitats for animals! The children also learned about bees, moths, and butterflies too - and all thoroughly enjoyed spending time outdoors, surrounded by nature.

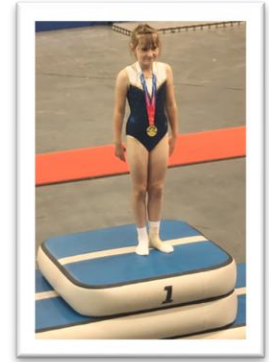
After the trip, the children worked incredibly hard to create a variety of responses inspired by what they had learned. Their fantastic work included sculptures, fact sheets, and even some delicious scones! Many of our children and staff proudly attended the celebration event, where their creations were displayed and judged alongside entries from other local schools.

We're thrilled to share that Nerrols Primary School won the Year 3–4 category and were runners-up overall! As part of our prize, we received £100 to spend on outdoor resources for our school community. A huge well done to all the children in Maple Class for their creativity, enthusiasm, and teamwork!



Adriana wins Gold!

We are excited to be able to let everyone know that Adriana, who is in Hazel Class, recently represented the South West area as she competed in the Trampoline Tumbling and DMT Inter-regional Final Cup Competition 2025 in Birmingham. Adriana competed against gymnasts from across England as well as from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and won gold in the DMT (Double Mimi Trampoline) and bronze on the Trampoline! Adriana has trained and competed tirelessly over the years to get to this stage, and we are all extremely proud of her achievements! Well done Adriana!



Celebrating Children's Birthdays!

From the start of the next academic year, we're excited to introduce a new school tradition: we are inviting the children to come to school wearing non-school uniform on their birthday! We believe this small change will help make each child's special day feel even more memorable and joyful and is also a great opportunity for our staff to get to know our children even better as part of our relational approach. We also hope that this small gesture will help to foster a stronger sense of belonging and wellbeing as each child feels recognised and celebrated within our Nerrols community. If a child's birthday falls over a weekend, during a half-term or other break from school, we ask that they wear their non-school uniform on the closest day **before** their birthday so that we can wish them a happy birthday before their special day. Finally, this idea is invitational, and the children do not have to wear non-school uniform on, or near, their birthday if they do not want to.

Holiday Club

We are excited to announce that we will once again be running our **Nerrols Holiday Club** and are now taking bookings for the summer holidays! The Holiday Club will be running on the following dates throughout the summer:

Wednesday 30th July, Thursday 31st July and Friday 1st August
Wednesday 6th August, Thursday 7th August and Friday 8th August
Wednesday 13th August, Thursday 14th August and Friday 15th August
Wednesday 20th August, Thursday 21st August and Friday 22nd August

Our Holiday Club will be held at Nerrols Primary School between 9:00am and 3:00pm. The cost will be £25 per day, per child and will be overseen by Mr Templeton, with other members of school staff in support. Activities will include sports and games, as well as arts and crafts. Children will need to bring a water bottle, packed lunch and wear suitable clothing. The club will only be available to children who attend Nerrols Primary School, and you will be able to book into a single day, or multiple sessions. If you would like to pay by Tax-Free Childcare or Childcare Vouchers, please email the School Office with a screenshot confirming that the payment has been made to our account and we will be able to reserve a space for you. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

After School Clubs – From September 2025

We are excited to be able to let you know about the After-School Clubs that will be led by our PE and Sport Leader Mr Templeton when we come back to school in September:

Day	After School Club (3:30pm-4:30pm)	Further Details
Wednesdays	Y3-6 Nerrols Boys and Girls Football Club	Begins Wednesday 10 th September Book now on MCAS!
Thursdays	Y1-2 Nerrols Multi-Skills Club*	Begins Thursday 11 th September Book now on MCAS!
Fridays	Y3-6 Nerrols Boys and Girls T1 Rugby Club)	Begins Friday 12 th September Book now on MCAS!

*Please note that this Club will not be running on Thursday 18th September due to a festival taking place at Nerrols. We will be including our new Reception-aged children in our After School Club offer after the autumn half-term.

Taunton Music Services at Nerrols!

There are still some spaces left for children attending Nerrols to learn to play the piano, keyboard Ukulele & guitar lessons starting in September! The prices for these privately arranged sessions are detailed below:

15mins (individual): £8.50

20mins (individual): £11.50

30mins (individual): £17.00

20mins (shared): £9.00

If any parents or carers are interested in this provision for their child(ren), please contact Sharon Roulstone at Taunton Music Services directly on 07786 677826 to discuss options.

Library book amnesty

Please can we ask all parents, carers and children to check at home for any school library books that may have accidentally not yet been returned. Our children love using our School Library regularly and we always want to promote their enthusiasm for reading by providing them with a wide range of books to read. Any book that belongs to Nerrols should have a small sticker of our school logo on the inside front cover of the book. Please could all books that belong to the School and Nursery be returned by the end of the school year.

Staying Safe at Nerrols

As we prepare to begin the summer holidays, I would like to take a moment to remind everybody about keeping themselves and the children safe. Whether it is remembering to stay 'Sun Safe' by applying sun cream to any areas not covered in clothing, wearing a sun hat, staying hydrated, travelling, or even just playing outside and into the light evenings or online, please make sure you look out for one another and take care. Since the School will be closed over the break, if any of our families need any safeguarding support please email safeguarding@nr.huish.education or contact Children's Social Care through Somerset Direct by calling 0300 123 2224.

Office Update

Please can we ask that you send your child in next week with a carrier bag or similar so that they can bring home their books and other important pieces of work safely.

As our school continues to grow, we are making some changes to how our office operates. In order to support the increasing demands of a larger school community, we will now have set times during the day when the office is closed. This will allow our Administration Team time to carry out essential behind-the-scenes work that keeps our school running smoothly. We are sure that parents and carers will be in agreement that allowing our Administration Team the time to undertake important tasks, such as making sure the children are safely registered each morning and afternoon, that their school meal is ordered with our kitchen and suppliers in time and that important resources are ordered to help them learn, are all imperative in giving the children the school experience we would all wish for. We do understand that many families are used to being able to drop in or call at any time, but with growing numbers this will not always be possible. We appreciate your understanding and support as we adapt to meet the needs of a larger school whilst also wanting to maintain the high standards we all value here at Nerrols.

From September, our new office opening hours will be:
8:15am-9:15am and 12:15pm-3:45pm (Monday-Friday)

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 23 rd July	Last day of the school year
From Wednesday 30 th July and throughout August	Nerrols Holiday Club (see above for more details)
Monday 1 st September	INSET Day – School closed to children
Tuesday 2 nd September	INSET Day – School closed to children
Wednesday 3 rd September	First day of the 2025-2026 school year Transition arrangements for new Reception-aged children begin

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week! If I don't see you, I wish you and your family a wonderful summer break and I look forward to hearing all about it soon!



Matt Kerton
Headteacher