

Nerrols' Newsletter

7th November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back, and I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break! It's been lovely to see our children return this week full of energy, enthusiasm and ready for the exciting learning opportunities ahead. The next few weeks promise to be a busy and creative time in school, with plenty of activities and events planned as we head towards Christmas! Please make sure you keep an eye on communications received by us, especially the **'Dates for the diary'** section at the bottom of our fortnightly Newsletters, so that you and your family can make the most of everything that's going on this half-term.

I'm absolutely delighted to be able to share some brilliant news – our school has recently been awarded the Silver Artsmark Award by Arts Council England! You may recall that developing the arts was one of our key quality improvement priorities back in the academic year 2023/24, and this recognition is a fantastic reflection of the passion, creativity and commitment shown by our children, staff and school community in bringing the arts to life at Nerrols. A special thank you goes to Miss Nelson, whose leadership, drive and vision for art and creativity have been fundamental to this achievement, particularly inspiring and guiding our staff. In a world where, arguably, too much focus is placed upon other more traditional academic subjects our work to redesign our Art and Design curriculum in order that every child receives dedicated weekly Art and Design lessons, the creation of an inspiring Art Studio, the launch of a KS2 Art Club and facilitating collaborations with local artists has brought a welcome creative opportunity for our children.

This is a wonderful milestone for our school and something we should all feel proud of. This recognition celebrates our strong commitment to creativity and the arts across our curriculum and school life, and we are already excited and looking forward to the journey ahead as we aim for Gold!



Is your child due to start primary school?

If you have a child due to start primary school in September 2026, we would love to welcome you for a tour of our school and to discuss admission arrangements at one of our Open Mornings, which will be taking place from 9:30am on:

- *Wednesday 12th November 2025
- *Wednesday 3rd December 2025
- *Wednesday 7th January 2026

Staff Update

I am pleased to be able to let everyone know of some updates to our staffing teams across our School and Nursery after several competitive recruitment processes recently:



- ✓ Lili has been appointed as our Interim Deputy Nursery Manager whilst Rosie is on maternity leave. Throughout her time so far at Nerrols Nursery, and during the recruitment process, Lili has demonstrated great passion and knowledge for all things early years and began her new role at the start of November.
- ✓ Miss Olivia Tolman will soon be joining us as an Apprentice Learning Support Assistant and will be working with children and classes across our school. Some of our children will already know Miss Tolman following placements she has completed with us in our Nursery and Oak Class over the last couple of years, and we are delighted that she will now be completing her apprenticeship with us.
- ✓ We have appointed Mrs Rebecca Pollicott as our new Administrative Assistant to work in our School Office. Rebecca showed great knowledge and awareness of what working in an educational environment is like during her interview and brings with her over 15 years of experience as an English teacher and course leader at Bridgwater College. Given her current position, Rebecca won't be able to join us until January, and we are therefore working on an interim arrangement and ask everybody to continue to please bear with us when requesting administration support.

I am sure you will join me in extending a warm welcome to all our new colleagues here at Nerrols, and we are all excited to see what they will bring to our growing team and how they can improve what we already do even further!

The Kindness Project – coming soon!

We are excited to invite all parents, carers and members of our community to the launch of 'The Kindness Project', and will be holding two information sessions in the hope that as many people as possible can attend:

- **Thursday 13th November (9:00am-10:00am and 3:30pm-4:30pm)**



At these sessions, you will find out more about:

- **Our approaches to supporting our children's behaviour**
- **The ways we are planning to support all our children to be kind, thoughtful and caring to themselves, each other and our environment**
- **The ways in which we will recognise, reward and celebrate kindness**

We will also have a creche facility available for Nerrols school-aged children only during the afternoon session to help allow more adults to hopefully attend!

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

A big thank you to all the parents, carers and families who joined us for our Arts Curriculum Fair before half-term. It was wonderful to see so many of you exploring the amazing work our children have produced across the School. The children were so proud to share their homework projects and learning with you, and your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. We are grateful for your continued partnership encouraging your children's learning at Nerrols. To help parents and carers understand more about what their child will be learning about across the curriculum and to support conversations about the children's school day, you should now have received this half-term's Curriculum Overview document. On this document, you will be able to read more about your child's learning in a range of subjects, including Science, Art and Design, Reading, Writing, Music and much more!



The way in which we structure our Nerrols Curriculum means that the subject of **Geography** will be a focus during this half-term. In this subject, we aim for our children to understand their world, their role in it and the responsibilities that come with it. We aim to inspire a curiosity, fascination and appreciation of our local, national and global environments amongst all our children that will last them a lifetime. Below, you will find a brief overview of our children's learning in Geography this half-term, and you can also find out more about our whole curriculum by visiting our website:

[Curriculum - Nerrols Primary School](http://www.nerrolsprimaryschool.co.uk)

Year Group	Geographical Enquiry Question	More details
EYFS		Our children will develop their fine-motor skills when drawing plans and maps, develop their locational knowledge and build an appreciation of certain locations, starting with familiar places such as their home, classroom and town.
Year 1	What's it like where we live?	Learning more about where we live, including the different places we find in Taunton such as shops, restaurants, parks, the River Tone and the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal.
Year 2	What are seasons?	The children will observe, spot seasonal patterns and talk about changes by using weather- related vocabulary, such as <i>precipitation</i> and <i>forecast</i> .
Year 3	Why is climate important?	Building on their learning from Year 2, the children will learn about some of the world's hottest, coldest, wettest and driest climate zones.
Year 4	Can you come on a Great American Road Trip?	Using maps and atlases to locate countries, cities and key regions as the children go on a "Great American Road Trip."
Year 5	How is our country changing?	Finding out about our local area and the regions of the UK, discovering changes over time.
Year 6	What is life like in the Amazon?	Learning more about life in the Amazon region of South America, and how it is being damaged and protected.



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 (Tuesday 11th November), we will continue to honour our Armed Forces with a period of silence at 11:00am.

Staying Safe at Nerrols – Staying safe this Autumn and Winter

On Wednesday, the first day of the new half-term, I spoke to the children about the importance of keeping themselves safe this autumn and winter during our Whole School Assembly. There are many exciting events at this time of year, such as Halloween, Bonfire Night and everything that comes with Christmas, and many of which may involve fireworks. We reminded the children that:

- **Fireworks must only be handled by adults!**
- **Children must always stand well back from firework and bonfire displays!**
- **You must never touch a firework, even if you think it has gone out!**
- **A sparkler is a special type of firework and can be great fun, but children should always wear gloves, hold them at arm's length, never run or get too close to others and only use sparklers outside!**
- **Animals often get scared around fireworks, so keep pets inside and make them comfortable!**



As the nights draw in and it gets darker much earlier, we also reminded the children to always stay close to a trusted adult, wear brighter clothing and remember to stay safe around roads if they do need to be out late. Please do take the time to talk to your children about all the ways in which they can keep themselves safe at this time of year too!

Nerrols Holiday Club

During the recent half-term break, we were once again able to keep our children active and learning and support our community by running our **Nerrols Holiday Club!** A big thank you to those of you who booked their child a place and supported this provision, with the money that we make being reinvested into supporting our children even more! Our Holiday Club will return in 2026, ready to continue providing great extra-curricular opportunities for the children of Nerrols!



We're now on Facebook!

We're excited to share that our school now has an official Facebook page! It's a great way to keep up to date with all the latest school news, events and celebrations happening. Please do take a moment to visit and follow our page – we'll be posting updates, photos and reminders so you never miss what's going on in our busy and growing school community.

Volunteers needed!

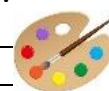
As part of the Early Years curriculum, our children in Apple and Cherry Blossom Class learn about people who help them. Already this year, they have enjoyed a valuable visit from Buddy the dog and his owner Lucy. Lucy brought in some of the items Buddy needs and talked about how to look after him, and how to be safe around dogs.

We would love the children to meet other people in the community to broaden their understanding of the world. It would mean coming into Blossom Class for no more than half an hour. If you, or anyone you know, is a Fire Fighter, Police officer, Paramedic, Dentist, Beekeeper, Vet or is in one of the building trades or any other vocation you think might be of interest to the children please see Mrs Palmer, Miss Wood or contact the School Office! Many thanks in advance for any support!

After School Clubs

Don't forget to book your child's place at our fantastic after school clubs being run this half-term:

Day	After School Club (3:30pm-4:30pm)	Further Details
Tuesdays	Y1 and Y2 Nerrols Secret Agents Club	Accepting expressions of interest now on MCAS!
Tuesdays	Y5 and Y6 Nerrols Computer Coding Club	Spaces still available - book now on MCAS!
Tuesdays	KS2 Nerrols Art and Design Club	Fully booked!
Wednesdays	Y3 and Y4 Nerrols Multi-Sports Club	Spaces still available - book now on MCAS!
Thursdays	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Nerrols Multi-Skills Club	Spaces still available - book now on MCAS!
Thursdays	KS2 Choir	Spaces still available - book now on MCAS!
Fridays	Y5 and Y6 Nerrols Multi-Sports Club	Spaces still available - book now on MCAS!



A reminder that parents and carers must provide additional written consent if they wish for their child to walk home at the end of a club. Our usual 'going home' arrangements do not apply because these arrangements are implemented at the end of the school day at 3:15pm only, and not at the end of a club at 4:30pm.

Office Update

Next Friday (14th November), our children and staff are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a chocolate donation for our upcoming FON Christmas Fayre in a couple of weeks. Your support and generosity will help make the Fayre another wonderful community event and raise valuable funds to support the children of Nerrols!

As a result of our non-school uniform day already happening on this day, and us already asking for a donation, we won't be asking for any monetary donations for Children in Need this year. Of course, we would still encourage any families who wish to do so to donate directly but are very aware that times are tough for many at the moment and we are mindful of the pressures asking for money can bring – especially in the lead up to Christmas.

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 12 th November	Reception Class 2026 Open Morning (9:30am)
Thursday 13th November	The Kindness Project Launch (9:00am and 3:30pm) – see above
Friday 14 th November	Non-school uniform for FON Christmas Fayre (chocolate donation)
Friday 28 th November	FON Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 3 rd December	Reception Class 2026 Open Morning (9:30am)
Monday 8 th December	Maple & Rowan Christmas Carol Concert (5:00pm)
Tuesday 9 th December	Willow & Birch Class Nativity performances (10:00am and 5:00pm)
Wednesday 10 th December	Hazel & Oak Christmas Carol Concert (5:00pm)
Thursday 11 th December	Apple & Cherry Blossom Class Nativity performances (10:00am and 5:00pm)
Monday 15 th December	Autumn Term House Treat (school hours)
Tuesday 16 th December	Pantomime Trip (Tacchi Morris)
Wednesday 17 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th December	Pantomime Trip (Tacchi Morris)
Thursday 18 th December	Last day of Autumn 2
Friday 19 th December	INSET Day – School Closed to children

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



Matt Kerton
Headteacher