

Nerrols' Newsletter

16th January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Happy New Year! I hope the first couple of weeks back after Christmas have been a gentle re-entry to school life after a well-deserved break for you all. It has been great to reconnect with the children, parents and carers, and the staff of our Nerrols community as we look ahead to 2026 with optimism, dedication and determination to continue making our school a great place for children to learn and staff to work. We want to build momentum in the term ahead, with our children in school every single day and only unless they are really not well enough to be so, and our families feeling closer to school than ever.

So, looking ahead, we will shortly hope to see many of you at our Spring Term Parents' Evenings at the start of February because we know that when we all work together it is the children who, ultimately, benefit the most.

Wishing you all the warmest wishes for the year ahead.

Playtimes at Nerrols!

Outdoor play is an important part of our school day at Nerrols, and we encourage children to enjoy all kinds of weather—including rainy days! To help your child make the most of outdoor play and learning, please ensure they come to school dressed appropriately, with a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies clearly labelled with their name. Being prepared for wet weather allows children to splash in puddles, explore nature, and stay comfortable and safe while developing resilience and a love of the outdoors. Our children also love using the field and getting muddy and so we encourage any additional clothing, such as waterproof trousers, to protect their school clothes should they wish to play in the mud!

Parent and Carer Survey 2025

Thank you so much to those of you who took the time to complete our Parent and Carer Survey at the end of last term. Your views are incredibly important to us in helping to celebrate what is working well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. We are delighted to see and read that so many of you are so happy with what we are doing here at Nerrols and the direction of travel we are going in and thank you for recognising and celebrating these with us. As any good organisation should, we will not rest on our laurels and will strive to continue improving what we do and take on board any areas for development that have been identified. Over the coming weeks and months, we'll release more information about our plans and initiatives so that Nerrols continues to be the best place for our children to learn and grow. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

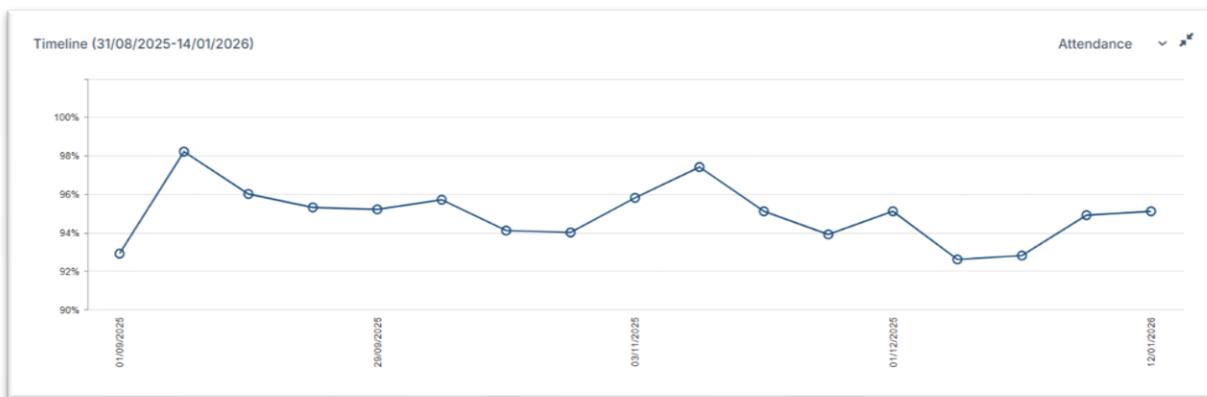
Important Information about Attendance

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. Ensuring that children get enough sleep, eat a healthy breakfast and are 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/government/publications/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education). 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. 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.



Our whole school attendance target is 96.1% (last year we achieved 96%). We started off the Autumn Term well with attendance but then faced challenges with illness and unauthorised absences for things like holidays. The timeline below shows that we are struggling to meet our target this year and attendance for our children is therefore currently lower than last year.



Parents and carers do run the risk of being fined if they choose to take a holiday in term time, as well as any other unauthorised leave for birthdays or other special occasions. We are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, and holiday requests do not fall into this category and will rarely be approved as an authorised absence. In law, parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their children at school.

Hazel Class Viking History Day at Carymoor!

Earlier this week, our Year 5 children visited Carymoor Educational Centre near Castle Cary and sailed back to the fearsome time to the vicious Vikings as part of our curriculum in History. The children enjoyed dressing up in tunics, grinding grain using replica Quern stones in a Viking home, navigating an orienteering course to test their Viking knowledge, decoding runes to win treasure, digging for artefacts and getting crafty weaving willow plates to take home!

We would like to say a big thank you to the staff at Carymoor, the kind parents who volunteered their time to join us and all the parents and carers who contributed so that this memorable experience was made possible for our children.



Curriculum Immersive days!

As part of bringing our curriculum and children's experiences to life, we are excited to be holding a number of Immersive Days across our school in the upcoming weeks, where our children will be able to come to school dressed up for the day (if they would like to) and take part in a number of activities that aim to help them even more with their learning! Parents and carers of children who have a Curriculum Immersive Day shortly should already have received more information and below is a reminder of what is coming up!

Willow Class (Year 1) – Great Explorers Day

Tuesday 27th January

Hazel Class (Year 5) – Viking Day

Wednesday 28th January

Staying Safe at Nerrols

To help ensure that we keep everyone in our community as safe as possible, I would like to politely remind those who bring bikes or scooters to school to dismount and push them throughout the site rather than ride them. There have been a couple of near misses recently and ensuring our children push their bikes and scooters will further ensure everybody's safety. It is with regret that we are also unable to accommodate e-bikes or e-scooters on our school site due to fire risks associated with their batteries. If your child wishes to ride their e-bike or e-scooter, it must be left outside of the school site and taken home by parents and carers.

Miss Chattell's fundraiser for Prostate Cancer UK

We are very proud to let you know that Miss Chattell will be running the Taunton Half Marathon on 1st March 2026 in support of Prostate Cancer UK, as this charity has become close to her family. The work this charity does to fund research, raise awareness and support families is incredibly important. Miss Chattell has been training hard for this challenge, and any donations or support would be hugely appreciated and mean a great deal to her. Thank you so much for your support.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/isabella-chattell-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



After School Clubs

Our After School Clubs for Spring 1 are now beginning to take shape, and bookings are now open:

Day	After School Club (3:30pm-4:30pm)	Further Details
Wednesdays	KS2 Nerrols Football Club	Bookings open on MCAS!
Thursdays	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Nerrols Multi-Skills Club	Bookings open on MCAS!
Fridays	KS2 Nerrols Netball Club	Bookings open on MCAS!

Office Update - Parents' Evening bookings

We will be holding our Spring Term Parents' Evening on the evenings of Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd 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 from 6:00pm on Monday 19th January. We have chosen to release the bookings at this time following feedback from parents and carers who are working during the day and often then find it difficult to find a suitable appointment time.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 27th January	Willow Class (Year 1) – Great Explorers Day
Wednesday 28th January	Hazel Class (Year 5) – Viking Day
Monday 2 nd February	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Tuesday 3 rd February	Parents' Evening (3:30pm-6:00pm)
Monday 9 th -Friday 13 th February	Year 6 Residential Visit to Charterhouse, near Cheddar
Monday 9 th -Friday 13 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 th February	Science Curriculum Fair (3:15pm)
Friday 13 th February	Last day of Spring 1
Monday 23 rd February	Frist day of Spring 2

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

Matt Kerton
Headteacher