Nerrols News

Headteacher: Mr Nick Arnold
Deputy Headteachers: Mr Bawden & Mrs Marriott
Safeguarding: Mrs Marriott & Kim Barratt

Autumn Term 1 **Newsletter 5** **16th October**

Dear Parents / Carers

Great couple of weeks

Another couple of successful weeks, with now 4 days to go until half-term. **We break up on Thursday next week**, as Friday 23rd is part of the half-term, as is Monday 2nd November. Tuesday 3rd November is an INSET day for staff. **Children return Wednesday 4th November. The Nursery remains open.**

Reflecting on the half-term, there will always be more things we could have actioned and achieved, but I am proud of my staff at Nerrols for all their hard work and dedication to ensure the great provision allows children to flourish, from our youngest in Nursery to our oldest in Year 6. There are further tweaks being introduced in the coming weeks and we also hope to appoint some more Learning Support Assistants to help in our classes, as well as some lunchtime supervisors.

Open evenings for prospective parents – Well received!

It has been lovely to show parents of young children who are looking to select their child's school in September 2027. The warmth and professionalism shown from our team has been well-received and without exception, parents have been impressed and pleased with the thought of their child joining Nerrols next year. We are aiming for 60 children to start in Reception in September so we can maximise our provision and appoint more amazing staff as a result.

Staffing News

I write to inform you **Mrs Leah Challis**, SENDCo, will be leaving her position at the end of the Autumn Term. Mrs Challis has worked at Nerrols for 3 years and will now take up a role with Young Somerset, working within the NHS. On behalf of the school community, we wish her all the very best and thank her for all her contribution. Mrs Emma Dutton, starting as Inclusion Lead in the New Year, will take on the SENDCo role, until we reappoint.

PTFA – Great group of volunteers!

It was lovely to attend the AGM and PTFA meeting this week. So amazingly positive, with a very hardworking and diligent team discussing ways to help raise funds with brilliant events. Events take time to organise and run, and we appreciate all they do. You will have received dates of events coming up and please ask in the office if you have missed these. If you can offer help or support, or you are wishing to join the welcoming group, please contact the office and we will get you in contact with Rachael (Chair) and the team. Our first Disco of the year is taking place this evening, and I hope it will be a huge success…with children enjoying themselves and some funds raised too.

Children In Need – Friday 13th November

We will be celebrating Children in Need on the above date. Children may come to school wearing yellow or spots (or both) for a small donation to raise money for the well-documented and important charity event. Each class will have a collection pot first thing in the morning for the donations.

Request for Absence & Attendance

To remind, 99.9% of requests for absence (especially holidays) will be **unauthorised**. Furthermore, if a child's attendance is already below 90%, it increases the chance of being fined as I must follow the regulations. As a school, our target is 96% and we are currently at 94.8%. As a community, we must all play our part.

Our Governing Body Needs You!

A great opportunity for a member of the school community to join at an exciting time with new leadership and fresh ideas being introduced. Guaranteed the meetings are informative, interesting and enlightening…with drinks and biscuits! Please make an appointment to speak with me if you would like to know more, or email our Clerk to the Governing Body, Hannah Clunie – haclunie@huish.education who will happily share some helpful information. Meetings are 3.45 – 5pm 4 or 5 times a year as well as 2-3 further visits during school time. We are specifically looking for professionals who could bring a different aspect to the Governing body.

Photographs – and now we monitor…

Our school photos took place on Wednesday and thank you for everyone's patience and support. We were disappointed we weren't given 2 photographers to speed the process, but the lady who took them was exceptional and lovely with the children to capture their 'best side'. We tried to offer time slots, but so many more parents turned up without booking, so it took longer than anticipated.

Having spoken with many people on the gate and during our PTFA meeting this week, the consensus appears that parents nowadays are more likely to only buy Reception, Year 6 and sibling photos. Phones of today take great pics, parents often take the annual pic outside their front doors, which is free! We will assess how many are purchased, compared to the number of photos taken and decide moving forwards. It is not about making a profit at all, but the school receive a very minimal amount.

Considerate parking…what can we do?

We recognise parking and drop-off arrangements can be challenging for many primary schools, and at Nerrols the situation is particularly difficult. The lack of available parking and drop-off spaces can make it hard for parents to leave their cars safely without impacting our neighbours. Thank you for being considerate when parking, especially at **Summerleaze Crescent**…. which is extremely congested before and after school. We are expecting visits from PCSO and traffic police to observe and monitor the situation and offer suggestions where they can.

We have just installed **racks for 45 more bikes** to encourage children to scooter or cycle to school, which have been very well received…and very popular already – great news!

Pupil Premium Grant – are you eligible?

As a reminder, Pupil Premium is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered as eligible for targeted free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for Looked After Children, children adopted from care and children of service personnel. You will have recently received a letter with more information…. if you believe you may be eligible, please ask in the office.

AMAZING NEWS!

Having been successful in applying for grants from **WPA Foundation** at Lyngford Park, we have been successful at Nerrols and have secured £2500 towards the new bike/scooter shelter (in addition to what has already been installed). It will be relocated into an area much more appropriate for school growth and be secure (fenced off during the day - that's the plan). In addition, we have been *shortlisted* for £2400 sponsorship / donation from **Howards Motor group**. The shelter improvement and relocation works are likely to cost circa £4500, so we will keep our fingers crossed! I am hoping not to ask PTFA or use school funds for this if possible.

Lunches

Just to remind you school dinner ordering closes on Monday at midnight for the following week. If lunches are not ordered, then you will be required to provide a packed lunch.

Wraparound

We have noticed that a few parents have been booking their children in to attend the 'after club' wraparound session when their children have not attended a paid after school club. Bookings made for the wrong club will be removed and moved across to the correct club.

Reminder: WE ARE A NO NUT SCHOOL!

This includes chocolate with hazelnut spreads (NUTella). If you do wish to give your child a chocolate spread sandwich as part of their ***healthy lunchbox***, this is ill-advised, but please read the label. May contain nuts is also banned (Kinder Hippos) as we cannot take the risk as we have children who are very allergic. Thank you for your cooperation on this very serious matter.

I hope you all have a great weekend and thank you for all your support…4 days to go next week!

Best wishes

Nick Arnold

Nick Arnold
Headteacher
Nerrols & Lyngford Park

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