

# Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

**NOVA**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**The new term has got off to a flying start and Christmas is but a distant memory now. I love the way children and staff adjust so quickly; there has been such a sense of purpose in classrooms since the holidays. Lots of us moan about January, but I see it as the most exciting time of year - a chance for new goals and ambitions.**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our many new families. Nova prides itself on being inclusive and welcoming to new children, but we recognise how hard it can be to start a new school. My first assembly explored this theme and it was a great excuse to read the very first Paddington Bear story to the children - who himself was welcomed with open arms by his new family! It is already hard to spot those pupils who joined us in January which is all thanks to our amazing children and

## Dates for your diary

We know how important it is to be able to plan in advance. We will endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible with school events.

## Bristol Term Dates for 2017 – 2018

### Term 3

Tues 2nd Jan to Fri 9th Feb 2018

### Term 4

Mon 19th Feb to Fri 23rd March  
2018

### Term 5

Mon 9th April to Fri 25th May 2018

### Term 6

staff.

Our remaining assemblies this term will focus on 'Curiosity and Invention'. Nova learners behave well and listen attentively, but we want to take them to the next stage and always attempt to find out more and challenge what they already know. The theme fits nicely with Lines of Enquiry in Key Stage 1 and 2 which are very science and technology-based. Judging by Mrs Thorpe's recent assembly and the number of uses children came up with for a common garden stick, I think we will see some amazing learning.

We hope you enjoy this new style newsletter. In this issue, you will notice a staff profile for our new **Deputy Headteacher, Helen Thorpe**. Our parent forum suggested this some time ago and we will feature a new member of staff in every newsletter. We are a big school, so over time, this should help you familiarise yourselves with the adults at school. Our aim is to make each newsletter as interesting and informative as possible, so if you have any suggestions for topics of interest, we'd love to hear from you.

Enjoy the rest of January - I'm sure I will see you whilst shivering on the gate most mornings!

With kindest regards,

Mon 4th June to Tues 24th July  
2018\*

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL WILL BE  
CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING  
INSET DAYS**

-

**Inset Day 4**

Monday 19th February 2018

-

**Inset Day 5**

Friday 25 May 2018

-

\*School will be open for children on  
the Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th  
July

**Other Useful Dates:**

-

**Parent/Carer Forum #2**

15th February @ 2:00pm

-

**Parent/Carer Consultations**

21st - 22nd February

-

**Book Fair**

20th - 22nd February

-

**International Women's Day**

**Learning Event**

8th March

Anna Morris  
Headteacher



-  
**Year 3 and 4 Performance**  
13th March 10.30am and 6.00pm

-  
**Enterprise Week**  
19th - 23rd March

-  
**PTFA Circus Event**  
6th July

---

## CURRICULUM AT NOVA

We have only been back a couple of weeks but the amount of new learning has been formidable! It has been great to see so much science taking place; our science curriculum team have worked hard to raise the profile of the subject and extend the amount of science the children do. Mrs Thorpe has had the chance to do some science in many of our classes - you may have heard about her amazing magic snow! Classes aim to tweet photos and information about what has been happening, but here are a few examples of what the children have been up to:

**Year 2** have been imagining they are in the African savannah. While they have been doing their writing, the children have been listening to the sounds of the Kruger National Park. Their writing created fantastic pictures in their minds! Here are some extracts from Lily and Aston's descriptions:

*"At dawn, layers of colours surround the warm, bright sun and the sun has a glistening, golden glow."*

Lily

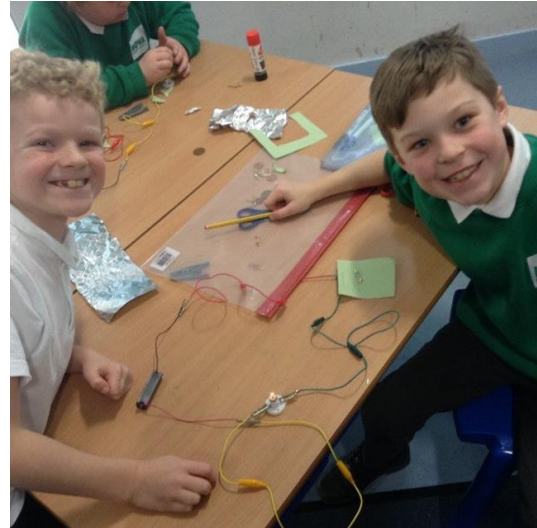
*"At dawn, all of the animals are waking up for a busy day and they set off out of their habitats with the sun rising and the birds chirping."*

Aston

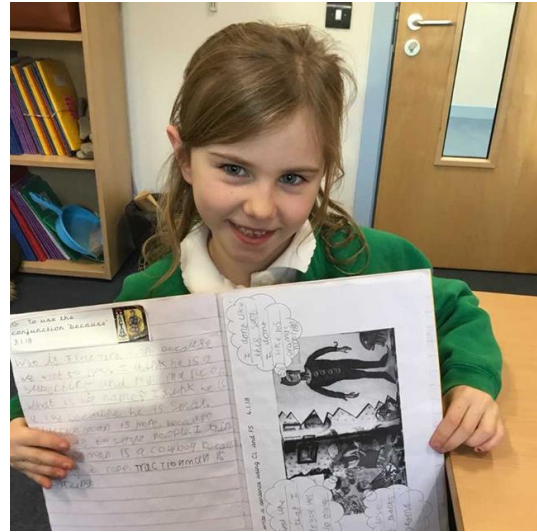


Year 6 have written 'Pandoran' reports, describing their own animals. These detailed technical drawings and reports certainly impressed our new Deputy! Well done to Madison, Chloe and Ruby for your impressive learning.

In **Year 4**, the learning has been about electricity, but also the need to be creative problem solvers. Miss Foote was especially impressed with these children who made their own switches for electrical circuits.



**Year 1** launched this term's line of enquiry by bringing in toys from home to share with the class. They looked at what they were made of as their big focus is materials and their uses. This fits in really well with their class text; Traction Man which is all about an action figure and his adventures. They have been making Traction Man comic strips which are looking brilliant.



Of course, we always welcome parent/carer helpers - you may have a skill or interest that could really enhance the children's learning and we would love to see you.

## MEET THE TEAM



**Name:** Helen Thorpe

**Role:** Deputy Headteacher

### The best part of the role:

Leading curriculum development and working with a brilliant team of staff and children to make learning as fun, meaningful and limitless as possible.

### Hobbies:

Travelling, singing and spending time with my loved ones

### Favourite book:

Time Traveller's Wife

**Favourite quote:**

"Team work makes the dream work!"

**Experience:**

Prior to joining Nova, I taught at three different Bristol primary schools, gaining leadership experience as a phase Leader, NQT & student mentor and curriculum team leader. During a career break to travel, I was fortunate to volunteer teaching English in Cambodia as well as supply teaching in Melbourne, Australia.

**A message from Mrs Thorpe:**

I am absolutely delighted to be the new Deputy Headteacher of Nova Primary and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the community for such a warm and friendly welcome. It has been lovely to meet so many of you at the school gate during drop off and pick up each day. The highlight of my week has been getting into classes to teach and get to know the children and staff. We've had fun being curious, asking questions and investigating using magic snow. I must say the children have been very patient and understanding while I try to learn almost 380 names!

So a bit about me: For the past 10 years I have taught at three different Bristol schools. Teaching is a privilege and I love nothing more than seeing a child grow in confidence and believe in themselves. I believe that above all else, learning should be fun! I am looking forward to working with the team to further develop the Nova curriculum so that learning is as creative, meaningful and inspirational as possible. I am excited about the journey ahead and working with the whole school community to give our children the best education we can.

Please do come and say hello as I'm always happy to chat and help in any way I can.

Best wishes,  
Helen Thorpe

---



## OTHER NEWS

### Nova Primary School awarded The Mental Health and Wellbeing Award



#### A message from Alex Bacon: Assistant Headteacher

We've had some really exciting news this week... we've learnt that we are the first school anywhere in Bristol to be awarded The Mental Health and Wellbeing Award by the Local Authority's Healthy Schools Team.

In their letter to us, the Team wrote the following:

"You are the first school to achieve any of our new awards and you have done so within a particularly impressive timescale. The team felt the submission was a particularly strong one and that it is evident your school has made a very genuine commitment to improving the mental health and wellbeing of your pupils. We feel your approach has been well thought out and considered, this has come across strongly in your evidence, you have set the bar for other schools very high. This really is a great achievement and we appreciate how hard you have worked to meet the criteria, many congratulations to your whole school community."

This really has been a team effort and is well deserved recognition for all the wellbeing initiatives we have introduced in the last couple of years. Daily physical bursts and 'Reading for Pleasure' initiatives alongside the work of the Health and Wellbeing Pupil Council mean the whole school community has played their part. As ever, we have been ably supported by *you* through our Parents' Forum, by our amazing Governors and the local community.

## MORE DEVELOPMENTS

We have several other initiatives in the pipeline, including continuing the work started in **Year 5** by the Art of Brilliance (hopefully you will have been enjoying the movies on the School Facebook page)

Whilst supporting pupils develop the necessary emotional resilience to succeed at Nova and beyond is sufficient reward in itself, it's always nice to be first at something, and there will be events planned to publicise and celebrate our achievement. We will have a new logo to display on our letterhead: the only School in Bristol who can say this at the moment!

---

## Follow Us on Twitter and Facebook



---

**New to the School and Would like a Prospectus?**

[Click Here](#)





 Twitter

 Facebook

 Website

 Email

 Share on Facebook

 Share on Twitter

 Forward via Email

*Copyright © 2018 All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).