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Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term has got off to a flying start. In week 1, we welcomed The Deputy Mayor of Bristol, Councillor Asher Craig to the school. She presented us with the Mayor's Badge for Mental Health and Wellbeing and I cannot tell you how impressed she was with our school and the wonderful children- see below for more details! I love the way our children show warmth towards visitors and trust our judgement about who we allow access to the school. Safeguarding is the most important aspect of the school's work and a lot goes on behind the scenes to ensure all pupils are looked after.

Our Safeguarding Team, led knowledgably by Mr Bacon, meet weekly to discuss all aspects, ranging from health, child protection and attendance. Since September we have improved systems for recording safeguarding

Dates for your diary

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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 4

Mon 19th Feb to Fri 23rd March
2018

Term 5

Mon 9th April to Fri 25th May 2018

Term 6

Mon 4th June to Tues 24th July
2018*

concerns using an online tool that allows us to quickly share information and the actions we have taken.

Sometimes of course, the children need support in keeping themselves safe, particularly at playtimes for our youngest children. Rob, our Learning Mentor and the Leadership Team have been looking for ways to reduce the number of bumps, scrapes and tears that tend to occur. We have invested in new games equipment and chalkboards, which should arrive soon, and have increased supervision. Mrs Thorpe and I have been teaching the children playground games and rhymes and it is amazing how much they enjoy old favourites such as 'Creepmouse' and 'Ring-a- ring of Roses'.

We have also introduced Key Stage One assemblies. Each one is led by a different teacher, who will introduce through stories and songs, a goal for the children to work on for the following week and beyond.

On another safety related topic, you may have noticed the expandable zig zags we have started placing outside the school. Many of you comment on the unsafe parking and driving outside the school and I felt strongly that we had to be more proactive in protecting our children. It is an expense we could have done without, but the thought of a child being injured (or worse) is just too awful, as I am sure you

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

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Inset Day 5

Friday 25 May 2018

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

Other Useful Dates:

Year 3 and 4 Performance

13th March 10.30am and 6.00pm

-

Enterprise Week

19th - 23rd March

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RSE Meeting

22nd March @ 3.30pm

-

Parent/Carer Forum

22nd March

-

Year 6 Theatre Trip

20th June

-

PTFA Summer Fayre

23rd June

-

PTFA Summer Disco

13th July

will agree.

I do hope you enjoyed the snow days last week. These things are inconvenient and I did not take the decision lightly to close the school, but when I saw some of the pictures you tweeted of your children having such an amazing time, I felt a lot better about it. We so rarely get snow and it is so magical, particularly for those children who haven't experienced it before! Let's hope we don't have any further disruption this term.

With kindest regards,
Anna Morris
Headteacher



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Year 5 & 6 Performance

19th July 2.00pm & 6.00pm

-
Year 6 Leavers Assembly

23th July @ 10.00am

-
Nova's Got Talent

23rd July

CURRICULUM AT NOVA

Term 4 has been full of interesting history learning, with children learning valuable historical enquiry skills through their topics. Children have been asking curious

questions and researching to find out about the lives of people through the ages including the Ancient Greeks, Ancient Egyptians, Romans and World War 2. Children have also been finding out about significant historical figures such as Queen Elizabeth and Florence Nightingale, producing some superb writing and artwork through this.

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 1 have been finding out all about our bodies. We explored our different senses and thought about how our bodies take information from our environment. We listened to things we could hear around us, explored different objects while blindfolded and investigated different things that smelt. Our favourite part was exploring our sense of taste. We tried a range of different foods with different textures both sweet, savoury and even sour.



Year 2 went to Tyntesfield House last week to learn about what life was like in Victorian times. Children had the chance to dress up in Victorian clothes, experience writing on a slate board, carry out jobs completed by servants and explore Victorian artefacts. It was a fantastic day and Year 2 were exemplary role models for Nova Primary School.



Year 3 took part in a picture book day based on a book named 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. With fantastic illustrations and no writing at all, every child had a different picture and was challenged to invent their own version of the story. We filmed them doing this and combined their descriptions together to create our very own class Journey! They have also been terrific unicorns by showing their imagination on World book day. They did not let the snow distract them when they created their fantastic shoe box creations based on their favourite books.



Year 4 were fortunate enough to have a free educational visit to the SS Great Britain on Tuesday. We had 2 fantastic tour guides who made learning about the ship fun even if the rats in the galley scared us!

We also had the chance to go down to the dry dock right under the ship and we visited the museum where we dressed in clothes from the Victorian era.

Isobel says the best part on board was the fancy lady's boudoir!

Don't forget to use your family golden tickets that the children were given to take home.



Year 6 have been really enjoying learning about life as an evacuee in WW2. Here is some of the incredible work produced to inspire our writing:

- evacuee suitcases
- Book in a Box - Banksy class have been inspired by their chosen class read - Goodnight Mister Tom
- Reading a variety of WW2 texts (Friend and Foe, Carries War and Goodnight Mister Tom)
- Writing in role as a soldier on the battlefield
- Writing letters home as an evacuee



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: Ann Green

Role: Teaching Assistant

The best part of the role:

“The lightbulb moment”, when a child has been struggling with some part of their work and suddenly say to you, “I get it now!” Brilliant!

Hobbies:

Reading, cinema and spending time with my family. I love my fabulous grandchildren who always think Nanny is the best.

Favourite book:

The Lion King as this always takes me back to when my youngest daughter had the story read every night before bed. Simba was magical.

Favourite quote:

“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try and try again!”

Experience:

Mainly working in KS2, helping children with Maths and English. However this year I also work with Y1 children. The difference can be quite amazing. I am also a first aider.



A Message from Shine - Our After School Club Provider

Thank you so much for your warm welcome into your school. We hope we have ironed out any initial teething problems, but please do keep talking to us if we can help you or the children.

We have been busy in Cookery Club making chocolate croissants and pizzas. Cake will be on the list for cookery next term!

Shine clubs run every day so have a look at the full list of clubs running after school at www.shineafterschoolclub.com.

Don't forget Multi-Sports on Fridays is only £2.00 per session. Should you need child care until 6.00pm, please book your child into the 'Snack and Chill' session online.

Shine now have a dedicated email and phone line just for Nova parents. Email shine-nova@outlook.com or call 07932 873476

OTHER NEWS

Presentation of our Mental Health & Wellbeing Badge

In the first week of Term, we had a visit from Councillor Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor, to present us with the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Badge.

Cllr Craig spent time with the Health and Wellbeing Council to find out how they have impacted on wellbeing across the classes, before seeing our Daily Physical Burst in action. She then spoke at a special whole school assembly, before presenting the Badge to Andy Hamilton, Chair of Governors (and Nova's Wellbeing Governor) and Gracie-Mai.

As you can see from the press release below, we are the first and - only school- in Bristol to currently hold this award! If you recently attended Parent's Evening, you may have had the chance to meet one of the 2%er Team, a group of Pupils from Blaise Castle, who have the job of promoting positivity across the school and into our community. Their work is only just beginning, and they have other projects in the pipeline (with Kingsweston Class too).

We have also been asked to contribute to a feature on BBC Points West at some point in the future!



NOVA Primary pass Mental Health and Wellbeing Badge



Dear all,

We're so pleased to announce that Nova Primary School have achieved the new Healthy Schools' Mental Health and Wellbeing Badge.

They are the first school to have achieved any of the new badges and have done so in an impressive timescale, achieving it just 3 months after it launched.

Their submission was a particularly strong one and it is evident Nova Primary School have made a very genuine and long term commitment to improving the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils and staff. The Healthy Schools team were impressed by:

- the strong leadership for and focus on mental health and wellbeing; this has been included as a focus in the school improvement plan for the last 2 years
- Enriching the curriculum
- How actively pupils have been involved in decision making and driving the direction of the work through the establishment of a health and wellbeing council
- The incorporation of the daily physical burst
- Plus much more!

Congratulations!

Healthy Schools Team

Attendance

Our current attendance figure stands at 94.5%. We are aiming for 96% so please do aim to get children in school every day. We will have a wonderful school treat when we reach our target!

Please remember, that we cannot authorise holidays, regardless of prior attendance and taking children away in school time (unless there are exceptional

circumstances), will result in a fixed penalty notice.

Parent Forum

The last meeting took place on 5th February 2018. These meetings are becoming better attended and are essential for the running of the school. Here are a few of the key discussion points and rising actions:

Discussion Points	Actions Arising
Parking- members suggested different strategies including, cones, barriers and sandwich boards, children's posters	The school has purchased cones with expandable tape. The ECO council will create a banner design to be displayed outside.
Reading incentives- possible 'Dojo' bookshop- parents and carers liked this idea very much and gave further suggestions. Parents and Carers were also keen to involve the local library more.	School to begin sourcing and purchasing books that children can buy with 'Dojos'. Reading Leader to investigate scope for using the local library.
Parents and Carers in School- we discussed further ideas to get parents involved more. Parents and Carers were keen to change the morning routines in KS1 and Reception which have become quite chaotic.	From term 5, each class will invite Parents and Carers in for a curriculum activity or event. All classes will do at least one class assembly over the year. The Leadership Team have worked with key Stage 1 teachers to change the morning routine to improve the start of the day and provide more purposeful opportunities for Parents and Carers- information to follow for Term 5! In the future, the Leadership team will look at providing more academic advice to enable parents to support more at home.

Enterprise week

We are running our fabulously successful Enterprise Week once again this term. You are cordially invited to browse, sample and buy the goods and services the children have produced on the afternoon of 23rd March, from 1:45pm. The sale is always

great fun, quite hectic and very profitable.

Proceeds will go to Sport Relief and as last year, we will give prizes to the class who make the best business portfolio, the most captivating commercial and the biggest profit overall. Children will be able to bring £2 to spend on the day and will have staggered entry to the sale, to avoid a stampede!

The purpose of Enterprise week is to give the children the chance to develop their entrepreneurial skills, in the context of their curriculum. They explore maths through money, design and technology through product development and many other subjects and skills. The theme for products this year was decided by the school council. They must all link to our ELLI animals in some way. As a reminder, ELLI animals are our way of remembering the characteristics of learning:

Owl- planned and organised

Unicorn- creative problem-solver

Meerkat- playful outdoor learner

Spider- links learning

Cat- curious and asks questions

Tortoise- resilient and hardworking

Dolphin- emotionally articulate and supportive to others

Bee- great independent or team worker

Chamealeon- flexible and able to change direction when learning

School Crossing Patrol

We have been advised by Bristol City Council that from the start of Term 6 the School Crossing Patrol at Kings Weston Avenue/The Bean Acre is to be discontinued. This is as a result of a review of services across the city and a number of School Crossing Patrols across the city are being discontinued. We would ask that if you and your children use this crossing that you talk to your children about road safety when this service ends.

PTFA Summer Fayre

The PTFA will be organising a Summer Fayre for Saturday 23rd June - more details to follow!

Due to unforeseen circumstances the PFTA have had to cancel the circus that was planned for 6th July.

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