

2nd March 2017

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NovaPrimarySchool



@NovaPrimary

Dear Parents/Carers & Children

Although it is a long time in the future I would like to inform you all of my decision to retire from Nova Primary this coming Christmas. I have thought carefully and for a long time about this and believe the time is right for the school and myself. I joined Avon Primary in January 2002 as deputy head and class teacher of Year 4. In fact, one pupil from my very first class is now a mum here and it's lovely to have you back, Charlie. Then, in September 2004, I took on the role of Headteacher, so by Christmas I will have been Head for over 13 years.

The school has changed tremendously during my time here – most notably growing to two form entry. Even with this expansion, I wanted to keep the family feel and believe we have done that.

I am very proud of our school and, knowing there is such a strong team here, am convinced that the school will become bigger, brighter and even more successful.

The children were told of my decision to retire during assembly today and I was able to ask them to help the governors by providing ideas about what they would like in a new Headteacher. In fact everyone has a role to play so please read the request from the governors below. Of course I will miss the staff, parents and especially the children. They are why I get up each morning so I intend to make the very most of the rest of 2017 and my time at Nova Primary and of course, it will be business as usual.

And from the Governors – your help is needed

The Governors are very sorry to hear of the decision of our Head Teacher, Mrs Atkins, to retire this coming Christmas, having led the school for so many years. Throughout the 65 years of the school's history, there has only ever been 4 Headteachers. The Governors therefore hold an enormous responsibility to the staff, pupils, and parents/carers to ensure a replacement Headteacher is chosen wisely and in a timely manner to facilitate the transition. To do this, we are going to ask for your input. The Governors therefore invite staff, pupils, parents and carers to think about what characteristics they'd like to see in a new Headteacher. On Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March, each class will have a sheet to gather sentences from

Dates for your diary

Term Dates 2016 - 17

Term 4 Mon 20 Feb – Fri 7 April 2017

Term 5 Mon 24 April – Fri 26 May 2017

Term 6 Mon 5 June – Fri 21 July 2017

Inset days, School closed

Day 5 – Monday 10th July

TERM 4

Mon 6 March – SATs meeting for Y2 parents, 3:20pm

6,7,8 March – RSPB working in all classes

Fri 24 March – COMIC RELIEF DAY

Thurs 30 March – Y3 & Y4 concert @ 10am and 6:30pm

Mon 3 April – ENTERPRISE WEEK

Fri 7 April – ENTERPRISE SALE 1:45pm. Last day of Term 4

TERM 5

Mon 24 April – Term 5 begins

Mon 1 May – Bank Holiday, school closed

Mon 8 May – Year 6 SATs week

Mon 22 May – Year 2 SATs week

pupils and their parents/carers, describing their ideal new school leader. We encourage parents / carers to write down their suggestions at the morning drop-off or evening pickup. There will also be a flip chart outside the school Office for 2 days, so parents dropping off for Breakfast club can contribute. For those unable to visit, either write down your ideas for your child to bring to school, or email a simple sentence defining what YOU would like the new Headteacher to be like to chair.nova.p@bristol-schools.uk

Parent Consultations –

It was great to see so many parents and carers last week at Teacher/Parent Consultations. I am sure you found the meeting useful and I hope our new Assessment leaflet has helped you to understand the many processes we use to establish whether your child is on track to meet the end of year expectations for their year group. We can see lots of progress in their books and presentation continues to improve. We introduced cursive writing only 18 months ago and most children are quite fluent with it. After a few tears, because it is quite difficult at the start, it allows for speed in writing and thoughts to flow more quickly.

SATS meeting

The informative Y6 meeting was held this week. Feedback shows parents appreciated being able to look at test papers, understand how we present the tests and the timetable for the week. We are holding a meeting for **Y2 parents about the SATs this Monday, 6th March, after school.**

NSPCC fund raising

During our celebration assembly last week the NSPCC visited to tell the children how much money had been raised through the sponsored event. Well, I am extremely pleased to tell you that, in total, we raised a phenomenal **£1639.80**. £1382.22 was raised in sponsorship and £257.58 for non-uniform. Wallace and Gromit classes raised the most money in KS1 and Blaise Castle and Kingsweston raised the most money in KS2. However, we would like to thank **everyone** for their efforts.

Attendance

Unfortunately our attendance has dipped recently and is below where we were last year. We have had chicken pox in school recently and earlier we had a bout of norovirus which of course affects the figures. However, I would like to remind you that attendance and punctuality are important. Some children are regularly late and miss that much needed practice of a skill during Early Morning Work. 15 mins late is over an hour of schooling missed in a week. If you arrive after 9am, then this is classed as an absence. We have also had children leave school for routine dental appointments. Please make these check ups out of school time.

Parking

We continue to see people parking and driving in a dangerous manner outside of school. I know that many parents are extremely concerned about the situation and have made complaints to school. The school entrances need to be kept clear for the safety of everyone and especially our children. Because of this parking on the zig-zags between 8am and 6pm is illegal and neither are they dropping off zones. Would the owners of the following cars park legally and safely outside of school, thank you.

WP57 CLZ	HX66 ORO	W514 JPC
YF07 TVX	BN10 EFB	

World Book Day Today children have been sharing their favourite books with classmates to celebrate World Book Day and their enjoyment of reading. In assembly yesterday, Elijah, Logan, Archie and Lily-May, from Blaise Castle, recommended their current favourites and Mrs Morris treated the children to 'Just Awful' which is a story she loved when aged 5. I'm sure, if you ask the children, they can tell you about it. Some books that have been highly recommended by KS2 children today are:-

An Eagle in the Snow – Michael Morpurgo; Hoot – Carl Hiaasen; Skulduggery Pleasant Mortal Coil – Derek Landy; Gangster Granny – David Walliams; George's Marvellous Medicine – Roald Dahl; King of the Cloud Forests – Michael Morpurgo; AniMalcolm – David Baddiel; Through the looking Glass – Lewis Carrol; and the Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz is great for boys.

Uniform and trainers Can I remind you that our uniform policy says that only black trainers can be worn to school. Brightly coloured trainers are not part of our school uniform. Please adhere to our policy of black trainers only, so it is fair for all children and you as parents are not drawn into arguments with your child when purchasing shoes.