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Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the school year can be a bittersweet experience for many of us. We are all ready for a well-earned break, but we must say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 children and some staff too. We reflect on successes and the good times, but also face the frustrations of things we have tried to achieve that maybe haven't worked so well.

Our Year 6 children have certainly gone out with a bang. Last week, they treated us to an extravaganza of singing, and yesterday, their final assembly was both poignant and heart-warming. On Friday, they had the traditional Nova water fight, followed by a massive Pizza delivery which was very welcome indeed. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Morph and Banksy class, the very best of luck as they move to the next stage of their education. We are going to miss each 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 2019 – 2020

Term 1

Mon 2nd Sept 2019 to Fri 25th Oct 2019

Term 2

Mon 4th Nov 2019 to Fri 20th Dec 2019

Term 3

Mon 6th Jan 2020 to Fri 14th Feb 2020

every one of them, and thank them for all that they have brought to the Nova school community over the years.

It has been a challenging year for Nova overall. We had had some significant changes in staff and at times this has meant the Leadership team have been very stretched. We have devoted a lot of time and effort to recruitment and it feels great to know that we have the skilled and proactive team that we need for September.

Of course, over the summer, the Leadership Team will be busy planning and organising different aspects of school improvement. The new 'Rowan Room' and 'The Secret Garden Room' will be resourced and ready to be opened in September. These inspiring spaces, led by Miss Vaughan and Janet will support children with social, emotional and mental health needs. There will be a big focus on Special Educational Needs throughout the school, and we have grand designs on improving the library and promoting reading for pleasure. Also, as the children in Key Stage 2 know, we will be improving outdoor facilities for them, including a new all-weather football pitch.

For me, now I have the team that I know we need, my own aim is to spend as much time with the children as possible. Our Nova pupils are incredible, funny and full

-
Term 4

Mon 24th Feb 2020 to Fri 3rd April
2020

-
Term 5

Mon 20th April 2020 to Fri 22nd May
2020

-
Term 6

Mon 1st June 2020 to Mon 20th July
2020

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL WILL BE
CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING
INSET DAYS 19/20**

-
Inset Day 1

Monday 2nd September 2019

-
Inset Day 2

Tuesday 3rd September

-
Inset Day 3

Monday 6th January 2020

-
Inset Day 4

Friday 3rd April 2020

-
Inset Day 5

Monday 20th July 2020

of love. They inspire me every day to work harder and do better, as a teacher and as a person. Like all the staff at Nova, I want the very best for each and every child.

Please can I ask that you take time to read the piece further on this newsletter about our office team - your help with this would be greatly appreciated.

The summer always seems to fly by; some of you will be working and I am sure many of you will be off on your holidays. Whatever you are doing, have a wonderful time and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.

With kindest regards,

Anna Morris
Headteacher

Other Useful Dates:

-

Nova Welcome BBQ

6th September @ 3.15pm

-

Parent Forum 1

19th September @ 9.15am

-

Parents & Carers of children with additional needs coffee morning

9th October @ 9.00am

-

Parent Consultations

23rd & 24th October



CURRICULUM AT NOVA

This term children are continued to learn through their Line of Enquiries. 'What a wonderful world!' has been the overarching theme where children across the school have been developing their geographical and scientific skills and knowledge in particular as well as developing an appreciation of the diversity of life.

You can find more information about our Nova curriculum on our school website at <http://novaprimaryschool.co.uk/learning/curriculum/> or on class pages.

Early Years - This term we have been consolidating our learning about life cycles. We have watched beans grow and observed the changes over time. We have been conducting scientific experiments such as changing the colour of flowers and making predictions about where plants will grow best. We welcomed some pet Giant African Land Snails into our classes and have been taking care of them. Our learning then took us into the world of minibeasts! We have loved collecting them and creating suitable habitats for them. If you

would like to know a fact about a honeybee, ask someone from Wallace or Gromit Class!

We have also been welcoming our new September cohort into Nova. Our current classes have made us really proud of how mature and kind they have been to our visitors. We had a PAWsome Teddy Bear's Picnic and celebrated in style! Wallace and Gromit Class, you have been brilliant this year and we are so proud of how far you have all come. Well done.



Year 1's Line of Enquiry is 'Why is water precious?'

This term, Year 1 children explored the reasons why fresh water is a precious resource. First, they considered how fresh water supports the growth of trees and plants. Children

enjoyed planting and tending to their own green beans. Then, the Year 1 children were asked, "What do you need to survive on an uninhabited island?" The children quickly identified that fresh water was essential to their survival and investigated ways to purify the salt water that could be collected from the ocean surrounding the uninhabited island. With this, students eagerly made and tested a solar still. They used their knowledge of the water cycle to write an explanation of the purification process.



Year 2's Line of Enquiry is 'What makes Africa amazing?'

Year 2 have been working on their artwork for their African exhibition which took place last Thursday as well as practising their drumming and singing. In English they have been reading traditional African stories and writing facts. In maths they finished their topic on capacity by creating and measuring out a magical potion.



Year 3 's Line of Enquiry is 'Why should we care about the environment?'

Wow, what a way to end year 3: a trip to the zoo, learning about famous naturalists and

making our magazine to spread awareness of deforestation. The children have really made their teachers proud with their determination to produce some outstanding work and they, I'm sure, are looking forward to sharing their magazines with all of you. A great way to end a great year.



Year 4's Line of Enquiry is 'What's the most important thing about chocolate?'

Over the course of Term 6, Year 4 have been busy investigating what the most important thing about chocolate is, eventually building up to creating our own chocolate boxes. We started by completing blind taste testing to focus our senses on the experience different types of chocolate gives us, as well as finding the best tools to grind cocoa beans. We then learnt about Fairtrade and how this may affect the type of chocolate we buy. Once we had this knowledge, we wrote consumer surveys to find out what types of chocolates are people's favourites, what packaging they prefer and if they like additional ingredients in their chocolate. Using this, we began to plan our own chocolate and packaging designs. Meanwhile, in English, we looked closely at the journey the cocoa bean and then turned this knowledge into a suspense filled adventure story, bringing the cocoa bean character to life. To finish this unit, the children have created creative chocolate designs and packaging to match. There has been fantastic determination and creativity from all, well done Year 4!



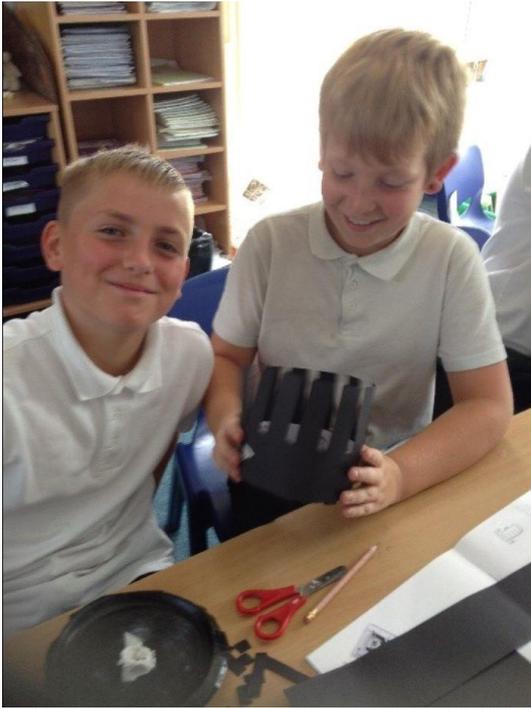
Year 5's Line of Enquiry is 'What makes planet Earth unique?'

After learning all about the solar system, Earth with its natural disasters and life cycles, Year 5 wrote a documentary script that we recorded and premiered to Year 3 yesterday.



Year 6's Line of Enquiry is 'How can life be celebrated through animations?'

After making our own ZU3d animations last term, Year 6 have designed and made zoetropes - the original stop motion animation! Take a look at these in the photos below. Year 6 have also been busy learning songs and rehearsing for their Year 6 performance. I'm sure those of you who saw it will agree they were fantastic! We wish all children well for their bright futures.



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 hear from you.

MEET THE TEAM



Name: Hannah Shelton

Role: Teacher

The best part of the role:

I love to create lots of fun activities to help children remember their learning

Hobbies:

I love paddle boarding, hiking and reading

Favourite quote:

"If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely"

Experience:

I have been a teacher for four years and have taught Year 2, 3 and 4 in this time

OTHER NEWS

Office Requests

Our office team work incredibly hard to provide a friendly and efficient service to our families. Their tasks are wide-ranging and they often go above and beyond to help visitors and children. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to carry out their jobs due to the number of visitors to the reception area, wanting to meet with teachers or leaders without appointments or arriving late to drop off and collect children.

From September, to improve the running of the office and to ensure all parents and carers get what they need, we would like to remind you of the following things:

1. If you wish to meet with a member of staff, please phone or email the school office to make an appointment. This will alleviate the number of people waiting in the Reception area and reduce the need for office staff to have to track down staff. Remember, senior leaders have multiple meetings per day- please talk to class teachers if you have an issue in the first instance.
2. Drop your children to the classroom door, on time, every day. Collect them at 3:15pm. There are too many children picked up well after school has finished and this is unfair on staff who have work to do and children who worry about why no one has picked them up. Our big push on attendance next year will include the tracking of punctuality, as well. The number of children coming in over the course of the morning and being picked up well after 3:25pm is unacceptable and must be addressed. Unless you have had specific permission to collect or drop at the office, you must use the classroom doors like everyone else.
3. Only come to the office area if you have a specific, office-related query such as payment, school uniform or you require a form. The office staff are often expected to solve problems that do not fall under their job descriptions such as behaviour or homework. These are matters to discuss with the class teacher.

When the office area is too busy, it is almost impossible for the office team to track who needs what and who is going where. This could present a potential safeguarding issue and it is essential that we reduce the busyness that is so overwhelming at key parts of the day. We all need to play our part in the smooth running of the school and we would appreciate your support and understanding with this particular issue.

FREE

Incredible Years Parenting Course

**Nova Primary School
Barracks Lane, Shirehampton, BS11
9NG**

**Tuesdays 9:30am - 11:30am (term time only)
10th September—10th December**

Call Gail 07584202855 to book

For parents of children with challenging behaviour aged 2 - 10



The Incredible Years Course focuses on building positive parenting skills. It provides tools and strategies to encourage positive behaviour, build relationships and manage conflict.

**Free refreshments
Provided at every session**

TOPICS INCLUDE

Problem Solving
Communication Skills
The Importance of Play
Effective Limit Setting
Praising and Rewarding
Handling Misbehaviour



**North Bristol Early Help
0117 3521499**

**★ Free crèche - must
be booked!**





Contact details for Shine are:

07932 873476

info@myshine.co.uk

Shine My Time

Shine try and make sure that there is something for everyone at After School Club, we know not everyone likes sports, so MyTime offers a 'bit of everything'. The Shine staff ensure there is lots to do for the children, they might want to play with Lego, go outside and play in the playground, do some homework, arts and crafts or just sit quietly and read, the choice is theirs.

My Time runs every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday until 4.45pm.

All Shine clubs are here: <https://www.myshine.co.uk/activity/my-time---nova-2>

We hope to see you there!



SHINE MY TIME

EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY
& THURSDAY

15:15 - 16:45



- ★ YEAR 2 - YEAR 6
- ★ A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM
- ★ BOARD GAMES & PUZZLES
- ★ CONSTRUCTION KITS & LEGO
- ★ ART & CRAFTS
- ★ OUTDOOR FREE PLAY

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You can book and find out everything we have on offer @ [MyShine.co.uk](https://www.myshine.co.uk)

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