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# Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

**NOVA**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Dear Nova Families,

I am so happy that we have had a full week with all classes together again after 11 weeks apart. Schools need to be complete to feel like they should and it has been a joy to see everything fall back into place so well.

A big thank you to the Reception classes and their families who have had to get use to a new start time. I know this has presented difficulties for some and I will be the first to celebrate when some of the more restrictive measures such as staggered start times are lifted!

In my role as Headteacher, one of the things I do to keep myself feeling motivated is to look at every situation as an opportunity to find the positives. I know that Mrs Thorpe, Mrs Risley, Mrs Ferns 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 2020-21

-  
**Term 4**  
Mon 22nd Feb 2021 -  
Thurs 1st April 2021

-  
**Term 5**  
Mon 19th April 2021 - Fri

Janet would wholeheartedly agree with my view that the queuing systems in the morning and evenings have been a wonderful opportunity to get to know many of you better. Thank you for always being so friendly as we have had plenty of laughs to take the edge off feeling cold and wet!

Similarly, I feel incredibly positive about the working relationship between the school and our families. The mutual communication and support over the last term has been phenomenal and this is something that we should all be exceptionally proud of. I know that however hard it has been, we will work together with a greater understanding in the future, as co-educators of our children.

For the children, they have had to adapt to all sorts of changes. In school they have had different teachers and classmates. This has challenged some, but it has been a great opportunity to develop resilience and increase their social circles. Those children that were at home had to wrestle with technology and new ways of working- this will help their computing skills no end and again, they will have become more resilient as a result.

Of course, perhaps one of the more popular changes to education has been the removal of all statutory testing this year and the submission of data to the Department for Education on Early Years, phonics, and

28th May 2021

-

**Term 6**

Mon 7th June 2021 -  
Weds 21st July 2021

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
THE FOLLOWING INSET  
DAYS 20/21**

-

**Inset Day 5**

Monday 19th April 2021

-

**Inset Day 6**

Friday 2nd July 2021

-

**Inset Day 7**

Wednesday 21st July  
2021

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
THE FOLLOWING INSET  
DAYS in 21/22**

-

**Inset Day 1**

Wednesday 1st  
September 2021

-

**Inset Day 2**

English and maths in Year 2 and 6 (SATs). Some of you have asked about this so I will briefly explain how assessment will work as a result.

Over the next few weeks, teachers will be carrying out a variety of assessment activities to ascertain children's attainment and to plan their next steps. This may involve the following, depending on the age of the children:

- Reading assessments with the teacher or TA
- Maths Fluency pre and post assessments so teaching is pitched perfectly
- End of term tests in reading, spelling/grammar and maths
- Day-to-day observation of each child's learning
- Quizzes and fun chances to show knowledge

Whatever programme of assessment the children have, the main aim is to accelerate their learning and ensure any gaps caused by lockdown are filled as soon as possible.

You will shortly receive details about booking a parent consultation with your child's teacher for the start of term 5 and you will be able to discuss how your child is progressing at this time. At the end of the school year you will receive a report as you always do and this will inform you of

Monday 11th October  
2021

-

**Inset Day 3**

Tuesday 4th January 2022

-

**Inset Day 4**

Friday 8th April 2022

-

**Inset Day 5**

Friday 8th July 2022

**Other Important Dates**

-

**Red Nose Day**

Friday 19th March 2021

-

**Kingsweston Class (Mr Walker) Parent Consultations**

30th & 31st March 2021

-

**Poetry Week**

19th - 23rd April

-

**Parent Consultations**

20th & 21st April 2021

-

**Health & Wellbeing Day**

25th May 2021

whether your child is below, working at or above age related expectations.

SATs, in particular, have become a really big thing in schools. They provoke controversial opinion and many question whether they are useful. For year 6, secondary schools will carry out their own assessments to help support transition and we will ensure that our assessments are passed on to their new teachers so please try not to worry- we have it all in hand!

Anyhow, I wish you all a lovely weekend. It has been a busy, emotional week and I expect you will have some very sleepy children on your hands.

With kindest regards

Anna Morris  
Headteacher



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## CURRICULUM

### Year 3

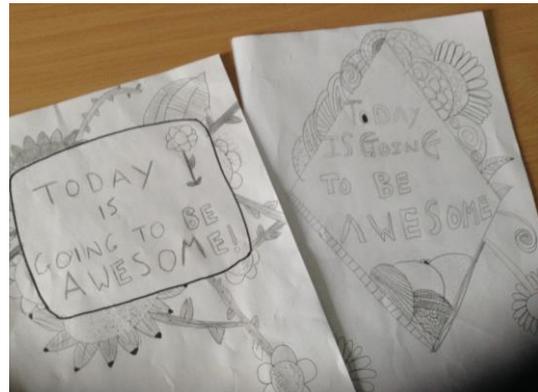
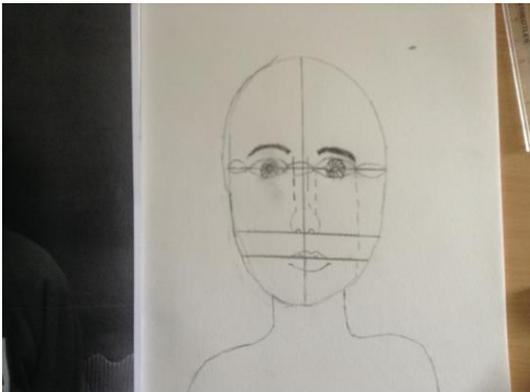
To continue their topic of The Rainforest, Year 3 have been reading a set of instructions called 'How to Catch a Tree Frog!' They wanted to practice what they had learnt from the text even though they didn't expect to really find anything and LOOK what they returned with! Year 3 are now the proud owners of 23 Tree Frogs!

They have been very busy building permanent enclosures in the classroom and learning more about what amphibians need to survive. The Tree Frogs have even joined in with some of their lessons!



#### Year 4

In Year 4 during art this week we have been demonstrating space and perspective in a self portrait. We built up our self portraits using perspective lines to guide us where features should be. We added details from that point and will go on to produce portraits in different mediums. We also made posters to encourage us to have a positive day as part of our SMILE activities.



#### Year 5

Term 4 got off to a flying start with children in year 5 producing stunning reports on The Olympic Games, which began 2700 years ago in Ancient Greece. Children in school, and at home, were so creative with the presentation of their research: lift-the-flap fact files, posters and beautifully set out reports using a wide variety of computing skills.



**Year 6**

Year 6 had a great launch day, introducing the next part of our Line of Enquiry: Natural Disasters. This will allow us to continue answering: How did Earth Evolve? We made earthquake-proof buildings, created tornadoes using shading and varied the temperature of water to create physical reactions like in a volcano!





**MEET THE TEAM**



**Name:** Freya Gillott

**Role:** Learning Mentor

**The best part of the role:**

I really enjoy that each day is slightly different, yet always so rewarding - I've been working with so many lovely children and I'm really enjoying supporting them to feel their best.

**Hobbies:**

I love drawing (especially animals) and being active: running, hiking, walking, and horse riding. I also enjoy spending time with my puppy, Luna, and two cats, Tuli and Jumbo.

**Favourite quote:**

"Learn from the past, take ownership of the present, and create your future one decision at a time"

**Experience:**

I did a degree in Psychology first, and then trained as a teacher which I did for 7 years in Suffolk (where I'm from) and Bristol. I then decided to change roles, as I wanted to be more involved in pastoral support in schools.

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## ECO SCHOOLS UPDATE

At Nova we are working to become an eco-friendlier school.

One of our focus areas is 'healthy living'. We want to grow more fruit and vegetables because we know that growing our own food is good for us and the environment so this term each class will be taking part in an eco-challenge to see who can grow the tallest sunflower or tomato plant.

Next term we will measure the plants and announce the winners! With spring on the way, now is a great time to get planting so why not join us in growing some of your own fruit and vegetables at home? Even in small spaces, it's amazing what you can achieve!

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/grow-your-own/how-to-grow-veg-small-spaces>

## WELLBEING

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, we launched our SMILE initiative as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

Each day, classes looked at a different SMILE letter and completed activities and games supporting their understanding. It was brilliant to see children learning about all the ways they can look after their mental health and wellbeing, from learning new skills to mindfulness meditations!

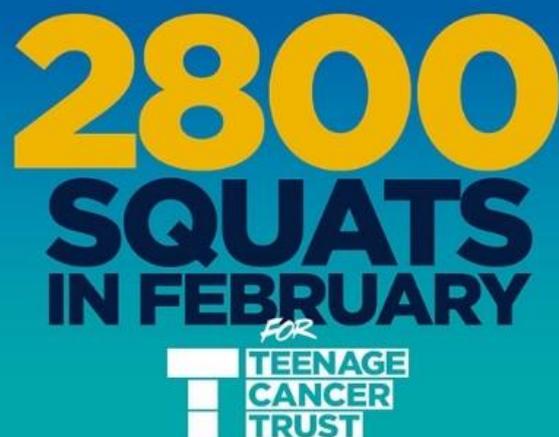
The children really embraced all the activities – true Nova superstars. Some children have been completing some small group work linked to SMILE too – we've talked about the role of endorphins, looked at different ways we can add more exercise into our day, and explored the power of socialization on wellbeing.

We've also tried out a mindfulness 'body scan', designed to help children relax. It certainly went well, with some of us even falling asleep! If you want to try it at home, here is the link:

<https://www.mindful.org/body-scan-kids/>



at Nova Primary School for healthy wellbeing



A big well done to our staff team who took part in the 2800 Squat Challenge in February to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. Thank you to everybody who donated - we raised £596!



## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are delighted to be resuming our After School Club on Monday 15th March.

The club will run Monday to Friday from 3.15pm – 5.00pm. Whilst we still have staggered finish times provision will be in place for the year groups that finish before 3.15pm.

Our club will be run by Miss Jen Giltrow who has been working at the club since November. For the rest of term 4 she will be joined by one of our Teaching Assistants, Miss Freya Gundry and one of our SMSAs Mrs Sally Hale. The activities planned for term 4 are below.

Term 4 Themes	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Animal Week 12 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Animal shadows and silhouette dot art	Clay Dinosaur footprints and volcano eruption	Animal games and challenges	Pebble animals and animal key rings	Beaded jellyfish and pipe cleaner animals
Animation Week 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Create and design the story line	Create and design the characters	Create and design the sets	Film the animation	Animation reveal and popcorn night
Spring Week 29 <sup>th</sup> March - 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Spring salt dough creations Bunny rabbit socks	Clay Bake cake birds nests Spring stain glass windows	Paint salt dough creations Wind up butterfly's	Nature walk/scavenger hunt Paper flower	Good Friday

The cost of the club will be £6.50 per session and term 4 is now available for you to book online. Please note that only children who have booked into after school club can attend. Please see details below on how to book and pay for places at the club. Please also make yourself aware of our cancellation policy. In order to maintain Covid-19 guidelines we will have to limit the number of children who can attend per Key Stage at this time but hope to be able to increase this once the restrictions are lifted.

We are very much looking forward to the club resuming from 15th March and providing the wrap around care for your children.

### Booking Procedure

To enrol for Nova's After School Club, please complete and return a registration form which can be obtained from the School Office.

Bookings can be made using the same link as we use for parent's evenings and breakfast club:

**<https://nova.schoolcloud.co.uk/>**

Alternatively, if you require a space at short notice, please call the office and we will be able to book you in, subject to availability.

As spaces are limited, you must book in advance and we ask that you notify us by 3pm if your child is not able to attend that day, although refunds will only be given if we receive 2 working days' notice of cancellation.

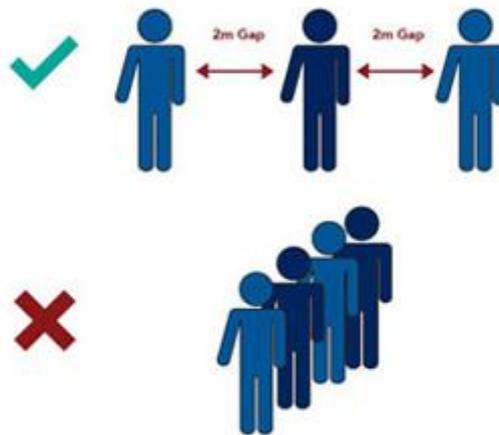
Payment MUST be made in advance using school gateway which is the same link as for dinner money and trip payments:

**COVID GUIDELINES**

Please can only one adult collect and drop off children to help limit numbers. We appreciate the pavements outside of school are narrow so please stand in lines rather than small crowds to allow others to pass safely. Thank you for your support with this.

# Limit numbers

## Queues



When queuing, leave a safe distance between yourself and the person in front of you. It is recommended you leave a two metre gap.

Please can only **one member** from each household collect children.  
Only queue and collect your own child.

When dropping off and collecting children, we ask that all adults wear a mask to help us limit the spread of the virus. We appreciate your support with this. [#WearAMask](#)



**Wear a mask**



Please wear a face covering to stop the spread of the virus.

### **NUTS REMINDER**

Please remember that we are strictly a no nut school! We take nut allergies extremely seriously and would like to remind you that not only should your children not bring any products with nuts in at all to school, it is not safe for them to eat them just outside either. Traces of nuts can remain on skin and clothing and it can take

just the tiniest trace to trigger a serious reaction in someone with an allergy. Thank you!

**PLEASE**



**NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS**

**OTHER NEWS**

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