

Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Nova Families,

Mi casa su casa,

We hope you are safe,

We welcome you,

Our home is your home.

I have started my letter with a little verse from Morph class written after reflecting on life as a refugee. Last week was National Refugee week and there were events all over Bristol and the nation as a whole to celebrate the contribution of refugees in our country. It is almost impossible to imagine what it must be like to leave your home because you have no other choice, and settle somewhere completely new.

I would like to welcome several new families to Nova Primary School. We have seen a small rise in numbers of late and all of the children have welcomed our new arrivals with kindness and support. I have

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 6
Mon 7th June 2021 -
Weds 21st July 2021

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

always loved this about Nova; we appreciate that new pupils can bring new friendships and possibilities and see it as something that is exciting and happy. Thank you Nova stars for being warm and loving to all.

On another note, I feel I have to acknowledge the disappointment we all have felt following the government's decision to extend the COVID restrictions. We have had to cancel events and rethink some of our plans, but I guess we always knew that things may not change as soon as we hoped. Instead, we are trying to adapt our plans and continue to ensure the children have a wonderful end to the school year.

Attendance is still a huge priority for us. Below are the overall weekly attendance figures since half term:

Week beginning 7 th June	92.06%
Week beginning 14 th June	93.41%

As a school we have made a conscious effort to be sympathetic to some of the issues you have faced with regards to COVID related absence, family events and in particular holidays (so many of you had them cancelled and rebooked for inconvenient times), but the fact remains that attendance is too low at Nova and must improve significantly. Come September, as well as continuing with our attendance meetings and reviews with key families, we will be raising our expectations

DAYS 20/21

-

Inset Day 6

Friday 2nd July 2021

-

Inset Day 7

Wednesday 21st July
2021

**Bristol Term Dates for
2021/22**

-

Term 1

Thurs 2nd September
2021 - Friday 22nd
October 2021

-

Term 2

Monday 1st November
2021 - Friday 17th
December 2021

-

Term 3

Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Friday 18th February
2022

-

Term 4

Monday 28th February
2022 - Friday 8th April
2022

-

Term 5

and sending out a clear message that what children need more than anything, next year, is to be in school as much as is humanly possible, to regain some of the education they have lost over the past two academic years. We will only be authorising time off in exceptional circumstances or for the usual things such as illnesses and unavoidable medical appointments and would ask you to support us whole-heartedly with this.

This is the penultimate newsletter of the year which is quite astounding. There is a lot of really useful information in this edition and some exciting news about a new anti-bullying initiative involving Janet, Mrs Matthews and some of our year 5 Nova stars. Enjoy!

Have a lovely weekend.

With kindest regards,

Anna Morris
Headteacher

Monday 25th April 2022 -
Friday 27th May 2022

-

Term 6

Monday 6th June 2022 -
Friday 22nd July 2022

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

-

Inset Day 1

Thursday 2nd September
2021

-

Inset Day 2

Friday 15th 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

-

Weeks 3 & 4 - Term 6



Children's Multiplication
Tables Check
(Results will be reported in
end of year reports)

-

Week 4 - Term 6
Assessment Week

-

5th July
Whole School Geography
Day

-

7th July
Reception 2021 Intake
Parent Meeting (now via
Zoom)

-

16th July
Reports sent to parents

DIANA ANTI-BULLYING AWARD

Mrs Matthews, Janet and six carefully selected Year 5 children (Ambassadors) will be embarking on The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign.

The work will encourage and change attitudes and behaviours for young people by young people. A 3 hour training session has already taken place and the wheels are in motion to begin our campaign from September.

The Ambassadors are busy designing posters for the school and planning actions and activities to help change the attitudes, behaviour and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and offline.

Please follow the link if you would like to find out more:

<https://diana-award.org.uk/anti-bullying/>



CURRICULUM

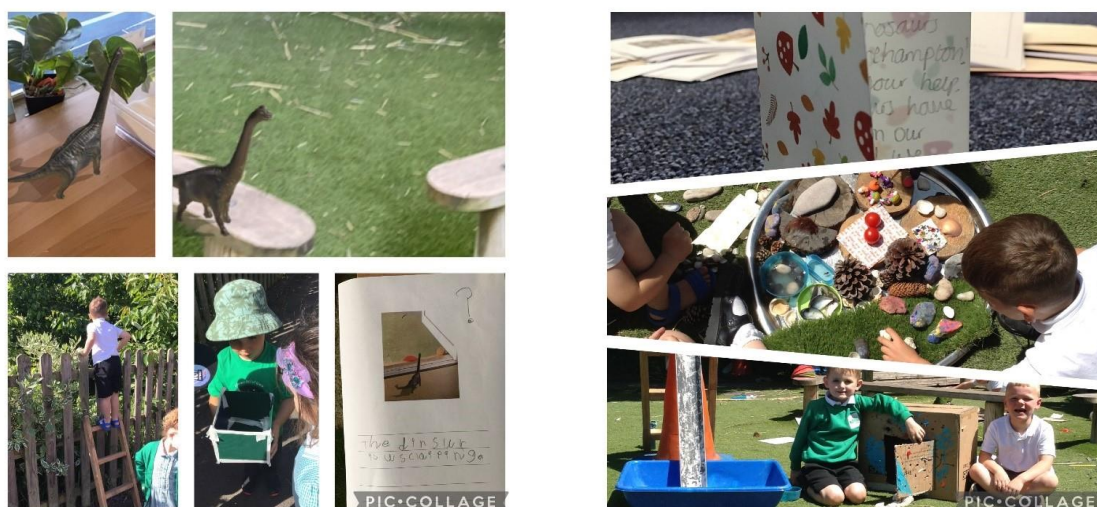
EYFS

What an exciting term in EYFS so far! On our return to school, we discovered a dinosaur egg had arrived in our classrooms, and we were lucky enough to catch some live footage of the mummy brachiosaurus!

Over the following days we went on dinosaur hunts, made warning posters and created traps. When the egg hatched we became dinosaur spies and searched

everywhere, looking for clues of where it could be.

Unfortunately, when the baby dinosaurs left our classrooms, they trampled on a nearby fairy garden so when the children received this news, they got to work on creating designs of houses, parks and gardens for them to enjoy, using some super team work!



Year 2

This week, Year 2 children have been 'designers' and 'authors' as part of their studies in Line of Enquiry.

The children researched, designed, made and evaluated their own pop-up books which may have incorporated three different folding techniques including a hinge, a spring and a flap.

They were so proud and eager to share their learning they independently wrote instructions on how to make a pop-up book. Check out these instructions, get creative and have a go yourself!



1. Firstly, do a flap by gluing the top of it.
Now you know how to make a pop-up book.
How amazing!

How to make a pop-up book

Did you know that it is simple to make a pop-up book?

These instructions will teach you how to make a simple pop-up book. Keep reading this exciting, neat text.

What you will need:

- scissors
- a orange card
- a white pencil
- glue

Instructions

1. First, fold the orange card and neatly.
2. Then, measure out middle sized lines on the glued side of the card then, push the hinge out.
3. Next, fold a dough piece of card so that it can ^{be used} fit in.

Year 3

Year 3 have started their new music unit learning about pitch and rhythm and have really enjoyed learning new songs, singing in different parts and composing rhythms to go with the music.



Year 5

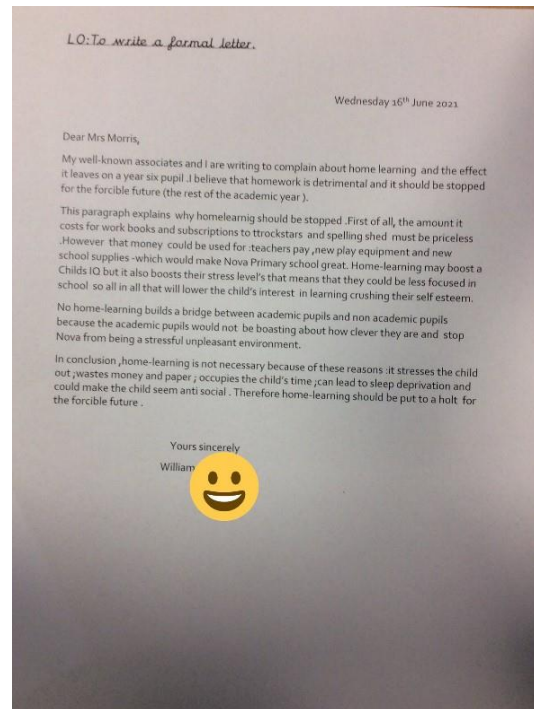
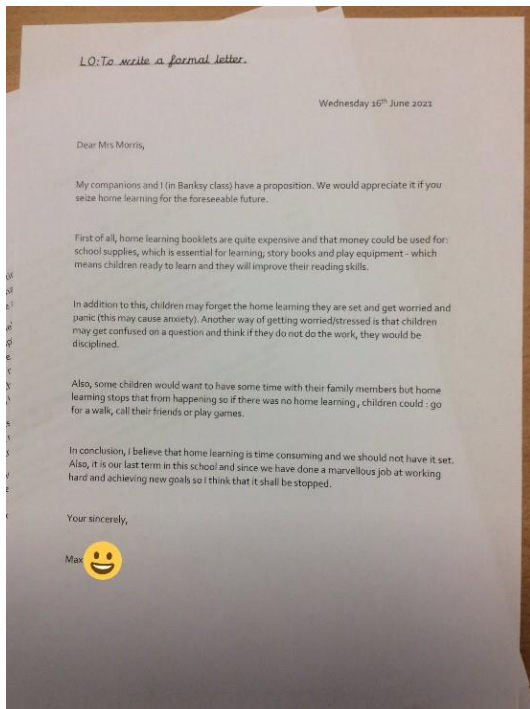
Year 5 are designing and illustrating the front covers for their water cycle inspired narrative books. We are so impressed with how they have used taught skills of sketching, adding tone, blending and shading and can't wait to see the finished books produced over the next few weeks.





Year 6

Year 6 have been busy writing formal letters, to Mrs Morris, in the hope of a home-learning free term 6 and finishing off creating their animation linked to the brilliant book 'A Monster Calls'.





MEET THE TEAM



Name: Rachel Risley

Role: SENCO/Inclusion
Leader

The best part of the role:

Having the opportunity to enable children to engage with all aspects of school by getting to know them and understanding what they need to succeed.

Hobbies:

Zumba, anything vintage and taking my cat for a walk (yes really!)

Favourite quote:

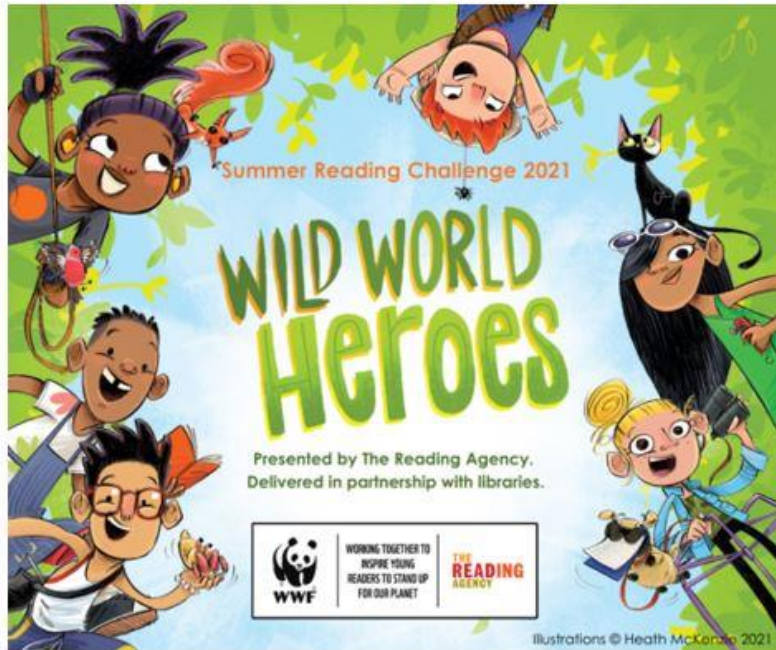
"At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can" – Frida Kahlo

Experience:

Previous SENCO at a primary school in South Gloucestershire; have completed the National Award for SEN Coordination; have taught years 1, 3, 4 and 6.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Summer Reading Challenge 2021



Your local library is running the Summer Reading Challenge again this year. You can join by visiting your local library or you can join online. It is FREE! Your child will be given a chart to record the books they have read and will receive stickers for books read.

The children can do this with CD stories, books they read themselves or books that are read to them by an adult.



If your child reads 6 books over the summer, they will receive a medal and a certificate. We would love to see a photo of your child with a Summer Reading Challenge Certificate and Medal at Nova!

You can find more information at:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/wild-world-heroes-intro>

BRISTOL PLAYS MUSIC

Get singing and playing this summer!

Over the summer Bristol Plays Music are opening their doors for two weeks of activities for young people to play, sing and explore their creativity.

These fun-packed weeks are for young people **aged 9 to 13** who will be going into **Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 in September 2021.**

Brass Band week is taking place over **26 – 30 July** and for young brass musicians playing at **Grade 1-5** to play, socialise and make music together. **[Find out more and book here.](#)**

Sing the Musicals is taking place on the **2 - 6 August** where young vocalists will be able to get back to singing and performing the songs they love, from modern musicals to Disney songs they will be singing and dancing their way through this fun-packed week. **The only requirement for this week is enthusiasm! [Find out more and book here.](#)**

Held at Bristol Plays Music's centre in Southmead there will be informal performances at the end of both weeks for parents and carers.

Running daily from **8.45am until 3.15pm** each course costs **£50 for the week**, we also offer bursaries for low income families.



APPEAL FOR NEW UNIFORM

Sometimes, new or existing families may find it a struggle to purchase new uniform and associated clothing. We always welcome donations of new items of clothing for school. Perhaps you could give an item bought in the wrong size or just add an extra pack tights or shirts to your basket when shopping. If you do feel like donating, then please bring your item to the office in a bag so it can be 'quarantined' and then

distributed to a child in need.

Thank you!



at Nova Primary School for healthy wellbeing

It's well known that being kind to one another is a great way to boost wellbeing, and is a big part of Nova's SMILE initiative. According to recent research, being kind to each other has even more benefits than ever realized before! In fact, being kind can...

- Increase energy and life span
- Light up reward centres in your brain, as if you were the recipient of a good deed, thus making you feel happier
- Lower blood pressure and improve overall heart health
- Increase self esteem and optimism
- Decrease stress, anxiety, depression, and even pain!

Kindness is also teachable. Therefore, we can encourage children to build up their kindness 'muscle', so that they show more compassion, willingness to help and empathy towards one another. There are lots of ways to do this:

1. Ask your child about what kindness they have shown in their day, or if they've seen someone else showing kindness
2. Discuss with children how their behaviour affects others – holding the door open for someone or smiling at a teacher can go a long way!

3. Model kind behaviour and kind words
4. Encourage children to think how others would feel in certain situations - pretend play is a great way to practise this for younger children
5. Let your child know that it feels good to help others, and create opportunities where they can experience this
6. Read and share stories about kindness
7. Praise your child when you notice them being kind to others
8. Complete some random acts of kindness together. There are some great ideas here: <https://www.kindnessuk.com/individuals.php>
9. Create a kindness jar – whenever your child does something kind, write it on a note, put it in the jar, and re-visit these every now and then
10. Teach children that when we're kind to others, it encourages that person to be more kind too – creating a ripple effect!

CAN CORNER - COGNITION & LEARNING

Cognition and learning is 1 of the 4 broad areas of need within Special Educational Needs. Children who have a need in this area may have challenges with the following:

- Reading and spelling
- Learning new information and concepts
- Working with numbers – dyscalculia
- Working memory – the ability to retain and remember learning and/or information
- Concentration
- Children may have conditions such as Specific Learning Difficulties, dyslexia or general learning difficulties.
- Children may present with difficulties that do not have a specific title

In this newsletter, I'd like to offer you some advice and knowledge on working memory. Many children have difficulties in retaining and remembering new and old learning – there is lots for them to remember! Working memory is one of the brain's

executive functions. It's a skill that allows us to work with information without losing track of what we're doing.

Think of working memory as a temporary sticky note in the brain. It holds new information in place so the brain can work with it briefly and connect it with other information.

For example, in math class, working memory lets children "see" in their head the numbers the teacher is saying. They might not remember any of these numbers by the next class or even 10 minutes later. But that's OK. Working memory has done its short-term job by helping them tackle the task at hand.

Working memory isn't just for short-term use, though. It also helps the brain organise new information for long-term storage. When people have trouble with working memory, the brain may store information in a jumbled way. Or it may not store it for the long term at all.

If you think that your child may have a difficulty in this area, here are some of the things that you can do to support them to develop this:

1. Work on visualization skills

Encourage children to create a picture in their mind of what they've just read or heard. For example, say you've asked your child to set the table for five people. Have your child imagine what the table should look like, and then draw it. As children get better at visualizing, they can describe the image instead of drawing it.

2. Have your child teach you

Being able to explain how to do something involves making sense of information and mentally filing it. Maybe your child is learning a skill, like how to dribble a basketball.

Ask your child to teach you this skill. Teachers do something similar by pairing up students in class. This lets them start working with the information right away rather than waiting to be called on.

3. Try games that use visual memory

There are lots of matching games that can help children work on visual memory, like

the classic game of “Pairs” using playing cards. You can also do things like give children a magazine page and ask them to circle all instances of the word “the” or the letter “a”. License plates can also be a lot of fun. Take turns reciting the letters and numbers on a license plate and then saying them backwards, too. There are lots of board games that are available to buy that work on the skill of memory but simply placing a selection of 5-10 items on a tray, giving your child 20 seconds to try and memorise them and then covering them up, is a great, fun game to play to work on memory!

4. Play cards

Simple card games like Crazy Eights, Uno, Go Fish, and War can improve working memory in two ways. Children have to keep the rules of the game in mind. They also have to remember what cards they have and which ones other people have played.

5. Encourage active reading

There’s a reason highlighters and sticky notes are so popular: Jotting down notes and underlining or highlighting text can help children keep the information in mind long enough to answer questions about it. Talking out loud and asking questions about the reading material can also help with working memory. Active reading strategies like these can help with forming long-term memories, too.

6. Chunk information into smaller bites

Ever wonder why phone numbers and credit card numbers can be written in groups of numbers? Because it’s easier to remember a few small groups of numbers than it is to remember one long string of numbers. Keep this in mind when you need to give your child multi-step directions. Write them down or give them one at a time. You can also use visual organisers to help break writing tasks into smaller pieces.

7. Make it multisensory

Using multiple senses to process information can help with working memory and long-term memory. Write tasks down so your child can look at them. Say them out loud so your child can hear them. Walk through the house as you discuss the family chores your child needs to complete. Using multisensory strategies can help children keep information in mind long enough to use it. What’s worth remembering is that verbal instructions only last as long as it takes to say the words – if your child

struggles with memory, they may have forgotten what you have said before you have finished saying it! Write down the instructions or use visual images to support – this lasts much longer and a child can go back to look at it to help them remember.

8. Help make connections

Help your child form associations that connect different details and make them more memorable. One way is to grab your child’s interest with fun mnemonics. (For instance, the made-up name “Roy G. Biv” can help children remember the order of the colours in the rainbow — red, orange, yellow, and so on.) Finding ways to connect information helps with forming and retrieving long-term memory. It also helps with working memory, which is what we use to hold and compare new and old memories.

Memory-boosting tricks and games are just some of the ways to help your child build executive functioning skills. And see how trouble with these skills can affect a child’s daily life.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Term 6 Themes	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Animation Week 21st- 25th June	Create story boards	Create the characters	Create the sets	Film the animations	Movie night
Garden Week 28th June- 2nd July	Flower crowns Nature art	Wind chimes	Water bottle bird feeders Bug hotels	Flowerpot painting	Inset day

The cost of the club is £6.50 per session and term 6 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.

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:

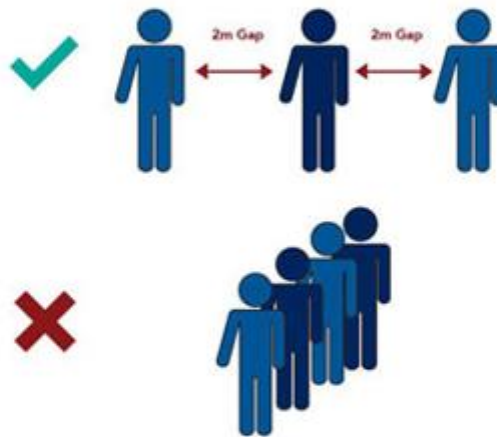
<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/register>

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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NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

WORKING WITH THE
STARS OF TOMORROW

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