

Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Nova Families,

This is the first newsletter of term 2 and the Nova team are so happy with how well the children have settled back in after the break. The culture of appreciation and care is rich and the children are so joyful to be around; I cannot tell you what a privilege it is to walk around the school during the school day.

To begin, I have a bit of favour to ask of you all. We are due an Ofsted inspection at some time this year; it could be anytime and there is no way of knowing for sure when that will be! Before the pandemic, we would always carry out a parent survey at our parent consultations, based on the Ofsted parent view questionnaire. Because we are expecting a full inspection, we would be extremely grateful if you could complete the survey on the Ofsted website directly. They will take the results into account when they judge the school, so we want as many responses as we possibly can. We will also use the results to help us to continue school improvement - your voice matters very much to us. I would ask that you complete the survey even if you are totally happy with

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 2021/22

Term 2

Monday 1st November
2021 - Friday 17th
December 2021

Term 3

Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Friday 18th February
2022

school - we want to know our areas for development, but it is great for the whole school community to also celebrate what we do well. Here is the link for the Ofsted Parent View page. It is simple to set up and shouldn't take long:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the launch of Black history month at Nova. As I told the children in assembly, black history should be an integral part of our curriculum throughout the year and I was very impressed with the level of enthusiasm and knowledge from the children. For example, Year 4 were able to clearly explain the impact of the seven saints of St Pauls on Bristol history, and children in Year 5 recited poetry by heart about one of my heroes, Harriet Tubman. My standout moment was listening to Dylan and Ivie from Year 1 explaining the life of Ghanaian, Emmanuel Oforu Yeboah. These children were clearly inspired by this man, who overcame physical disability and poverty, and devoted his life to helping other disabled people in his country through cycling, raising money and campaigning for equality. Emmanuel believed firmly that if you have a dream, you should never give up... what a powerful message and wonderful role model for our Nova stars.

It is with sadness that we said goodbye last Friday to Mrs Davis! Mrs Davis has worked at Nova for many years as a Teaching Assistant and Higher Level Teaching Assistant, as well as helping to run our successful breakfast club. We wish her all the very best in her new role!

-
Term 4

Monday 28th February
2022 - Friday 8th April
2022

-
Term 5

Monday 25th April 2022 -
Friday 27th May 2022

-
Term 6

Monday 6th June 2022 -
Thursday 21st July 2022

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

-
Inset Day 4

Tuesday 4th January 2022

-
Inset Day 5

Friday 8th April 2022

-
Inset Day 6

Friday 8th July 2022

-
Inset Day 7

Thursday 21st July 2022

With warmest regards,

Anna Morris
Headteacher



Other Important Dates

-

Monday 15th November

Odd Socks Day

-

Monday 15th November

Y5 Visit from Michael
Gorley

-

Wednesday 17th November

Individual & Sibling School
Photographs

-

Thursday 16th November

Children In Need Dress Up
Day

-

Tuesday 23rd November

Y3 Bristol Museum Trip

-

Friday 26th November

Roman Pottery Workshop

-

Thursday 9th December

Y2 Great Exhibition
Museum

Y3 Dress Up Day & Year
Group Assembly

-

Friday 10th December

Y1 Heroes Assembly
Y6 20th Century Exhibition

-

Tuesday 14th December

KS1 Christmas Lunch
Reception Christmas
Event

-

**Wednesday 15th
December**

KS2 Christmas Lunch
Y5 Curriculum Assembly

-

**Monday 13th & Friday
17th December**

Christmas Enrichment
Event

YEAR GROUP NEWS

RECEPTION

This term in Reception, we are really enjoying learning the story of The Three Little Pigs, as part of our Talk for Writing lessons. We built the three pigs houses using different materials, learnt the words to the story with actions and enjoyed role-playing the different characters! The children did some super writing, labelling pictures of the pigs and writing speech bubbles showing what the characters might say or think.

All of the children have been working very hard at their phonics and learning lots of new sounds, we are very proud of our budding readers! Thank you to parents for your continued support reading with your children at home.

In Maths we have been comparing amounts and learning about the composition of 1,2 and 3.

As always we have been spending lots of time learning outside and have been enjoying going on season walks and looking for signs of autumn.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have had lots of lovely experiences, over the last month, and in particular enjoyed Black History Month where we learnt lots of valuable lessons about valuing difference, through stories and songs.

This term, we have started our first year 1 'talk for writing' text and have been learning the story of 'Monkey See Monkey Do'. We have created our own story maps to help us recite the story and have loved acting it out to each other. We are looking forward to innovating our story in the next phase, to make it our own - we can't wait to share them with you!



Year 3

Year 3 celebrated Black culture through learning about Bristol's very own St Paul's Carnival where we designed our own carnival costumes!



Year 5

Y5 are learning to retell the story of Beowulf before innovating the text to create a suspense narrative next week. The story map is on Twitter and Facebook so that children can continue to learn the story and actions at home. Great work so far and lots of fun too!



Year 6

To launch into the next part of our Line of Enquiry (the Windrush generation), Year 6 tasted and evaluated food from the Caribbean. The reviews were mixed!



MEET THE TEAM



Name: Imogen Gray

Role: Learning Mentor

The best part of the role:

Having the opportunity to develop supportive, understanding relationships with the children, supporting them to overcome barriers to learning and participation in our school community, and develop transferable life skills, enabling them to achieve their full potential.

Hobbies:

In my spare time I enjoy practicing yoga and mindfulness, and staying active. You can often find me at my local tennis club, playing netball with friends, or swimming in the sea. I also have a passion for baking, banana bread has to be my favourite thing to bake (and eat!).

Favourite quote:

“Nothing is impossible. The word itself says “I’m possible!” – Audrey Hepburn

Experience:

In addition to completing degrees in Psychology, Special Educational Needs, and Inclusive Education, I have worked with children and young people in a range of educational settings as a learning support assistant, tutor, and mentor; in community settings with children with autism and their families; and in residential settings providing welfare and pastoral support. I have also worked with mental health charities, developed and implemented emotional wellbeing and mindfulness programmes, and worked in equestrian-based therapy for young people with disabilities.

CHILDREN IN NEED - THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

Don't forget that on **Thursday 18th November** we will be 'getting our strictly on' and wearing something glamorous, sparkly or feathery for this amazing cause. We only ask for a 50p donation which can be made online through the School Gateway app <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/register>



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AMBASSADORS 2021

On Friday, we announced our successful 'SIAs' for the year. Many thanks to all the children who applied. The quality of the speeches was really excellent! The ambassadors have already agreed their key responsibilities for the year and will be communicating more about their work over the rest of this term. They will be having their first lunchtime surgery next week to gather pupil ideas and concerns to form their action plan for the year. Due to absence, we have yet to publish our 'official photo, but it will be with you very soon!



at Nova Primary School for healthy wellbeing

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021

Anti-Bullying Week, coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, will take place from 15th to 19th November 2021.

'One Kind Word'

This year's theme of Anti-Bullying Week is 'One Kind Word'.

Kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us.

Our call to action:

- << Ask if someone's OK. Say you're sorry. Just say hey. >>
- << In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. >>
- << Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. >>
- << It starts with one kind word. It starts today. >>

Nova's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

In Year 6, we have six students trained to be Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.



They are working towards the Wellbeing goal of the Anti-Bullying Diana Award – an award empowering young people to change the attitudes, behaviour and culture of bullying by building schools confidence to address different situations, both online and offline.

Through the programme, the Ambassadors are helping to raise awareness of how to address bullying behaviour, and are eager to help create a kinder and safer school community.

Odd Socks Day

We will begin Anti Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day on Monday 15th November – don't forget to send your children into school wearing odd socks!



CAN CORNER

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) is 1 of the 4 broad areas of need within Special Educational Needs. The term originated in the 2014 SEN Code of Practice and replaced the term SEBD (Social Emotional Behaviour Difficulties). This move towards recognising the behavioural link to Mental Health has been a long time coming in the eyes of many. Although the term “behaviour” has been removed from this acronym, within the SEN Code of Practice behaviour linked to Mental Health and emotional wellbeing underlying needs is a common theme. The concept of addressing needs rather than attempting to subdue behaviours has led to a more informed, whole child approach.

Social

Children are, like all other humans, social creatures. Many have the skills to be able to communicate and exist around others fairly problem free (but not entirely!).

However, where there is a communicative issue, attachment concern or other challenge, the child may find forming and maintaining relationships with adults and other children a problem. This can affect their sense of wellbeing, access to the

community, ability to solve problems and learn effectively. Over time this may lead to more serious, persistent concerns. It is therefore vital we give children the skills and opportunities to interact with the world effectively to enable them to reach their full potential. How do we do this? Below is a list of *some* of the things we do at Nova.

Circle Time

Lego Therapy

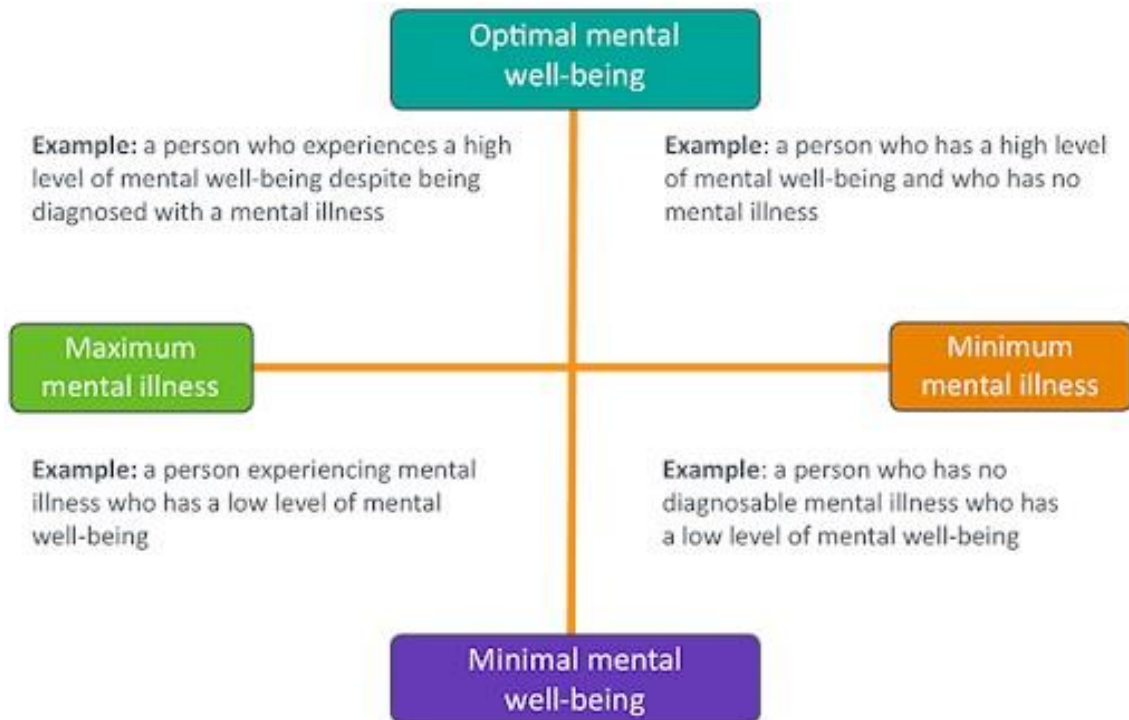
Mentoring

Wellbeing groups

Some bespoke small group or 1:1 work with our Lead Learning Mentor or Learning Mentor, Janet and Imogen

Emotional

This topic is such a broad one covering emotional regulation, recognising and normalising emotions, managing stress, building resilience skills and understanding others' emotions amongst many *many* other things. The Mental Health Continuum (shown below) shows the different positions we can be in with regard to our emotional wellbeing and mental health. This is a useful tool when considering the needs of your child. Many emotional wellbeing challenges do not need professional therapeutic intervention but do require someone to work therapeutically with them – listening, empathising, emotionally coaching - being a good human is often enough.



A child who is having to deal with a transient issue that can cause low sense of wellbeing (bereavement, divorce, relationship breakdown) does not necessarily have a mental health problem. However, if they were to be unsupported in this difficult time and felt unable to cope over a long period of time, this could lead to problems that may require further intervention and may possibly lead to a mental health problem. Normal emotional responses to difficult periods are just that, normal.

Mental Health

When we talk about mental health in the context of SEMH meaning, we are moving more towards talking about a diagnosable mental health condition or a set of symptoms that might see someone seek professional support. A key feature of mental health challenges are seemingly irrational fears, obsessional pre-occupations, persistent intrusive thoughts, rumination, safety behaviours and actions/thoughts/feelings that are based on an issue the person may have with how they are processing the world around them. For example, a highly anxious child may see threats in everyday situations based on their experiences or understanding. A child may have a low sense of self-worth and this may impact on how they perceive

interactions with others or how they tackle school work. A normal response to an adverse situation is not a sign of poor mental health, but poor emotional wellbeing. This period may however cause adjustments in a child/young person's beliefs about the world and responses that may cause problems for them that develop into mental health conditions later on.

How we think affects how we feel (MH to Social). How we feel can affect how we think (Emotional to MH). How we feel can affect how we interact (Emotional to Social). How we interact can affect how we feel (Emotional to Social). How we think can affect how we relate to others (Social to Mental Health) and finally how we interact with others can lead to changes in how we think (Mental Health to Social).

LETTER FROM MRS HARRIS

We are really pleased to pass on a message from the amazing Mrs Harris. Many of you may be aware that Mrs Harris has been poorly this year. We miss her so very much and are sure that you will join us in wishing her all our love. We cannot wait to have her enormous smile and positive presence back at Nova.

Get well soon Mrs Harris!

Dear Nova Families

I just wanted to say hello and thank you to everyone who has passed on their well wishes, whether it be personally, through the lovely Mrs Stiley or even through my extended family. I've felt very supported. I had a shock at the start of the year which started with being admitted to hospital with Covid, but it actually saved my life. While undergoing tests it was discovered that I had Breast Cancer. A positive spin on Covid for a change!

I was really gutted to have not been able to finish out the year with the wonderful Gromit and Wallace classes but I was kept very well informed on all their successes. All the great stories I heard kept a smile on my face and brighten my days. I wish

them all the same successes in year 1.

Well done with your race 4 life. I was really touched and proud of the money you all raised for Cancer Research. I know it is a cause close to many hearts.

Sadly, I won't be able to return to school this year either. I am doing really well with my treatment but still have a long way to go. You might see me out walking my dog on my good days, so feel free to give me a wave. Please don't be offended if I don't stop to chat but I have to be very careful with germs. I miss all your smiles and being able to share in all your successes. I will be back as soon as I can. You haven't got rid of me yet!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mrs Harris

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for making a concerted effort to ensure your children are in school, each day, and on time. Our attendance for the academic year stands at 94.5% at present and this is an improvement from this time last year.

There is so much exciting learning and enrichment going on, that children really want to be in school. Clubs, amazing curriculum lessons, assemblies and everything else we provide, combined with your commitment to attendance, are really making the difference!

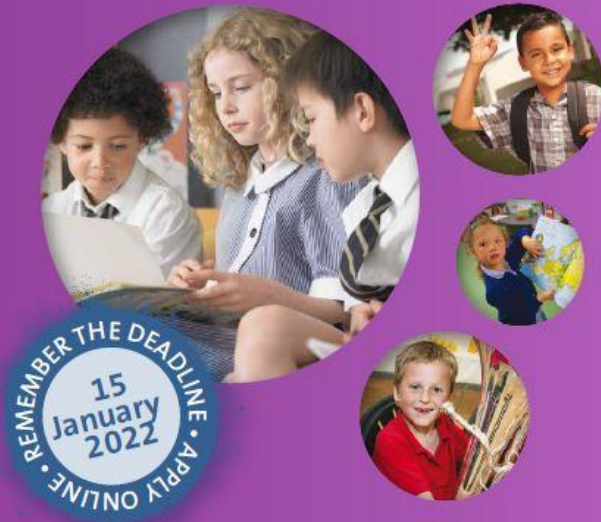
Here are the current attendance figures for each year group, from September:

Reception	95.02%
Year 1	92.58%
Year 2	95.20%
Year 3	95.40%
Year 4	94.87%
Year 5	93.32%
Year 6	95.50%

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2022

A guide for **parents and carers** on applying for a **primary school** place for the school year **2022–2023**

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 you will need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2022



TRADING WITH SCHOOLS
BRISTOL
 LEARNING CITY
www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions



What do I need to do to apply for a school place?

- Check the guidance on applying for schools – available at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions, or by contacting School Admissions. The guidance contains details on how & when to apply, information on each school along with their admissions policy and oversubscription criteria. With the mix of different types of school from Church schools, Foundation schools, Academies, Free Schools and Community schools the admissions policy could be different for each school you put as a preference so it's important to ensure you check this carefully.
- Some schools require supplementary forms to be completed as well as the common application form. Make sure you check if this applies to the school(s) you are interested in.
- Visit the schools. All schools hold open days. Contact the school directly for further details on open days.
- Look at the school's prospectus and its website which are useful sources of information.
- You can name up to three school preferences. We advise you to name more than one school.
- Make sure you apply on-time. The deadline is 15 January 2022.

School Admissions
 Bristol City Council
 PO Box 33
 Bristol
www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions
 Tel: 0117 901 1111

Why apply online?

- The system is secure
- There is no need to fill in forms
- It is quick and easy
- You will receive confirmation of your application
- You will receive confirmation of the school you have been allocated to
- The system is available 24 hours a day

Apply online via www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The cost of the club is £6.50 per session and term 2 is 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.

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>

Themes	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Movie Week 15th-19th November	Movie Quiz	Create your own character	Inside Out bookmarks	Movie posters
Superhero Week 22nd-26th November	Turn yourself into a superhero	Superhero trail	Superhero cuffs	Super assault course

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 (including coconut) 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

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