

Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Nova Families,

January is always considered to be a bit of a depressing month following the excitement of Christmas, but I always enjoy the slower pace and the excuse to hibernate a little! I think the children have come back to school with exactly the right attitude and without the distraction of the festive season, have buckled down to their learning with real determination. Frustratingly for a minority, this has already been interrupted by Covid, but at least the isolation rules have relaxed a little and this means less learning time is lost. Our attendance figures have taken a hit as you will see from last week's percentages which are nowhere near our target of 95%:

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 2021/22

-
Term 3
Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Friday 18th February
2022

-
Term 4
Monday 28th February
2022 - Friday 8th April
2022

	Attendance week beginning 10.1.21	Attendance since September
Whole School	92.85%	92.79%
Year R	96.31%	94.38%
Year 1	95.51%	91.03%
Year 2	92.90%	93.45%
Year 3	91.86%	93.18%
Year 4	88.15%	92.82%
Year 5	92.89%	92.04%
Year 6	93.28%	93.55%

Staff absence has also been difficult to cover as well - there are so few supply teachers and TAs available, but the team at Nova have been incredible at pulling together and doing everything they can to minimise disruption for the children. The children themselves have been so understanding and the school remains happy and calm, regardless.

I hope you have taken the time to look at the amazing new phonics programme we have unveiled this term through the various links on our social media and the letter Mrs Thorpe sent to you at the start of term. The reading team have worked exceptionally hard to ensure 'Little Wandle' is ready to go and that we have the extensive range of phonically decodable books to support it. They have also done timetables for staff, ensured all staff are trained, and organised two, well-stocked 'phonics hubs' with everything required to deliver this new scheme. I would like to thank them for their swift and thorough work and I know it will have a huge impact on reading at Nova.

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Term 5

Monday 25th April 2022 -
Friday 27th May 2022

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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 5

Friday 8th April 2022

-

Inset Day 6

Friday 8th July 2022

-

Inset Day 7

Thursday 21st July 2022

Other Important Dates

-

Tuesday 25th January

Y4 Trip to Aerospace
Museum

-

Thursday 3rd February

Y2 Trip to Clifton

Assemblies are always a joyful and thought-provoking experience at Nova and this term, we are shining a light on how we can call out prejudice, discrimination and bullying. We started by exploring the amazing book, 'My Skin, Your Skin' by Laura Henry Allain, which spells out so clearly that racism is wrong and that to be anti-racist we must all actively learn about diversity and use our voices to challenge any racism we witness or experience. I have bought each year group a copy of the book and would urge you to get hold of one if you can- it really is a brilliant and appropriate read for any age-group. Some of our classes have already made their own 'anti-racist' commitments which can be seen around the school.



In staffing news, sadly we said goodbye to the lovely Mrs Reid on Friday who is moving to the nursery sector to further her career. She has worked with countless children over the years at Nova, both in Reception classes and other contexts. We will all miss her hugely, but wish her so much luck in her new role.

At the end of the month, we will also be losing Miss Cartwright who aids individual

Suspension Bridge

-

Wednesday 9th February

Y2-Y6 Singing and building confidence session with Nigel Ipinson Fleming

-

Friday 11th February

Y3 Trip to We Are The Curious

-

9th - 11th February

Class PSHE sessions with Avon and Somerset Constabulary

-

Friday 18th February

Charity Football Match @ 3.30pm

-

1st & 2nd March

Parent/carer consultations

-

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day

-

14th - 18th March

Science Week

children in Year 2. She has brought great skill and knowledge to her role, so it is no surprise that she is off to continue her education.

Some good news now: we are welcoming a new teaching assistant, Mrs Lee to the Nova team on Monday! She will be working in Year one, primarily with Matthew Class and we know she is going to be a great asset to the school.

As you know, Mrs Risle, our brilliant SENCo will be taking her maternity leave, nearer to the end of term. We have been very fortunate to appoint a temporary replacement who will cover all aspects of her role- Mr Baxter has already spent a day with us and you may see him around over the next couple of Fridays. He will officially take his position on the first day of term 4 and he is very excited to get to know you all- he is certainly very lucky to be joining such a friendly and caring school community.

With kindest regards

Anna
Headteacher

Morris



YEAR GROUP NEWS

EYFS

This Term in Reception our Topic is 'Amazing Animals!' The children have turned the role-play area into a vet's and have been enjoying helping the different animals. For our Talk for Writing lessons, we have been reading the story 'Owl Babies'. We have been learning all about owls and other nocturnal animals. We built nests, went hunting for feathers, learnt about the life cycle of owls, created story maps and made up our own stories. Soon we will also have some special feathery visitors! The children have been working very hard on their reading, we are super proud of the progress they are making. Thank you to parents for your continued support in reading at home. Please remember to send in your child's reading books and reading records every day. Reading books are changed on a Friday. Well done for a fantastic start to the term Wallace and Gromit class!



YEAR 1

Year 1 have hit the ground running into 2022! We excitedly investigated a disturbance in our outside space and found some broken down houses belonging to The Three Little Pigs. We have been immersed in the story and now know it by heart. Our next step is innovating the story to create our own versions and we are working on describing our new characters with adjectives.

The children immensely enjoyed being artists for an Art Day as we learnt all about portraits. We explored a range of portraits by artists such as Freda Kahlo, Andy Warhol and Kehinde Wiley; describing what we liked about them and what we found

interesting. We expanded our understanding of shape by studying our faces in the mirror, and developed our art skills in drawing line and adding tone to our portraits.



Year 2

Year 2 have been busy being musicians and geographers! In music, we have been composing music to represent a calm and stormy sea and in Geography, we have begun to map out the playground as part of our local surroundings.



Year 3

Year 3 have kicked off the New Year exploring what it means to be a Scientist in our

new Line of Enquiry: *How can Science Educate and Entertain us?* We have been using our scientific enquiry skills to make hypotheses and conclusions about how different electrical items work. We have even discovered that our bodies contain a small amount of electricity and can act as a human circuit!

In English, we are learning how to write portal stories and will soon be innovating our own version of *Elf Road*. We are also reading *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown which has taught us that we should treat everybody fairly no matter who they are, where they come from or what they look like.

In Maths, we are busy practising our times tables and are getting very good at them! Remember to practise on Times Tables Rock Stars in order to win the class battle!

Finally, to wind things down a little, we are practising Mindful Movements in PE to help connect our bodies to our breathing.

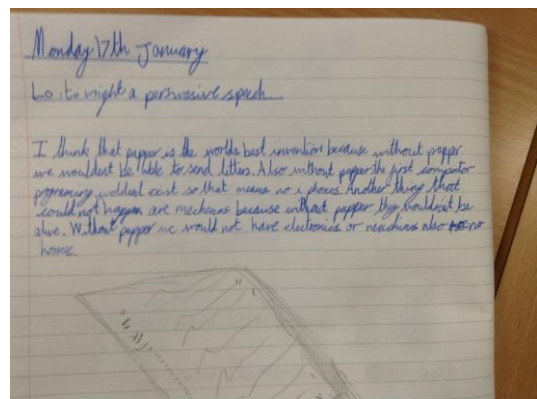
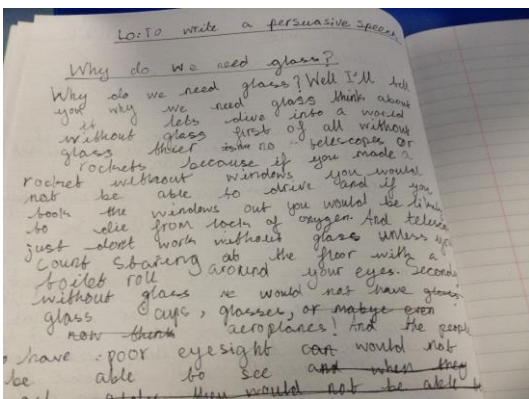
What a busy but brilliant term we have ahead of us!





Year 4

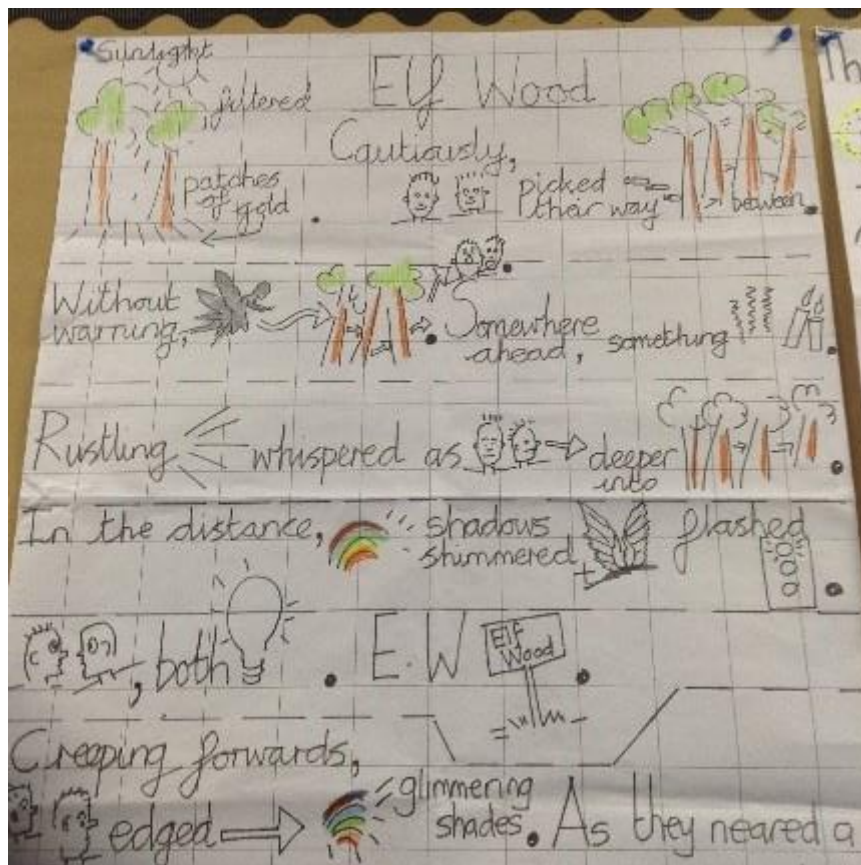
Year 4 have been thinking about what they consider the greatest invention to be. This is part of our STEM learning. Speeches were written and delivered to the classes and a vote followed. Lightbulbs proved to be a popular choice. Here are two speeches with excellent reasons arguing that glass or paper are the greatest inventions! What do you think is the greatest invention of all time?



Year 5

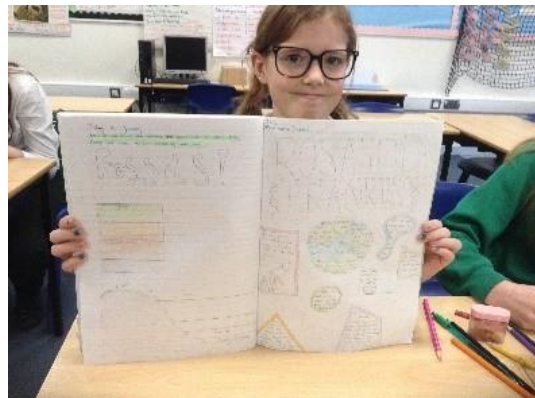
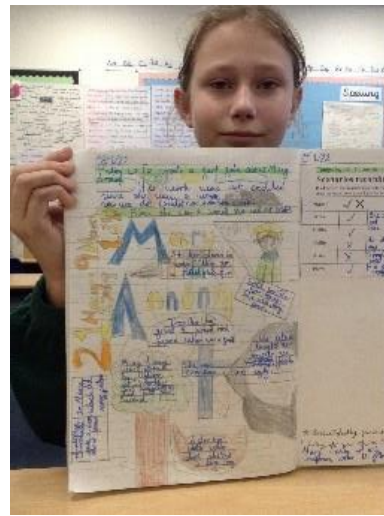
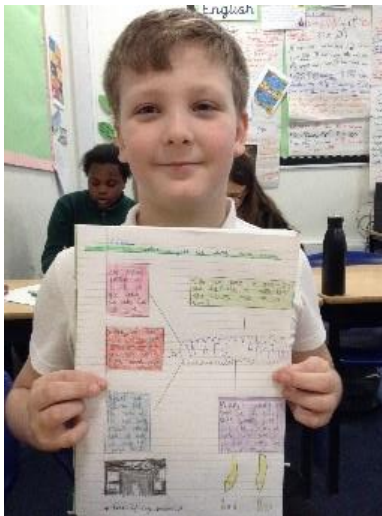
Year 5 started the year with a creative burst. Our English Talk for Writing unit is 'portal stories' – stories that take us to magical worlds where we meet mysterious elves, pixies and sprites. To launch our writing, we designed and created stunning elf wings using coloured cellophane over intricate cut-out patterns. Our new Line of Enquiry is 'How have the Ancient Greeks Influenced Us'. Our first lesson involved

the children studying primary resources (pottery) from the time, before using our printing skills to create our own orange and black Greek 'key' designs.



Year 6

This term Year 6 will answer: How did Earth evolve? To begin, we researched influential British women in both Line of Enquiry and science this term. We created fact files for Mary Anning (a palaeontologist who discovered fossils) and Rosalind Franklin (a biologist who developed the understanding of DNA). Inspirational!



MEET THE TEAM



Name: Lauren Soffe

Role: Teacher

The best part of the role:

The best part about being a teacher is watching the children grow into their individual personalities and achieve their goals. Every day is different and my classes have always brought me so much joy and happiness.

Hobbies:

I like walking and hiking and completed the three peaks last year (although not in one weekend!). I am quite creative and also love cross stitch and weaving.

Favourite quote:

"It will never rain roses. When we wish to have more roses, we must plant more roses." George Eliot

Experience:

I taught in London for 10 years, mostly as a key stage one teacher, before moving down to Bristol last year. I am thoroughly enjoying my first year at Nova and am looking forward to many more!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AMBASSADORS



In term 2, you may remember that we had a vote for School Improvement Ambassadors to work with Mrs Morris on key aspects of school improvement deemed important by the pupils of Nova. Since then, they have been working really hard to develop their action plan. So far they have:

- Carried out a pupil voice surgery to find out which issues pupils are keen to address
- Decided on fundraising causes for the year: St Peter's Hospice and the school library
- Agreed the purchase of new goal nets for the school field with Miss Menday, our PE leader

- Carried out a 'Learning Walk' around the school to look at pupil engagement in classes and in particular how this may be different for boys and girls
- Begun to organise a charity football tournament

These children have an extraordinary enthusiasm- they are proactive and solution-focused which are qualities all great leaders need to succeed!

The charity football match (open to all pupils AND adults) will take place on **Friday 18th February** at 3.30pm on the school field. The ambassadors will be sending more details very soon so keep a look out for how you can sign up!

CAN CORNER

Some parents/carers may be aware of the Bristol Local Authority's "Local Offer" website. This website contains online information and support for children and young adults aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers and professionals.

On this webpage, you will find lots of information about SEND, signposting to local support groups, information about online safety and some specific information about available autism support within Bristol and nationally as well as many other things. It really is your one-stop shop to answer any questions you may have. If you'd like to have a look for yourself, please visit www.bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer.

Do remember that Nova has its own SEND webpage with a wealth of information on it too, which you may find useful. To find out more, please visit www.novaprimaryschool.co.uk/learning/sen

FOODBANK



Are you struggling to buy all the food you need?

This is a reminder that we are happy to issue foodbank vouchers at Nova. We understand that with the cost of living rocketing as it is, that it is harder than ever to make ends meet. Please get in touch through the office or let a member of the safeguarding team know, in person. Our local North-West Foodbank is an amazing organisation. They work tirelessly to help families and individuals and do so with respect and kindness so you must never feel worried about reaching out and asking for their support.

GOVERNORS

From our Chair of Governors, Laurie Haynes:

The governors are planning to improve their engagement with the staff and children and parents of the school this year. We had our first tour of the school before Christmas and were very pleased to see plentiful evidence that Mrs Morris and all her staff are working tirelessly to consolidate and improve learning during these difficult times.

Children in all the classes answered our questions eloquently, and showed and talked with us about their work with great interest and enthusiasm. Now more than

ever we need a strong body of governors to develop our work by filling vacancies on the governing body. I wanted to let you know that our most important objective is to elect a new member to the role of parent governor. If you have ever thought about joining our team, I would really like to hear from you. Even if you don't want to commit now, please contact me to learn more about this important position and the work all of us aspire to do as governors at Nova.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The cost of the club is £6.50 per session and term 3 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>

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A Winter's Tale 4 th - 7 th Jan 2022	-	School Inset Day 4 th Jan 2022	Snowy Trees	Sparkly Snowflakes	Snow globe Painting
Leaf Week - Autumn Leaves 10 th - 14 th Jan	Leaf Art - Pointillism	Nature Quiz/Walk	Air Dry Clay Leaf Bowls	Tree Collage	Marbled Autumn Leaves
Weather - Sunny & Rainy Days 17 th - 21 st Jan	Paper Plate Spiders	Umbrella Art	Cloud in a jar	Sun/Wind Dream Catchers	Rainbow Day - Rainbow Streamers
Space - Out of This World! 24 th - 28 th Jan	Galaxy Slimel	Cardboard Tube Space Shuttles	Launching Rocket Cup	Space Bingo	Salt dough Rock Monsters/Aliens
Under the Sea - Over The Ocean 31 st Jan - 4 th Feb	Jolly Jelly Fish	Aquarium Scenes	Foil fish/Paper Rainbow Fish	Octopus Craft	Seahorse Art
Kindness Week - Kindness is golden 7 th Feb - 11 th Feb	Friendship Bracelets	Kindness Cards/Postcards - send a card to a friend/family day	Handprint Tree	A Pot of Kindness	Baking Academy! Icing Fairy Cakes
Robots Week 14 th Feb - 18 th Feb	Robot Junk Sculptures	How to draw a robot	Split Pin Robot Craft	Robot Zoetrope Strips	Gliding Robots

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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WORKING WITH THE
STARS OF TOMORROW



WELCOME

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