

Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

NOVA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Nova Families,

One of the best things to come out of this term, has been the return of plans for larger events involving families, at Nova! It has been too long since we were able to share experiences as a school community at events such as sports days and curriculum presentations, despite our optimism in September.

You may well have spotted our very enthusiastic School Improvement Ambassadors after school a few days ago, signing up children and their families for the football tournament on Friday, February 18th. It was so lovely to see everyone get so excited and we have a huge number of you wanting to participate. We are in the process of creating teams of seven and ensuring everything is properly organised. Kick off will be at 3:30pm and we welcome spectators, as well. We are raising money for St Peter's Hospice through the entry

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

fee, but you will have a chance to add to a collection, on the day, so please bring any spare change for this amazing cause. Proceeds from the refreshments on sale will go towards our library outdoor area.

I also had a productive meeting with one of the chairs of our Nova PTFA. You will be delighted to know that we have several events planned before the end of the school year, including the traditional Mothering Sunday sale, and if all goes well, there will be discos for all the children in July! Obviously, the more help the PTFA get, the more they can achieve, so please get in touch if you would like to join the association or offer your assistance in any way, however small. You can meet the existing members at our football tournament as they will be selling refreshments, and they are also aiming to be at our parent/carer consultation evenings in term 4, hoping to enlist some new recruits.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to two members of staff who have been very much a part of school life at Nova for many years. Mrs Pickett is leaving us for a career change and I know how much the children will miss her, and she them! We wish her all the luck in the world for her new role and hope that she keeps in touch. We are also losing the amazing Mrs Young who is retiring after many years of supporting

-

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 5

Friday 8th April 2022

-

Inset Day 6

Friday 8th July 2022

-

Inset Day 7

Thursday 21st July 2022

Other Important Dates

-

Monday 14th February

French Language &
Cultures Day

-

Friday 18th February

Charity Football Match @

countless children with their reading. The impact she has had on their lives has been truly life-changing and she very much deserves a chance to relax and put herself first. A reminder that Mr Baxter, our new Inclusion Leader and SENDCo will be starting his cover of Mrs Risley's maternity leave after the half term break; he cannot wait to get to know you all.

Attendance, as you can imagine, continues to be a challenge for the school and we really want to see our figures rise over the coming weeks. If you are having difficulties with getting children to school, please reach out for support. Please can I ask that we make a real effort with punctuality, as well- unless you have a specific pre-planned arrangement with the school, all children should be coming through the main gates, with their classmates and not the office doors. Here are the attendance figures for each year group, since September:

Year R	94.23%
Year 1	90.71%
Year 2	93.49%
Year 3	93.27%
Year 4	93.16%
Year 5	91.84%
Year 6	93.64%

3.30pm
-

1st & 2nd March
Parent/carer consultations
-

Thursday 3rd March
World Book Day
-

14th - 18th March
Science Week
-

4th - 7th April
Express Yourself Week
(art, music & poetry)
-

16th - 20th May
Engineering Week
-

Thursday 26th May
Class Photos
-

Friday 27th May
Jubilee Celebrations
-

Monday 26th September
Whole School Photograph
Portfolio Day
-

Thursday 20th October
Individual School Photos

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED ON**

A reminder that we break up for half term on Friday 18th. I will be reflecting on how proud I am of all of our Nova Stars. They have been truly brilliant this term both in terms of their learning and behaviour - a big well done to them all! I hope you have a wonderful week and I look forward to catching up with you at the football tournament after school next Friday. It is going to be a fantastic end to the term!

With kindest regards

Anna
Headteacher

Morris



**THE FOLLOWING INSET
DAYS in 22/23**

-

Inset Day 1

Thursday 1st September
2022

-

Inset Day 2

Friday 2nd September
2022

-

**All other dates will be
set shortly**

EYFS

The children in Wallace and Gromit class have really been enjoying this terms topic 'Amazing Animals'. We loved watching the baby chicks hatching and watching them grow! The children helped to take care of the chicks for two weeks and they have now gone to carry on their adventures at the farm with Mrs Crawford and her horses!

Our new focus text is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We have been creating caterpillar art, printing with fruit and learning about which foods are healthy and unhealthy. The children are growing into such confident writers and did some wonderful list writing. It is brilliant to see so many children writing independently. Why not ask your child to show off by helping you to write your shopping list this week?

Well done as always for all your hard work Reception!





YEAR 2

Year 2 had a wonderful visit to Clifton Suspension Bridge last Thursday to support their line of enquiry all about Bristol. They learnt about the history of the bridge and participated in an interactive workshop where they got the chance to build bridges.

Well done Year 2, you were fantastic!



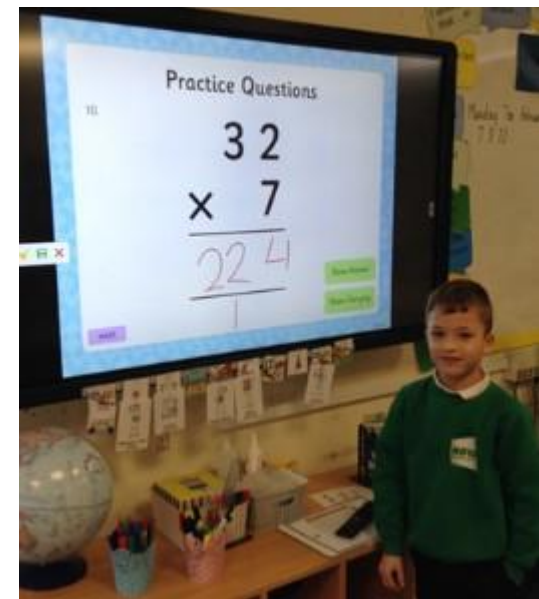
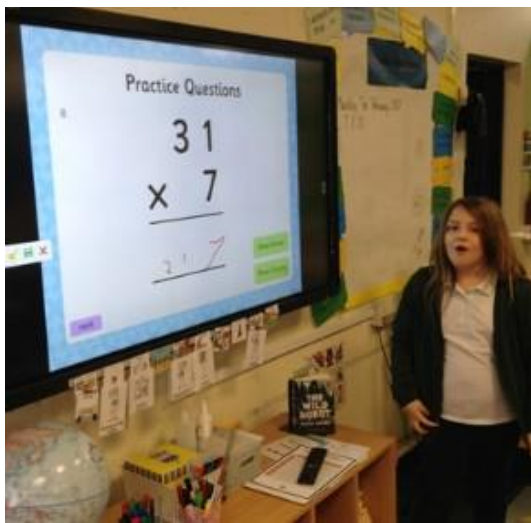
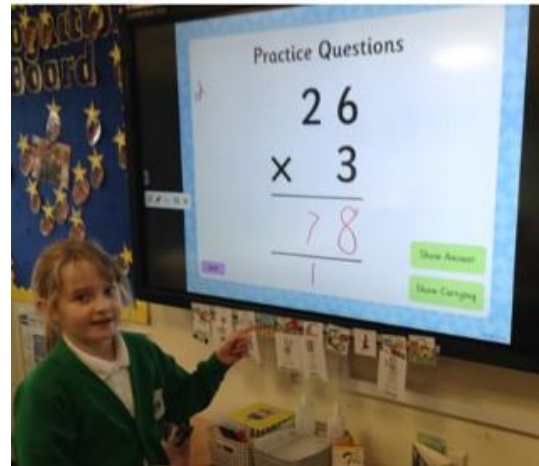
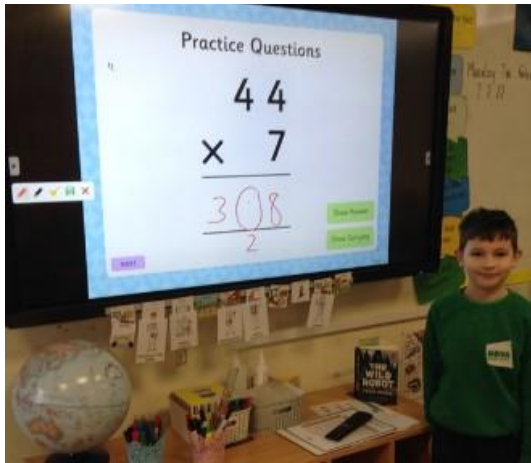


Year 3

The children in Year 3 have been very busy learners over the past two weeks. In English, they were inspired by *The Wild Robot* (Peter Brown) to write their own innovated portal stories. They have now begun dissecting the text structure and language features of a recount.

In maths, they have shown great enthusiasm when learning how to multiply 2-digit and 1-digit numbers with an exchange. Check out these photos of pupils sharing their metacognitive processes when solving these multiplication problems.

In Line of Enquiry, they have been researching significant scientists related to force and electricity. Ask us about Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. We are excited to visit *We the Curious* to learn more about forces, magnets and simple electrical circuits.

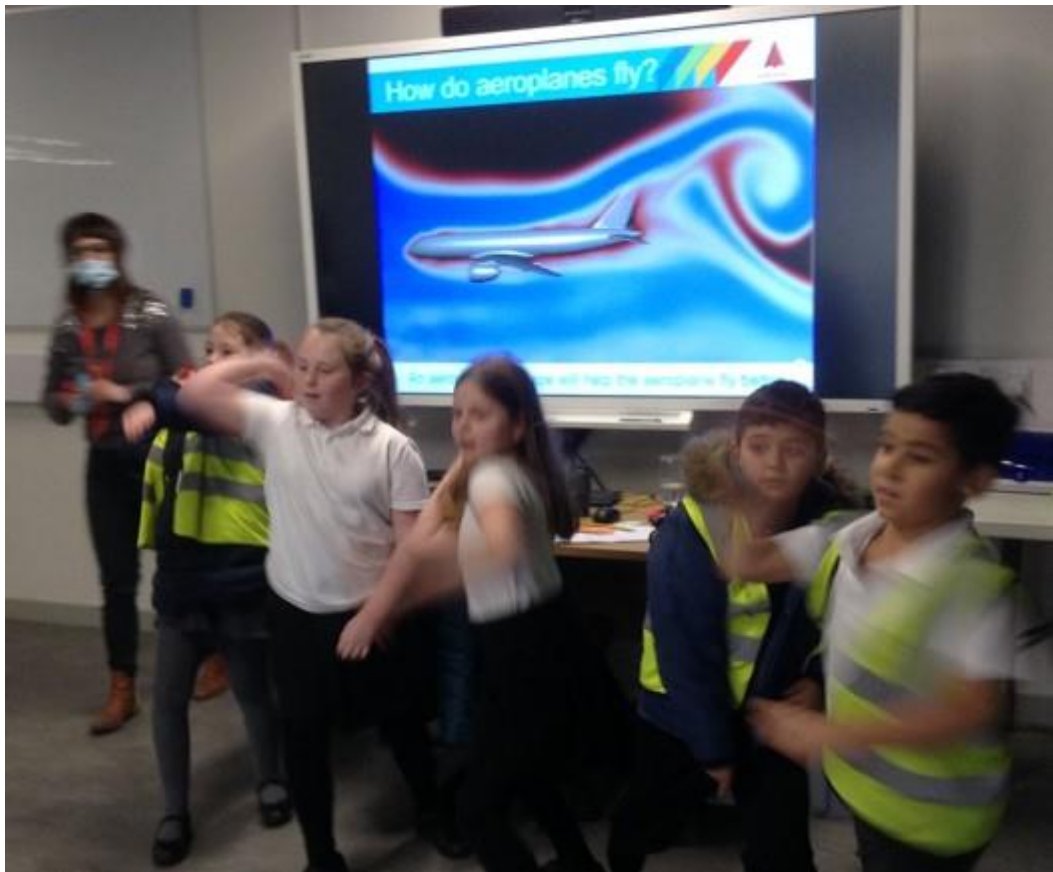


Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful trip to the Aerospace, Bristol museum. This was to continue investigating their Line of Enquiry question: How has STEM changed the world?

We learnt how aviation and technology have changed over the years. Everyone, of course, loved Concorde and having the chance to go on board! Our workshop taught us how aeroplanes fly and we investigated how changing the wing shape or body type of an aircraft can affect the flight.

What a brilliant day full of inspiration for our future engineers!



Year 5

In year 5 we have been exploring persuasive texts in English through our text *Alchemy Island*. We have developed our skills in using rhetorical questions and using a punchy topic sentence to introduce our writing. We have also been deepening our understanding of the city states of Sparta and Athens – noticing the differences between how the city states were ruled in Ancient Greece. We have also been developing our yoga skills in PE this term, also working as part of a group to develop a yoga flow.



Year 6

This week, Banksy Class have been investigating bird beaks as an example of adaptation. We used different utensils to represent different types of bird beaks and concluded that certain beaks increased a bird's chance of acquiring food!





MEET THE TEAM



Name: Livia Hernandez

Role: Teacher

The best part of the role:

Learning through having fun and being creative.

Hobbies:

Cooking, the arts, being active, travelling, getting creative and learning new things!

Favourite quote:

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life believing it is stupid.” Albert Einstein

Experience:

I have worked at primary schools in London and taught English as a second language to adults and children.

NOVA'S LEARN CURRICULUM UPDATE

Our Nova Curriculum is designed to be engaging and relevant for children. We have organised different subjects of the national curriculum in a thematic way into Line of Enquiry learning journeys. This is to enable children and teachers to make connections across the curriculum and to support language use across subjects to explore big ideas.

	Term 1 & 2 Lessons from the past	Term 3 & 4 Investigating & making a difference	Term 5 & 6 What a wonderful world!
EY	Topics to be decided based upon children's interests		
Year 1	Who are the real heroes? <i>Significant figures in history</i> Big idea: Making a difference	How can we make traditional tales come to life? <i>Stories - Materials</i> Big idea: Morals	Why is water precious? <i>Plants & animals - Journeys - Oceans</i> Big idea: Uses and preserving
Year 2	What was it like to live in Victorian times? <i>Comparison Queen Victoria and Elizabeth 1 - The Great Exhibition of 1851 - Sources of information - Changes over time</i> Big idea: Researching history	What makes Bristol brilliant? <i>Significant events and people in local History - Brunel - DT - Shireampton/ Weston Super Mare - Fieldwork</i> Big idea: Legacy & Community	What makes Africa amazing? <i>Comparing UK to a non-European country- animals</i> Big idea: Diversity and Comparison
Year 3	Would you prefer to live in Ancient Egypt or the Stone age Britain? <i>Stone age - Iron age - Ancient Egyptians</i> Big idea: Changes over time	How can science educate and entertain us? <i>Research & discoveries- Electricity - Forces and magnets</i> Big idea: Cause and effect	Why should we care about the environment? <i>Environment - Rainforests - South America</i> Big idea: Preserve and protect
Year 4	Who were the Romans and what was their legacy on Britain? <i>Romans - Europe</i> Big idea: Changes over time	How has STEM changed the world? <i>Designs changing over time - Light & sound...</i> <i>Supporting disabilities</i> Big idea: Legacy & Design	What's the most important thing about chocolate? <i>Fairtrade - Cooking - Mayans</i> Big idea: Fairness and moderation
Year 5	Why were the European invades (Vikings) such successful conquerors? <i>Vikings - Anglo Saxons - Europe</i> Big idea: Compare & Contrast	How have the Ancient Greeks influenced us? <i>Greek influence on Western life</i> Big idea: Legacy and belief	What makes planet Earth unique? <i>Science - Space... Mountains, rivers & water cycle</i> <i>Geography - Natural disasters</i> Big idea: Exploration and mystery Big idea: Survival and Prevention
Year 6	Britain in the 20th Century - What changes have been seen? <i>WW2 - Windrush - Local history - legacy</i> Big idea: Comparison & Empathy	How did the Earth evolve? <i>Evolution - Volcanoes and Earthquakes - Natural disasters</i> Big idea: Changes & Diversity	How can life be celebrated through animation? <i>Animations - Technology - Legacy</i> Big idea: Celebration & Creation

You can read more about our Nova Curriculum on our school website: <https://novaprimaryschool.co.uk/learning/curriculum/>

Our children have been busy across the curriculum this term being different 'states of being', including authors, mathematicians, scientists, engineers, digital engineers, musicians, philosophers, artists, geographers, historians and athletes.



If you ask your child, "What did you do today?", some children will say "Nothing!" or some will tell you about what they ate for lunch or who they played with. This is because the questions encourage children to think about isolated events that they 'did'. The core concept of 'States of Being', is about shifting questioning from what they did to what they have experienced. States of Being place ownership of learning onto children. If children are encouraged to be Scientists for example, it encourages them to apply learning and experiences, not that they were present whilst a teacher taught them science. As a family, you will hopefully see and hear the States of Being being used across the school. We encourage you to ask your child 'What have you been today?' on the walk home, when having a bath or over dinner. You can read more about our States of Being Characters here:

<https://novaprimaryschool.co.uk/states-of-being/>

What have you been today?

Have you been an Author today? How were you an Author? What did you learn?

We infuse our school curriculum with engaging experiences and activities that make learning meaningful and stimulate children's interests and curiosity. In this way, we are able to develop both academic learning as well as character traits such as collaboration, communication, planning skills, courage and entrepreneurship.

We are always looking for people in all fields of work to help us inspire the children across the curriculum. If you have a particular skill or talent that you would be willing to share with the children, then please do get in touch.

Upcoming Curriculum Events This Term:

French Language & Cultures Day – Monday 14th February

Upcoming Curriculum Events Next Term:

World Book Day – 3rd March Illustrator Paula Bowles in to deliver workshops with all children

Science week 14th – 18th March

Express yourself week (art, music & poetry) – 4th - 7th April including singing with Nigel Ipinson-Fleming - 6th April

Engineering week - 16th – 20th May

CAN CORNER

As a parent/carer of a child with additional needs, you may find that you need some specialist equipment to support your child's needs. Unfortunately, some of this equipment can come at quite a price which can mean that you aren't able to see if the equipment would be supportive to your child or not. As equipment can be quite expensive, it also makes you think twice about purchasing it as your child may not benefit from it, may only use it for a short time and then discard it or may have no interest in trying it at all. This can be really frustrating!

Well, there is a possible solution in the Bristol area for parents/carers to “lend” items to try before you invest, or to “lend” for a short period of time before your child becomes bored of it.

The Thornbury SEN-sory Lending Library and café offers around 500 specialist items for families to borrow. Items include toys, Special Educational Needs (SEN) equipment, developmental toys, switch equipment & sensory items. The Lending Library is held monthly on a Saturday morning, 10am-12pm at St. Mary's Church Hall, Eastbury Rd, Thornbury, Bristol, Avon BS35 1DR. The lending library and café offer you the opportunity to borrow items that may help your child that you are not able to purchase at the moment. It also has reading materials that provide guidance if you are faced with a particular issue. It is also a chance to meet other members of our group and enjoy a cake!

I hope some of you are able to benefit from this great resource available to you. More information can be found by visiting

<https://www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk/lending-library/>

LANGUAGES & CULTURES DAY

On **Monday 14th February**, Nova will be hosting a Languages and Cultures day where every year group will learn about a French speaking country. The day will launch with a French breakfast and throughout the day the children will complete a variety of subjects linked to their country.

We invite all children to wear the colours of their French speaking country's flag on this day. For example, if your child was in EYFS and learning about Madagascar, they could wear white, red and green clothes on this day.

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Madagascar	Canada	Belgium	French Polynesia	Haiti	Congo	France
						

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

7th - 13th February



at Nova Primary School for healthy wellbeing



This week we have been supporting Children's Mental Health Week.

The charity Place2Be, who organise Children's Mental Health Week, focus on the importance of promoting good mental health and wellbeing for children and young people.

This year's theme is Growing Together.

Human beings change and grow – we do it all the time and in many different ways. Physical growth is easy to see as we grow from babies to children, teenagers to adults. But growing emotionally is also an important part of our development.

As parents or carers, you are an important role model for your child. Your child does not need you to be perfect – in fact seeing you make some mistakes can be really useful! What is important is that you are able to show them that you – and they – can continue to develop and grow even when things are hard. In fact, sometimes, this is when we learn and grow the most.

Place 2 Be's Tips for Parents and Carers

Here are a few simple ways you can support your child's emotional growth.

1. Talk about when your child was younger

Recall stories that highlight how your child has developed and changed over the years.

For example, how you enjoyed teaching them to learn to ride a bike, or how proud you were when they took part in a school assembly.

If you are an adoptive parent, foster or kinship carer, you will still have lots of memories to share from when you first came together as a family.

2. Notice when your child has developed and grown

Look at old photos together or ways you measure your family's heights.

It is important to also recognise and praise emotional growth.

This could be letting them know how proud you are when they have learnt to walk away rather than fight with a sibling, or how they have learnt to ask others to play when they used to be too shy to do so.

3. Encourage your child to try new things

This could be new foods, a new activity or a new experience.

Praise their willingness to 'give things a go' rather than whether they were 'good' at it.

This will give them confidence to continue to develop and grow.

4. Listen to your child's hopes and dreams for the future

Encourage your child to see that everything they are doing right now is a tiny step

towards who they might want to become in the future.
For example, your child helping another child is an important step towards them becoming a nurse or teachers, etc.

5.Support your child to learn from tough situations

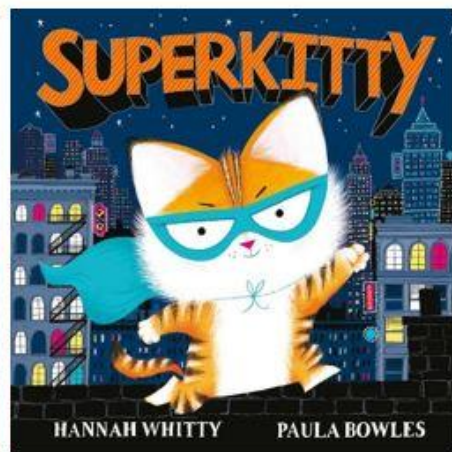
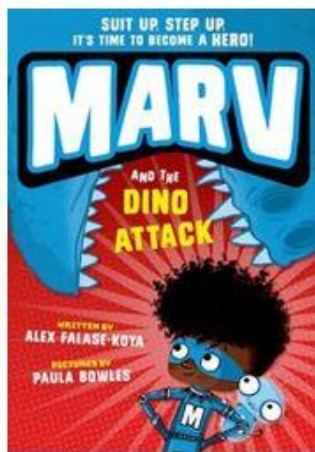
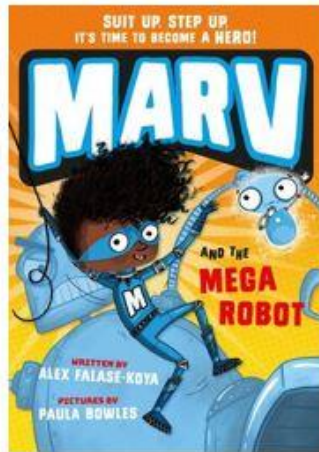
It can be really hard when your child is not getting on with friends, or is disappointed with how something has worked out.

Acknowledge the difficult feelings, but help your child to see that these situations help us to grow and develop so that we are better able to cope with life's ups and downs.



Visit <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/> to learn more about how to better support your child's mental health and explore the free resources available for families.

WORLD BOOK DAY - 3RD MARCH



We are delighted to be hosting a workshop with book illustrator, Paula Bowles, on World Book Day 2022. Paula will be working throughout the school, showing us how an illustrator creates characters for children's books. She will be introducing characters, 'Marv' and 'Superkitty' and every child will have the chance to meet her and create their own superhero character using a variety of materials. You can find out about Paula's work at:

<http://www.paulabowles.co.uk/>



Children are welcome to dress up as a favourite character from a book or a superhero. We ask for a 50p voluntary contribution towards the purchase of new books for our library.



We will also be holding our first ever 'book swap'. So, children, tidy your room and dig out a book or two that you would like to swap for another pre-loved novel, annual or non-fiction book. Please be sure to ask your parent or carer first.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The cost of the club is £6.50 per session and term 4 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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