

# Nova News

Keeping you up to date all year round

**NOVA**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Dear Nova Families,

There are a lot of 'thank yous' in this newsletter! Firstly, thank you for sticking with us. It hasn't been the easiest year for anyone as we readjust to life post-covid, and staffing issues have continued to challenge us all. However, we have a brilliant, enthusiastic and dedicated team ready to hit the ground running in September. Our theme for the year will be 'challenge' and I sense that we are all ready for it!

We haven't had our Ofsted report as yet and will be with us at the start of term 1. Thank you to all of you who completed the parent/carer survey or spoke to inspectors directly. All I will say is that your children made us very proud and represented the Nova name with enthusiasm and commitment. Governors and staff also showed what an incredible team they are and that was very evident to inspectors over the two days they visited.

### 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 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 6**  
Friday 8th July 2022  
-

A prime example of how proud we are of our Nova pupils was the Year 5 and 6 school camp that took place the same week as our inspection. I had no doubt that they would have a brilliant time at Kolve Court, but also that they would be positive, kind and have lots of fun; they didn't disappoint. The team of staff who accompanied them were full of pride and enjoyed it just as much as the children which is surely a good sign! Thank you to these adults- it is a huge commitment on their behalf and a very exhausting one at that!

As you are aware, there are several members of staff moving on to pastures new. In addition, we are very sadly saying goodbye to Imogen Gray, our Learning Mentor. She has secured a post in the field of educational psychology in Wales, and we wish her all the best as she pursues her dream career- we know she will be amazing! In her place, we will be welcoming Mark Collins. He will be working with children throughout the school and also with families.

We are delighted to also be welcoming 3 new Learning Support Assistants, though you may have seen a couple of them around the school already as agency staff. Ella Lewis, Amy Couch and Isabel Thrower will be working with children who have additional needs and we are feeling very

### **Inset Day 7**

Thursday 21st July 2022

### **Other Important Dates**

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**Tuesday 13th September @**

**2.45pm**

KS1 Parent Event

-

**Wednesday 14th September @**

**2.45pm**

KS2 Parent Event

-

**Monday 26th September**

Whole School Photograph Portfolio  
Day

-

**Thursday 20th October**

Individual School Photos

### **Bristol Term Dates for 2022/23**

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#### **Term 1**

Thursday 1st September 2022 -

Friday 21st October 2022

-

#### **Term 2**

Monday 31st October 2022 - Friday

16th December 2022

-

#### **Term 3**

pleased that they have secured these roles  
at Nova.

Aside from staff changes that I have  
already communicated, we are also saying  
goodbye to Mr B! Mr B has been our  
Progressive Sports coach for two years  
and I know that the children will miss him  
hugely. He is going on to do his PGCE  
teaching qualification and we wish him the  
best of luck for this.

I must thank all the staff team for their hard  
work and dedication. They are amazing  
and I couldn't ask for a more positive group  
of professionals! The unconditional care  
they give to each of our Nova stars is just  
wonderful and I know you will echo my  
wishes that they have a great summer  
break.

The children themselves are the real stars;  
I will leave it to the teachers to share their  
reflections about them. Have a fantastic  
summer and I look forward to seeing you  
on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

With warmest regards

Anna Morris  
Headteacher

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 - Friday  
10th February 2023

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**Term 4**

Monday 20th February 2023 - Friday  
31st March 2023

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**Term 5**

Monday 17th April 2023 - Friday  
26th May 2023

-

**Term 6**

Monday 5th June 2023 - Friday 21st  
July 2023

**PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL WILL BE  
CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING  
INSET DAYS in 22/23**

-

**Inset Day 1**

Thursday 1st September 2022

-

**Inset Day 2**

Friday 2nd September 2022

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**Inset Day 3**

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

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**Inset Day 4**

Monday 3rd July 2023

-

**Inset Day 5**

To be confirmed



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## YEAR GROUP NEWS

### EYFS

We are all so proud of you all - you are such 'Nova' Superstars! Enjoy your exciting new journey, moving onto Year One - you are going to be amazing with your new teacher, Mrs Soffe and teaching assistants, Mrs Lee and Miss Lewis. Lots of love from Miss Owen, Miss McSmythurs, Mrs Hale and Mrs A.



### **SSGB**

We have had the best year in SSGB class! These champions have made the most amazing progress especially in their writing where they have learnt to use adjectives, similes and use an array of challenging vocabulary.

Miss Lewis and Mrs Nixon are beyond proud of how resilient each superstar has become. Over the course of the year, these Nova stars have developed such independence in all of their learning, and are now ready to show off their amazing

skills in year 2.

Good luck munchkins!



### The Matthew

What a year it has been! I have loved my first year at Nova and The Matthew class have been such a delight to teach. We have had a lot of fun, laughter and joy this year and everyone in Matthew class has worked incredibly hard to achieve their best.

I am so proud of you all, thanks for being the best class!



## Year 2

Wow Year 2, what can we say! It has been a fantastic year and we are incredibly proud of you all. You have worked so hard this year and it is remarkable to think back to September and just how little you all were! Look at you all now!

There have been so many achievements and great memories this year but some of our favourites have to be the Victorian dress up day, our school trip to Clifton Suspension Bridge and the African drumming workshop you performed most recently. You definitely blew all the grown-ups away with your amazing drumming skills!

We hope you all have the very best summer holiday and come back feeling refreshed and ready to start your next adventures in Year 3. Thank you for all being amazing and making our year so much fun! We will miss you all!



### Year 3

This year has been full of experiential learning for the children in Year 3. They discovered Ancient Egypt at Bristol Museum, investigated forces and magnets at We the Curious and more recently, explored the Amazon rainforest at Bristol Zoo.

They read and wrote a range of texts about the Stone Age, robots that embark on heroic challenges and mythological creatures in unimaginable worlds. The children solved vast number, measurement and shape problems with growing confidence. But, above all, we are incredibly proud of the mature learners they've become over the past year.

We will miss them all but know they're ready for Year 4.





### **Cabot Class**

Wow! Cabot class you have had an amazing year with so much progress made.

Some of our many highlights include becoming so engrossed in our class books! 'Just one more chapter, please!' Our STEM Line of Enquiry was also loved by all especially when we made bionic hands and visited the Aerospace museum. In Term 6 we have become chocolatiers and enjoyed making different recipes and most importantly tasting them!

Well done to you all. It has been lots of fun!



## Brunel

What a year we have had together!

We can't deny it's been tough adjusting to school life after so many disruptions over the past few years, but I am SO proud of how hard you have all worked throughout year 4. We have shared so many amazing stories, dived into Lines of Enquiry together and made so much progress that you have all done yourselves incredibly proud. Whether developing your resilience whilst being engineers, unleashing your creative side when you have been artists or the excitement you have shown to develop yourselves as authors and mathematicians, you have thrown yourselves at every challenge.

The picture below really is one of my favourites this year. Our weekly trips to the school library have been so enjoyable for everyone. I will miss you all very much next year, and I'm so glad I will only be just next door so I can see how brilliantly you do in year 5. Have an amazing summer everyone – you have earned it!



### Year 5

This term, Year 5 have been using line, tone and form to create compositions. We are stunned by the results!

Have a great summer Year 5.







## Year 6

Year 6 have had a well-deserved, fun-packed last term at Nova.

Over the year, we have been delighted to see the children grow in confidence - including singing in front of an audience! Our wonderful Year 6 cohort are thoughtful, resilient and ambitious - their team ethos is admirable. After the hard work each and every child put into SATs week, they earned extra experiences galore! A trip to the LifeSkills centre, workshops with Nigel (a singing extraordinaire) and a final hurrah at Camp.

Miss Cuthbert and Miss Menday have thoroughly enjoyed this year and wish Year 6 every success in secondary school. We just know they will thrive and continue to develop into caring citizens.



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## CAMP

Follow this link for some camp highlights:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=UeFgrxkTWAw&feature=youtu.be>

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## BRISTOL TOGETHER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Some Year 5 children from Kingsweston and Blaise Castle classes were invited to attend this year's Bristol Together Championship programme.

This programme brings together Year 5 children from diverse Bristol schools to connect, build friendships, raise aspirations, and develop confidence. On opposite

sides of Bristol city, Nova was partnered with Easton CE Academy. A coach led four practice sessions where the children visited their respective partner school, practising their football skills and learning about areas of diversity and similarity between their schools and lifestyles.



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July, our twinned team of Nova and Easton players participated at a Football Tournament held at the University of West of England.

Having spent several weeks learning about themselves, each other, the city and world around them, our players created excellent friendships with their twinned team.

They used these strong relationships to demonstrate excellent teamwork and communication skills on and off the pitch.

Not only did every member of our team receive a medal and Certificate of Participation, we were also successful in being named as Team of the Tournament! Furthermore, one Nova Superstar was named as Player of the Tournament!

We are so proud of our Nova and Easton stars!





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**NOVA SUMMER READING CHALLENGE**

This year's summer reading bingo challenge is full of activities for children (and adults if they wish!) to complete over the summer holidays. The focus is on reading for pleasure experiences rather than specific texts, with activities like *make a den and read inside*, *read in the dark using a torch* and *read to a pet or a soft toy*. There will be **two bingo** challenge sheets for you to choose from (**25 squares** or **9 squares**).

Sheet A booksfortopics.com/bingo

## Summer Reading Bingo!

For recommended booklists themed by age group or topic, visit [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)

Read outside on a <b>sunny day</b> Date	Read to someone <b>younger</b> Date	Read in your <b>bed</b> Date	Read a book that you <b>borrowed</b> or swapped Date	Read while you're <b>on the way</b> to somewhere Date
<b>Make a den</b> and read inside Date	Read to a <b>soft toy</b> or a <b>pet</b> Date	Read <b>in the dark</b> using a torch Date	Read <b>upside down!</b> Date	Write <b>your own story</b> or <b>poem</b> and read it Date
Read something you've read <b>before</b> Date	Read to <b>someone older</b> than you Date	Read <b>instructions</b> for something Date	Read a book that <b>makes you laugh</b> Date	Read <b>in the park</b> or on the <b>beach</b> Date
Read <b>before you eat your breakfast</b> Date	Read on a <b>Monday</b> Date	Read on a <b>rainy day</b> Date	Read some <b>non-fiction</b> Date	Read a book written <b>before you were born</b> Date
Read to someone <b>over the phone</b> or video chat Date	Read <b>under a tree</b> (or up a tree) Date	Read while <b>eating a snack</b> Date	Read <b>to an audience</b> or <b>record yourself on video</b> Date	Read <b>past your bedtime!</b> Date

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Bingo!

For recommended booklists themed by age group or topic, visit [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)

Read outside on a <b>sunny day</b> Date	Read with someone over the <b>phone</b> or <b>video chat</b> Date	Read <b>in the dark</b> using a torch Date
<b>Make a den</b> and read inside Date	Read to a <b>soft toy</b> or a <b>pet</b> Date	Read something you've <b>read before</b> Date
Read while <b>eating a snack</b> Date	Read a <b>book that makes you laugh</b> Date	Read <b>under a tree</b> (or up a tree!) Date

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_

When pupils return to school after the holidays, they will need to give their completed bingo grids to Miss Menday by Friday 9th September for the chance to win certificates or even a prize.

We'd love it if you could share any pictures with us at @NovaPrimary.

Happy reading!

**SEN SUMMER FUN**

Gympanzees is holding its ever-popular summer pop-up sensory play sessions again this year, and they are bigger and better than ever! Sessions run from 25th July to 19th August and will be taking place at SGS Pegasus School in South Glos. There are sessions to suit children with all kinds of needs, including quiet sessions and loud sessions! Visit [gympanzees.org](http://gympanzees.org) for more information.

Bristol theatres, cinemas and museums are running “relaxed” sessions across the summer for children who may have sensory needs and/or autism. The Old Vic is staging a relaxed performance of Treasure Island at 2pm on 28th July – for more details visit [bristololdvic.org.uk](http://bristololdvic.org.uk)

Watershed is holding relaxed screenings of Studio Ghibli animal classics The Wind Rises (6th August) and The Red Turtle (27th August). Both films are PG. Visit [watershed.co.uk](http://watershed.co.uk) for more details.

Incredible Kids have sessions planned at The Vench and in Patchway over the summer holidays. These include family play sessions, sensory sessions, sessions for Incredible Girls, quiet sessions, PDA (pathological demand avoidance) support, and a summer party. Visit [incrediblekids.co.uk](http://incrediblekids.co.uk) for more information.

Jigsaw is holding a sensory play session on Friday 12th August from 10.00am to 11.30am. It will have a range of sensory activities to explore including orb beads, scented play doh, junk modelling and more. Visit [jigsawthornbury.charitysuite.com](http://jigsawthornbury.charitysuite.com) for more details.

There is an event for male carers of children with additional needs at Jigsaw on Saturday 30th July from 10.00am to 11.30am. Dads and male carers are encouraged to come along and enjoy free refreshments to chat about the challenges of looking after a child with additional needs. Go to [jigsawthornbury.charitysuite.com](http://jigsawthornbury.charitysuite.com) for more information.

The Hive Avon is running a money skills course for adults who have learning difficulties and/or autism, or who may just struggle with finances. These take place on 21st July, 28th July, 11th August and 18th August, running from 10.00am to

12.30pm. The cost is £20. Contact Dominic on 0117 9614372 or email

[dominic.box@thehiveavon.co.uk](mailto:dominic.box@thehiveavon.co.uk)

## SAFE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, GAMING & ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN

Being online is now an integral part of children and young people's lives. The internet and online technology provide new opportunities for young people's learning and growth, but it can also expose them to new types of risks.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in young children discussing, watching or playing elements of social media and entertainment that are not suitable for their corresponding ages.

Age ratings are systems used to ensure that entertainment content, such as games, films, TV shows or social media platforms are clearly labelled with a minimum age recommendation based on the content they have. The age rating considers the age suitability of a game, film or social media platform, not the level of difficulty or necessary skills required to use it.

Long-time media scholars, Brad Bushman and Rowell Huesmann (2012), summarise how and why media, such as gaming and films, may influence violent behaviour this way:

*"Children who watch violent movies and TV or who play violent video games imitate the aggressive scripts they see; become more condoning of violence, start to believe the world is a more hostile place, become emotionally desensitised to violence, and lose empathy for victims. The violence they see justifies to them their own violent acts; the violence they see arouses them; and the violence they see cues aggressive ideas for them."*

We wanted to bring to your attention the age rating of some of the following types of

Media. Please carefully consider the appropriateness of allowing your children to use and access them:



Facebook



Instagram



TikTok



SnapChat



Twitter

You must be a minimum of 13 years of age to use any of the above social media outlets. This will be linked with the content and advertising that they may be subjected to, as well as the online safety dangers that are involved in using social media platforms.



The content within this game is **only suitable to children aged 7 and over**. PEGI 7 games may have scenes or sounds that can possibly be frightening to younger children. They also include very mild forms of violence e.g. implied, non-detailed, or non-realistic violence



The content within this game is **only suitable to children aged 12 and over**. Despite the cartoon nature of the game, the aim is to kill every other person in the game. If your child is under 12 and you allow them to play this game, you should monitor them whilst playing to ensure you are able to manage their response to the content. PEGI 12 games include violence of a slightly more graphic nature towards fantasy characters or non-realistic violence towards human-like characters. Sexual innuendo or sexual posturing can be present, while any bad language in this category must be mild.



The content within this game is **only suitable to adults aged 18 and over**. The adult classification is applied when the level of violence reaches a stage where it becomes a depiction of gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters, also the glamorisation of the use of illegal drugs and of the simulation of gambling. Explicit sexual activity also falls into this age category.

Please check the PEGI age rating of any game, so that you can make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable and appropriate for your child to be playing it. You can find more information about PEGI age ratings here: [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

When deciding on whether an age restricted game is suitable for your child, you may want to think about whether you would allow your child to watch a 12-rated movie, or an 18-rated movie, as the content is very similar.

In regards to film and television, you can find information on the different age ratings and classifications here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/about-classification/classification-guidelines>. It is worth using these guidelines to inform your decision on whether your child should watch a certain film or TV show, and whether it is appropriate for them to watch a film or TV show even with you accompanying them or being present.

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## TALK PANTS

Talk PANTS – a campaign created by the NSPCC – helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

What are the PANTS rules?



To help you start the conversation with your child you can sing along with the pantosaurus video:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

To find out more about Talk PANTS and how to support your child's learning around staying safe you can visit the NSPCC website:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

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## AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

The cost of the club is £7.50 per session and term 1 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.

To book, just go to the payments area of Weduc and click on 'bookings available', Nova ASC Term 1 and then select the dates required and add to your basket and then checkout.

You will have been sent your login details for Weduc in a separate email and you will need to have added funds to your 'purse' before being able to book ASC.

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.

