

April Newsletter 2022

A Message from Ms Yeo and Miss Wilkinson

Dear Parents and Carers

It's lovely to see some sunshine at last and for children to really start enjoying their time outside! The outdoor environment will become more of a focus during the next months and we were very grateful to have volunteers come in again from Nat West to build raised beds and a circle of benches in the walled garden. They are planning to return to carry out further work on the pond they installed last year. The work they have done over the last years (through the Conservation Volunteers) has made a huge difference. In addition to this the school has been working with Nature Friendly Schools to find even more ways of helping children engage with the natural environment and more detail of this can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



While Covid is now much less a focus of daily life we are still being careful with the risks around this. Thank you for all your support with this. We had hoped to hold a whole school event at the end of this term, but with cases still rising we felt it was better to postpone this until Term 5. We will very much look forward to inviting you in for an end of term assembly at that point.



We have enjoyed celebrating many awareness days and weeks this term, where the children have shown great enthusiasm and effort with their activities and learning. It has been a joy to see the wonderful experiments from Science Week and the excellent costumes from World Book Day, as well as the personal best work being created.

Reading across school has been a particular focus for us this term and we would like to thank you for supporting us with all the reading you have been doing at home. We look forward to assessing the progress the children have made this term, as we are predicting the effort made will have shown great impact for our children. It has been great to hear children talking about their favourite books and authors, as well as recommending reading books to other members of their class. We hope the addition of new books to our reading library will encourage the love of reading across school even more!

We look forward to all the next few terms have to offer; the lighter evenings, sunnier days and the opportunities this gives our children.

Have a wonderful break



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th April—24th April

Easter Holidays

**Back to school Monday
25th April**

2nd May

Bank Holiday

16th May

Inset Day

30th May –3rd June

Half Term

**Back to School Monday
6th June**

27th June

Inset Day

20th July

Leavers Assembly and Last day of Term

21st July—31st August

Summer Holidays

Hazel Class

Term 3 and 4 have been very busy in Hazel class. We started by decorating gingerbread men as our English lessons were all based on The Gingerbread Man story. We also learnt all about Marcus Rashford and researched other sports people as our topic, 'Bounce', was all about sports.

In Term 4 our topic, Street Detectives, was all about our local area. We went for a walk and spotted lots of interesting landmarks. When we were back in school we drew our favourites and talked about the shops and people local to school. As we were going out exploring our surroundings we also had some lessons reminding us of how to stay safe when near roads.

In our Maths lessons we have been learning about fractions. As this was over pancake day we were able to spend one lesson cutting our pancakes in to different fractions before we ate them. We have also worked very hard on learning to tell the time. The children are very keen to show off these skills at home, so please keep asking them the time.

On Tuesday afternoons during term 3 and 4 we have been to the pool and practised our swimming. It has been great to see how much the children have enjoyed being in the water and watching their confidence grow.

We have also been practising our African drumming skills and learning how to play a song from Encanto.

A big thank you to you all for taking time to read with your child at home, completing the reading records and signing the home school books. Enjoy the Easter break and hopefully the sun will shine for a while.

Nature Friendly Schools

In January, Miss Carr and Miss Hedge launched the Nature Friendly School project. The aim of this is to get children outside as much as possible, for a range of different lessons, and to develop their well-being. All classes have spent time outside for a range of different lessons, such as science lessons where the children were exercising maths meeting where the children have played time games as well as forming human number lines, art lessons where children have drawn the natural world around them as well as plenty of sensory stories using our amazing new sensory box trail. Looking forward to the next two terms, there are lots of exciting plans for Nature Friendly School and the children will be spending more time learning outside and in our wonderful new geo-dome!



Top Tips for E-Safety at Home

This term's top tip: Pay attention to age ratings on games

“Content within games is regulated and rated into age groups based on elements within the game such as sex, violence, gambling, drugs, in-app purchases etc.” –

NSPCC



What you can do:

Always check the age rating (usually found near the game title)

If the age rating is too high, explain this to your child and help them to find another, more suitable game

Check the 'chat' features on games – even games with a low age rating may let children speak to strangers (see parental control guide link below)

Discuss safe contacts with your children and remind them of the risks of sharing information with people we don't know

Make sure your payment details are not linked to the game account

Talk to your child about what they are playing and show an interest – you might have a lot of fun!

For guides on parental controls: <https://pegi.info/parental-controls>

For more information, visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Phonics

Phonics has continued through the school with most children making progress every term! There has been a change in the lessons to include lots of fun new games to help the children develop their phonological knowledge and apply it in their reading and writing. Next term, we are hoping to have phonic support videos on the website for you - so keep an eye out for them!



Oak Class

This term we have been working on life skills such as independence and team work. We even achieved some gems in a jar for our class target!

Our Topic this term is 'Magnificent Monarchs' and we have been looking at all the Kings and Queens we have had as a country, who knew it was so many! It has been interesting learning all our Queen Elizabeth II, especially with her Platinum Jubilee coming up.

We have worked really hard with telling the time in Maths, we are able to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and even the nearest minute. We will still keep practising during our Maths Meetings though.

We wrote some fantastic poems about what it would be like to be King or Queen of many different countries and started looking at the BFG's visit to the Queen in English lessons.

We have really enjoyed our Judo sessions with Coach on a Tuesday. We have learnt a lot of respect and discipline from the sessions and enjoyed progressing onto the next belts.

We're looking forward to another great term in Term 5!



Juniper Class

Juniper class have been making the most of the beautiful spring sunshine and been doing some outdoor learning, perfect time of year for understanding how to stay safe outdoors. We managed a walk around the local area looking at and understanding different road signs. And learning how to cross the road safely.



Looking for holiday activities to do over Easter click on this link and have a look to see what going on :

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/find-a-holiday-activity>

[Find a holiday activity in your area - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/find-a-holiday-activity)

What Your Holiday Hub is. The Your Holiday Hub (YHH) programme provides activities that help build children and young people's confidence and social skills through play, sport, adventure, and friendship



Ash Class

The last two terms have been very busy in Ash class. We have looked at a range of topics including Winter, Superheroes, Lunar New Year, Lent, Children who Changed the World, Growing, Spring and Easter. These topics have led to the children writing their own stories and poems as well as coming up with the perfect pancake recipe allowing them to develop their fantastic phonics and writing skills. In Maths, we have looked at multiplication and division as well as time and being able to read and write a given time.

Aspen Class

We have had some changes in Aspen class since January and in term 4, we have been busier than ever! We have had new staff to learn from and new children to become friends with. Our lessons have been fantastic as we ace our Maths, write beautifully in Literacy and dance to the beat in 5*U. We also get to show off our green fingers in Gardening and Forest School.

Our topics have been Pancake Day, Children Who Change the World and, Growing and Spring. We wrote about our favourite pancake toppings in Literacy, have been learning about our numbers from 20-50 in Maths and have started looking after our very own Spider plants! In Topic, we have discussed how the likes of Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg and Marcus Rashford have positively impacted the world at such young ages. This has helped us to think about the ways that we can make a positive impact in our school.

We have been so lucky to play outside on the climbing frame in the recent sunshine. Lastly, we recently got to enjoy our gem in the jar treat of pizza for all the kindness that we have shown to others in Aspen and around the school. Go Aspen!



Maths

This term has been an exciting term across school where a lot of children have achieved their Multiplication Masters certificates. Some children have even achieved their 12 time tables!

There has been some wonderful work on the subject of Time. With a lot of our classes focussed on telling the time to quarter past and quarter to, to the nearest 5 minutes and even to the nearest minute! We hope your children are practising at home too!

It has been a pleasure going into classes and hearing children use their reasoning skills and maths vocabulary to explain what they are doing in their tasks. We are very proud of our learners!



World Book Day



On Thursday 3rd March 2022, we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite characters, completing book scavenger hunts and even creating our own books! Once again, children went above and beyond with their costumes for World Book Day and we were fortunate enough to take three children to Waterstones at the Mall to choose a book for their efforts.

It was lovely to see the diversity in characters and books that children chose as their favourites. We had a wonderful Dr Judy Moody, The Boy in the Dress, Ron Weasley and a Cat in the Hat to name but a few!

There were some special commendations for children who created their own characters and even a story to go with this.

It is always one of our most favourite days of the year and we thank you for your effort and support.



Science

The focus for Science week this year was all about 'Growth'.

We started the week with an assembly discussing what it means to be scientists. We 'grew' rainbows during assembly and children were excited to try this themselves.

We also discussed how we grow as humans and also found out that the Eiffel Tower grows in the summer due to the heat!

Each class had the opportunity to be scientists and took part in different experiments across the week, with some classes growing their own plants, some creating rainbows and others exploring how humans grow.



Chestnut Class

This term in Chestnut has been an amazing time! We've written some excellent rhyming poems in English, thinking what we would do if we were the King of a country and had absolute power. The topic for this term has also been a royal one, learning about famous Kings and Queens of England through the ages, and what good (and not so good!) things they have been remembered for. We've even debated about if we would have made the same decisions! The class wrote letters to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, asking her for a number of things, ranging from a lifetime supply of sweets through to pre-release copies of video games! In Maths, we have focussed on learning about decimals, using our previously learnt knowledge of fractions to help us.....all very useful skills to have! Out of the classroom, Chestnut class have been learning Judo every week, and seriously impressing the coach! So as the sun starts to shine on us and the warmth helps us smile, we look forward to next term in Chestnut class.

Beech Class

Over the last two terms in Beech we have had the chance to take part in some exciting extended curricula activities. Every Tuesday we have had the chance to go swimming and test our skills in the water. It was lovely to see the children build their confidence and develop a key life skill in swimming. Every Thursday, we have enjoyed taking part in African drumming sessions. Not only have we had the chance to learn a variety of rhythms but also, we have had the chance to create our own tunes on the drum.

In class we have had a focus on multiplication and division, with some students now being able to recall all the times tables within the national curriculum. With the latter part of the term we have focussed on time. With this being an important life skill, I am excited to see such strong engagement within the class.

English lessons have been very enjoyable with have the chance to visit some classic fairy tales, current sports superstars and even a modern twist on a diary entry. The students have done amazing work learning a variety of story maps and have managed to innovate each one.

I have seen a lot of progress throughout our class and I am so excited to see what terms 5 and 6 bring!

Covid Vaccinations

The NHS is now offering COVID-19 vaccines to children aged 5 to 11 years. Appointments are being held in dedicated children's clinics across our area and can be booked online via the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119. Some walk-in clinics are also available and details of these, along with information about all the vaccination options in our area, can be found at www.grabajab.net.

Children's clinics are being run by GPs, community pharmacies and the Vaccination Centre @ UWE Bristol, where themed child-friendly pods have been created to make the Centre feel welcoming for young children.

Younger children receive a lower (paediatric) vaccine dose. More information about the vaccination and the effects of COVID-19 in young children can be found [here](#).





We would like to thank The Greggs Foundation again for their generous support of our Breakfast Club and in providing electrical appliances, beds and bedding and food and uniform vouchers to some of our parents / carers.

Not only do they make great cakes and other baked products, but they are generous and supportive in what has been a very difficult year for many people! Their support has been heart-warming.

SEND Advice and support



SEND and You

SEND and You was originally set up as a charity in Avon in 1989 by local parents and professionals. They'd realised that better outcomes could be achieved for **children and young people with SEND** by working together.

Today we make sure that children, young people and their parents or carers get the help they need. SEND and You was formerly named Supportive Parents.

SEND and You now delivers the 'SENDIAS' (Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Advice & Support) service for three local authorities; **Bristol**, **North Somerset** and **South Gloucestershire**. Our office is in Bristol

More information can be found here: <https://www.sendandyou.org.uk/about-us/>

Food Banks and Food Clubs:

School have information about these.

Please contact SENDCO Lucas Wellington for details.



Benefits and Financial advice

Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service
WRAMAS' Services

- Don't know what you may be entitled to?
- Need some help or advice on a benefit related issue?
- Not sure how to fill in a claim form? Having difficulty writing about your problems?
- Want to know how your other benefits may be affected?
- Would like some advice on a new or existing claim for a disability benefit?

Claiming the right benefits or finding information can be hard work and very confusing, but don't give up! **WE CAN HELP.**

If you need help or advice there is a confidential helpline available:

T: (0117) 352 1888 E: welfarerights@bristol.gov.uk

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30 am – 1.00 pm (Wednesday closed all day)

If you prefer not to make a call or email us yourself, you can ask a professional working with you, a friend or relative, to contact us on your behalf.

You can also find advice and information, some of it specific to the coronavirus pandemic, on our website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/benefits-financial-help>



Free and independent advice and support
For North Bristol and South Gloucestershire

- ▶ Welfare Benefits
- ▶ Universal Credit
- ▶ Debt Advice
- ▶ Appeals and representation
- ▶ Help to Get Online

Enquire using our Advice Tool at www.northbristoladvice.org.uk
Or call 0117 951 5751



Registered Charity number: 1066921

Key Numbers:

Childline: 08001111

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

Samaritans: 116 123

Next Link Domestic Abuse Telephone Help Line: 08004700280

Mon – Fri 8.30-5.30 and 1pm Saturday.

Social services:

South Gloucestershire – Access and Response Team – 01454 866000

North Somerset- Single Point of Access – 01275 888808

Bath and North East Somerset – BANES – 01225396312 or 01225 396313

Safeguarding Information

We work hard in school to maintain the safety of all students. Where possible we want to help families and the wider community also be a safe place for our young people to experience. Where help is needed we are keen to sign post young people and families to some of the many resources available:

Please feel welcome to talk to one the safeguarding team within school:

Ms Wendy Yeo, Head of School, Woodstock
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Lucas Wellington, SENCO
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Safeguarding

In order to keep your children safe at all times we must be able to reach you so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of keeping your details up to date with the school office. Please inform us of any changes as soon as they occur so that we can update our contact systems. We are especially in need of your email address' as we will now be sending more communications electronically.

We would also encourage people to self-refer to specific agencies for help:

Online safety

Help setting up parental controls and advice on current issues young people face online and gaming:

www.internetmatters.org

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Domestic Abuse

24 hour free helpline 0808 2000 247 or visit online at www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk

Mental Health

<https://www.mind.org.uk/> or call: 0300 123 3393 or text: 86463

Childline 0800 1111

Off the Record <https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/>

Kooth www.kooth.com



Information from School Office

School Dinners

School Meals are priced at £2.45 and must be paid for in advance — cash or cheques can be sent in to School Office.

Uniform

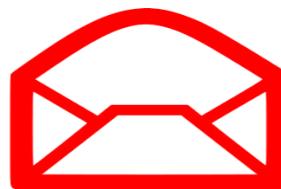
A quick reminder that the uniform consists of

- A sweatshirt with school logo
- A white polo shirt.
- Black trousers - girls are also permitted to wear skirts/pinafore in black
- Black polishable shoes.
- Jewellery – a wristwatch and a single stud in each ear are permitted.
- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- Hair must be of standard school style with no extremes in colour, cut or styling.

Trainers are not permitted as part of school uniform

Sweatshirts and polo shirts are available, with the school logo, from the school office. Prices from £7.00 for polo's and £10.00 for jumpers

School Communications



Our main way of communicating whole school information with you will now be via **email**. This will ensure that you get information quickly and means we reduce our carbon foot-print as a school. (Because we would still text, call and use home school books for other individual things)

If we do not yet have your email address please email the school with your Child's full name.

If you need support creating a free email address please contact the school office.

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Office information

Phone number: 0117 377 2175

Email: northstar82@northstar-academy.co.uk

A reminder of the importance of any forms that are sent home to be filled in and returned to school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office, who will be more than happy to help.