



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone connected with the school for all of their support during this very busy but enjoyable term. We look forward to seeing everyone again when term starts again on Monday 24th February.

Operation 'Love of Reading'



As part of our drive to instil a 'Love of Reading' in all of our children across the school, we have launched or enhanced a number of initiatives during the past two terms. These include:

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)

Twice a week, a bell sounds across the school which signals the start of our 'Drop Everything and Read' session. As soon as the bell is heard the children stop what they are doing, reach for a book and are encouraged to look for somewhere where they can curl up and engross themselves in their reading for a period of time. These sessions were introduced initially to children in Key Stage 2 after Christmas but have now been extended to children in Year 2 due to their popularity. It has been really lovely to hear the loud cheers echoing around the school when the bell sounds and to see the children clearly enjoying their reading experiences in school.

Free Books

Mrs Elliott has spent a lot of time consulting with children across the school regarding their favourite authors and the books that they like to read.

As a result of these consultations, we have been able to stock our free reading book library with a wide selection of new exciting titles which the children can choose to be awarded once they have completed enough daily reads at home.

These changes have proved to be very popular and we are now seeing more children than ever being awarded free books during our end of week assemblies held on Fridays!



Book Swap

We are always looking for ways to promote reading in school and we are very excited to announce that our 'Bailey Bird Book Box' is now open!!

What is the book box?

The book box is located under the canopy, just outside the yellow area, and is designed to allow children to borrow books to take home to read, but also to donate books.

How it works:

The book box works in two ways:

- 1) Your child selects one book from the Book Box to take home to read. This book will then need to be returned to the book box once your child has finished reading it.
- 2) Your child can bring in a book from home that they no longer want and swap it with a book in the book box. This can then also be returned once they have finished reading it.

The box is only be open before school each day.

Due to the nature of the project, it has been quite busy in the early stages, so we ask that you only take one book at a time and wherever possible, replace the book you take with one from home so that we can keep the book box stocked.

As the book box is only be open before school, please still ensure that your child is in school by 9am.

If the Book Box is rather busy, please can we ask that you come back another day where possible.

Thank you so much to all the children and parents who have already donated to the Book Box as this has allowed us to get it up and running. We have placed the small book donation box next to the Book Box if you want to donate multiple books at a time and there is no space in the wooden shed. As this Book Box will be used by all of our families, we ask that you please keep the book box tidy.

Happy book swapping and happy reading!!

Extreme Reading Challenge



Where is the strangest place you've ever read a book? What is the weirdest and most wonderful thing you could be doing whilst reading?

We would love you to share a photograph of yourself reading in a unique place! You might choose to read a book, comic, magazine or leaflet. Your photographs will be displayed around the school for all to admire and the most imaginative entries will win a £5 voucher to spend at our next Book Fair in March.

The deadline to enter this competition will be Wednesday 5th March and winners will be announced during our school assembly on Friday 7th March.

Many thanks and we can't wait to see your entries!

Mrs Hunter and The English Team

Year 3 Invade Caerleon

Our Year 3 children have spent most of this term learning about the Roman invasion of Britain. As part of their studies, Year 3 went on a trip to Caerleon to learn first-hand what life during that period must have been like.



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During the day the children visited the Roman bath house and then took part in a workshop where they learnt about what it would have been like to be a slave.

Following the workshop, the children visited the barracks and amphitheatre where they engaged in a number of mock battles with their classmates.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the children who received a lot of very positive comments from the staff at Caerleon about how well they behaved during the visit. We would like to thank all of our parents who took the time to accompany the children on this trip.

Year 3 Fossil Experience

As part of their science topic on rocks and fossils, our children in Year 3 invited Fossil Man into school. Fossil Man spent the day with the children explain how fossils were formed and the great age associated with many of them.

The children really enjoyed the hands-on sessions and they got to see and handle a huge array of fossils including ammonites, trilobites, fossilised wood and even dinosaur poo!

Swimming

Year 4 have had a very busy term fitting in two weeks of daily swimming lessons as well as undertaking their normal working week. The children should all feel very proud of their achievements in the water particularly some of our children who could not swim at the beginning of the sessions and who have now grown significantly in confidence. We would like to say a very special thank you to all of our parents who helped to walk the children down to the swimming pool.

Lunar New Year Celebrations

During February, we celebrated the Lunar New Year. Mrs McClelland led an assembly which taught the children all about the importance of the Lunar New Year and some of the customs associated with it.

The children then spent time in classes designing and making red lanterns to decorate our hall – these looked amazing!

Towards the end of the week Mrs Devonshire and our kitchen team cooked a wonderful

Chinese feast for our children's lunch. The children really enjoyed this and particularly seemed to enjoy the challenge of trying to eat their food with chop sticks which had been provided for them.

Reception Visit Tesco

As part of our Lunar New Year celebrations, our children in Reception visited our local Tesco store to purchase ingredients to make their own very special dish.

Once back in school our children learned to cut up the vegetables they bought and carefully cook them to create a wonderful stir-fry – these all tasted amazing!

Our Reception team would like to thank all of the parents who took the time to help the children walk down to Tesco to purchase their shopping.

We the Curious

This term we (Year 5) went on a class trip to We The Curious. Some of the children have written the following account about their visit:

In school, we have been learning about the Solar System in Science and we were lucky enough to learn even more on our trip. On our trip, there was a fascinating planetarium, where we got to wear 3D glasses, so it seemed as though the planets were coming towards us! Whilst in the planetarium, we were asked to vote for which planets and moons to visit. It was also a fantastic way to show us the scale of the planets- Jupiter was huge compared to Earth! After lunch we went to a workshop to learn more about Earth, The Sun and Moon. Our workshop leader was very impressed with the amount of facts we already knew! Finally, we built miniature rockets in groups to replicate a rocket launching into space. Aiming them towards the target was the best bit. It was a 10/10 trip!

Computer Explorers

Our Year 4 and Year 5 children have had the opportunity to work with **ComputerXplorers Bristol**.

They had an exciting time exploring the world of robotics! They discovered how light, sound, and infrared sensors on the robots allowed them to control the bots with torches, clapping, and

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avoid obstacles. The children even got creative by coding their own programs to control the robots' movements and play iconic tunes like the Star Wars theme! To top it off, they wrapped up the day with an epic robot sumo battle!

It has been a fantastic experience with extremely positive feedback from both children and staff! We hope to work with them again in the future!



Y6 M Shed Visit

Earlier this term our children in Year 6 visited the M Shed in Bristol as part of their topic on life in Britain during World War II. Below are some short recounts from some of our children:



The M-Shed is a museum of Bristol's past. On Friday 10th January, the year six children travelled to this location next to the docks in central Bristol (where they took their school trip). The medium sized building was situated next to the water and was built in 2011. Once we had packed our lunches and drink bottles,

we left Bailey's Court at 10:15 and we were driven in the school's mini buses. It took approximately 45 minutes. On arrival, at 11:00, the first thing we did was to eat an early lunch.

Rares

After finishing our packed lunches (I had a delicious croissant), our teachers organised us into groups with some of our friends. We went to the M Shed because we were learning about WW2 in Bristol during the Blitz in 1940. Our activities included:

getting into an Anderson Shelter (with a very uncomfortable bed),

finding landmarks on the floor map of Bristol, learning about the gas masks that very tiny children wore.

For me, the best part of the day (apart from lunch!) was going in the Anderson Shelter because I had never seen one before.

Esmee

My activities at the M-Shed started on the top floor. We climbed three flights of stairs to get to the third level. There were about ten different paintings of Bristol showing people and buildings from around the city. Next, we travelled down the stairs to the middle floor where we saw one big model airplane and around five hot air balloons. Finally, on the ground floor, we went inside an Anderson Shelter which was really uncomfortable but SAFE.

Reuben

At the end of our visit, all the groups met at the entrance on the ground floor. We were all noisy and excitable as we chatted to our friends while waiting for the minibuses. Mr Higginson organised us ready for our trip back to school. We drove past many different buildings and people as Mrs Profitt took us back to Bailey's Court Primary School. The journey lasted about 30 minutes. We all really enjoy taking the buses because we get to talk to our friends freely. We arrived back at school just before 3:30 which gave us time to play a small game before the bell rang.

Hope

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101 Things to Do Before ...

Each year the children are set a range of challenges to complete at home throughout the year which are specific to their age and stage of development. Once completed, children are encouraged to complete their '101 Booklet' and bring it back to school so that they can be awarded with a special badge and certificate.

Details as to what is needed to complete the challenges can be found in the 'Learning' section of our school website. Children have until the summer to complete this year's initiative.

Parent Readers

As a school we would be very grateful if any of our parents or grandparents could spare a small amount of time to volunteer to come into school and hear children read. If you are able to help out at any time, during the school day, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.

Holiday and Absences from School Reminder

This is to remind parents that absence from school may only now be granted by the head teacher in 'exceptional' circumstances.

Governors have agreed that this could include, attending funerals or family weddings etc.

Following Government guidelines, holidays can not be authorised during term time. The head teacher can only consider applications made using the 'School Application for Absence Form' which must be submitted two calendar weeks ahead of the date requested for absence.

INSET Days

This year's INSET days will be held on the following days:

23rd May

2nd June

21st July

22nd July

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Our breakfast club is open from 7.45am and our after school club is open between 3.30pm and 6.00pm.

Bookings for the clubs will be made on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to book a space for your child, please contact the school office.

Diary Dates

Term 4

Week 1

24th February: Children arrive back

24th - 28th February: Year 5 Forest School

Week 2

Week 3

10th – 14th March: Open morning week

10th – 14th March: Year 4 Forest School

14th March: Sports Relief (TBC)

Week 4

19th and 20th March: Parent consultations

17th and 18th March: Year 4 MOJO Active

19th and 20th March: Year 2 MOJO Active

Week 5

24th – 28th March: Year 3 Forest School

24th March: Year 5 parents' camp meeting (3.30pm)

Week 6

4th April: Birthday Friday

4th April: End Term

Term 5

Week 1

22nd April: Children arrive back

22nd and 23rd: Year 5 MOJO Active

24th and 25th April: Year 2 Forest School

Week 2

28th and 29th April: Year 1 MOJO Active

30th April and 1st May: Year 3 MOJO Active

1st May: Parent forum (2.45pm)

Week 3

6th – 9th May: Reception and Year 1 Forest School

Week 4

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12th – 15th May: KS2 SATs

16th – 17th May: Year 5 camp

Week 5

20th and 21st May: Sports Days (reserve 22nd)

22nd May: Birthday Thursday

23rd May: INSET

23rd May: End Term

Term 6

Week 1

2nd June: INSET

3rd June: Children arrive back

2nd June: 2-week window commencing for Year

4 Multiplication tables check (ending 13th June)

3rd – 6th June: Year 5 Forest School

Week 2

9th June: New reception parents meeting (6pm)

9th – 13th June: Year 1 and Year 2 Phonics
screening

10th and 11th June: Year 6 MOJO Active

12th and 13th June: Reception MOJO Active

Week 3

16th June – 27th June: New reception meet the
teacher visits (after school)

16th – 20th June: Year 6 Forest School

Week 4

27th June: Class swap

Week 5

30th June – 4th July: Year 3 and 4 Forest School
(1 day Hortham, 1 day school site per class)

30th June – 3rd July: Reception stay and play
visits

4th July: Reception teddy bear picnic

Week 6

10th July SLT Middle Leaders Review

12th July Summer Fair

Week 7

17th July: Parents' evening (3.30 – 4.30pm)

18th July: Birthday Friday

18th July: Last day for children

Week 8

21st July: INSET

22nd July: INSET

Each Year Group will need to decide upon their own school trips.

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