

Newsletter

2023 - 2024 : Term 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year and what a busy term it has been!

I wanted to start by thanking you all for making a commitment with attendance as our attendance figures are the highest they have been for years. That is great news for the learning and a great big WELL DONE to all our pupils, parents and staff for helping to make it happen.

Another big THANK YOU to all who have set up their Class Dojo accounts. Using Class Dojo has enabled us to make much greater, quicker and easier connections with you all and also to share the learning happening. So many parents have messaged to say how much they are enjoying it and I believe it's improving both our communication and our relationships.

We cannot discuss Class Dojo without thanking teachers and parents in Minnows (Reception class) and Parrotfish (Year 2 class) who now have 97-100% parent sign up! Personally I love to see the 'Me Box' learning in Reception and all of the other amazing work that goes on.

Now we are all set up on Dojo, we will be sending out a 'One-Stop Communication guide' to all parents next term. We know that communication is something parents have asked us to improve and we hope that we're certainly on our way!

Unfortunately the commitment to uniform seems to have slipped! Please see the following page for a reminder on expectations. Next term we will be focused on uniform and this will mean sending reminders to parents of pupils who are not in the correct uniform.

Our next big focus in the school will be improving the area at the top of the playground. Mr Densley has plans for a new, weather-proof and secure bike and scooter store and both he and a group of Year 6 pupils met with some playground designers to see how we could improve the rest of the area. The children had fabulous ideas that we would like to make happen but it will cost lots. We will therefore be focusing all of our fundraising efforts towards some of this costs and will get more information to you as soon as we can.

Until another busy term, I'd like to wish you all a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back - in correct uniform - on Tuesday 31st October.

Michelle Onobeni

Headteacher

Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has been sending their child to school in their uniform every day! Most of the children are now looking really smart and ready for the day.

A reminder that our uniform guidance requires all students to wear plain black shoes, along with a choice of either grey or black trousers, dress, skirt, or shorts. The standard attire also includes a smart and comfortable sky blue polo shirt, complemented by a navy blue jumper to ensure a smart and professional appearance.

Our PE Kit now consists of a crisp white polo shirt paired with black sports shorts, encouraging a smart, sporty look for our pupils during PE. Children are welcome to wear their PE Kit to school on the days that they have PE.

We understand the importance of affordability and accessibility for our families, with the exception of our school jumper, the majority of our uniform can be easily purchased at most supermarkets for just a few pounds, making it a convenient and budget-friendly choice. School uniform with the Fishponds logo can be purchased online or in store from Doug Hillard.

Uniforms play a significant role in fostering a sense of belonging, promoting discipline, and creating a focused learning environment. We believe that adhering to these renewed standards will not only enhance the overall appearance of our students but also instil a sense of pride and unity within our school community.

With our renewed focus on uniform we have taken the decision that going forwards, only children wearing their school uniform will have their photos taken and shared on class Dojo.

The Reef

The children in The Reef have enjoyed our sensory story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". They loved interacting with the story, feeding the caterpillar and seeing how it becomes a beautiful butterfly!





Year 6 Camp

Some of our Year 6 students embarked on a thrilling residential trip to Great Wood Camp. Braving the elements, the children displayed outstanding teamwork, resilience, and had a fearless attitude towards getting wet and muddy. Their week was full of different activities and challenges, including rock climbing, archery, rifle shooting, grass sledging, night walks, dam building, and many more! We couldn't be prouder of their remarkable achievements and impeccable behaviour throughout the week.

This incredible experience would not have been possible with the support of the Year 6 team. A massive thank you goes to Mr. Jones, Mrs. Gio-Batta, Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Seretny, and Miss Maddocks for making this adventure an unforgettable success. Discussions are already taking place for next year's trip to Great Wood camp.

Global Scholars - The First Bristol School!

Fishponds CE Academy are absolutely thrilled to be the first ever Bristol school to be selected to take part in the world-wide Global Scholars project. The project aims to create a safe and secure platform for pupils across the world to link and work together. The project boosts communication, team work, problem solving, project planning and internet safety. During the week, children in year 6 and some in Year 5 take part in a Global Scholars lesson. They to communicate directly in E-Classrooms with peers across the globe. We currently have connections with New York, Barcelona, Madrid, Taiwan and many more!

This programme creates opportunities for students to learn about other cities and how to solve global problems. The project this year focuses on local community projects that aid nature to survive in cities. We are lucky that Ms Gomes leads the project with huge passion and can't wait to see the results!

GLOBAL
SCHOLARS

Year 6 Staycationers

The Year 6 Staycationers had a very busy and fun week! On Monday morning they geared up to do some planting jobs and tidying around the school, they had a lot of fun planting daffodils ready for spring and weeding the borders. A few of them tried to pull up some old hedging. Unfortunately, the hedge won and they had to admit defeat. They came in for lunch dirty and tired but everything looked great.

The children really enjoyed Spanish cooking day, they made Tortilla d patatas. They split into groups of eight, peeled potatoes, fried them up and made their Tortilla. For lunch they pushed their tables together and had a class picnic, Mrs Salmon brought in lots of different Spanish foods to eat, by the end they were very full!

On Wednesday the children explored the Forest of Dean. Thursday was also great fun outside with Mrs Seddon experiencing forest school, they had a great time roasting marshmallows, learning how to start a fire safely and being outside together.

On Friday morning the children had a lesson about the artist Galdi, they then started their own art piece using pieces of vinyl to create mosaic pieces. Friday afternoon they got cosy in their pyjamas with popcorn to watch a movie.



'We are Fishponds' Arts Trail

On Wednesday after school, the entire Fishponds Academy was alive with visitors, parents, friends and families appreciating the wonderful WE ARE FISHPONDS Art Exhibition. Every child had created, over the term, a self portrait that sung with self expression and really showed off the vibrancy of our creative community. Playful collages by Y1 and 2 were springboarded by learning about contemporary Artist Brianna McCarthy. Some children even chose to incorporate patterns that they felt represent their own heritage best and their family, showing the depth of personal exploration happening at FCEA. Y3 and 4 were inspired by Lubaina Himid's painted portraits, using precise techniques for realistic proportions. The results varied from loose expressionistic paintings to more anime ones and other more realistic portraits. Each class had such an individual swing on the theme. Y5 and Y6 displayed an in depth exploration of skin tone through silhouetted portraits and profiles that jumped out against a painted background, mixed to mirror their own skin's exact hue. The end result were rooms of portraits that at first glance were simple but with greater consideration showed how wonderfully diverse our school is and how personal the exhibition chance had become for self expression and a celebration of everyone who makes our school such a special place.



Year 4 Trip to Caerleon

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Caerleon where they undertook a Roman Soldier Bootcamp and explored Roman ruins including magnificent Roman baths.

Year 4 are looking forward to taking their learning and applying it to their continued study of the Romans in term two.

Your Holiday Hub

All families with children and young people from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals can explore [Your Holiday Hub \(YHH\)](#) for fully-funded school holiday clubs and activities across the city.



Do you eat crisps?

We need your help! Year 3 are working on a project for the homeless. Please keep your crisp packets, open them along the side and bottom and give them a clean. Please bring them in after half-term.



Making our curriculum Offer Outstanding

Having a curriculum that provides a full and well balanced offer to the pupils at Fishponds CE Academy is one of our key wishes. In light of this we have been able to add some new subjects into our curriculum taught by specialists.

Mrs Salmon, who has been supporting the learning at Fishponds for a while, has now taken the lead on **Modern Foreign Languages** at the school. To have a qualified teacher who is a native Spanish teacher is a real asset and the children are loving their Spanish classes. All children from Year 2 - Year 6 have weekly Spanish lessons and Reception Class are learning some basics too! It is not unusual to travel the halls of Fishponds now and hear children practising their Spanish. Gracias Mrs Salmon!



We are very excited to be working alongside **Karate Bristol** and have secured weekly sessions with Sensei David Daniel. Sensei David has achieved the 5th Dan qualification with the Japan Karate Federation and is an official karate instructor with the English Karate Federation. He currently teaches 130 students and will now be teaching Year 4 karate once a week. The karate that Sensei David teaches will not be a contact sports version but will focus on fitness, defence, self discipline and strong controlled movements. Pupils will be able to work towards gaining belt colours through learning correct karate moves and demonstrating a disciplined attitude. If there is enough interest, Sensei David will consider an after school group. We are so pleased to extend our sports offer which already comprises of specialist sports coaches.

Having **music** back on our weekly timetable has been glorious! I come from a 'singing school' in London and have missed hearing children singing throughout the day. Miss Kenyon is leading our music provision and has been awarded a prestigious grant of £750 to order new instruments for the school. This will help us take music even further and I, for one, can't wait. Miss Kenyon is also working on securing us some instrument tuition and will let you know our offer as soon as it's secured. Music is not only good for the soul but also for relieving stress and for making synapsis in the brain stronger and therefore helping with academic subjects too!

SEND Coffee Morning

Bristol Parent Carer Forum will be running a **SEND Coffee Morning** in The Old Library on **Friday 17th November from 9.00am - 10.30am.**

If your child has any special educational needs, please come along! The SEND coffee mornings are a lovely opportunity to meet other parents who may have similar experiences to your own.



Parents Evening

Parents Evenings will be held on **Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd November 2023.** The booking system will open on **Friday 3rd November at midday** and will close at midday on **Friday 17th November.** **Appointments cannot be made after the booking system has closed.**

You will receive a link to book via email on Friday 3rd November 2023. If you do not currently receive emails from us or have recently changed your email address please let us know as soon as possible so you don't miss out.



Reception

Congratulations to our Reception children for completing their first term at school!

We have loved welcoming all of our new children and families to our Fishponds Academy Family! The children have enjoyed making friends, learning about each other with the Me Box and loved learning the stories of Owl Babies and Goldilocks.

We have also been exploring mathematical learning through measuring and making porridge, we have loved learning to read and write and, enjoyed being adventurous at Forest School.

Year 5

Year 5 went on a protest around Fishponds to advocate for equality. This was an immersion session to understand what others had to do to stand up for civil rights.

Year 5 also had a visit from Kerry, granddaughter of Roy Hackett. We were able to ask her lots of questions linked to Roy and the Bristol bus boycott that he spearheaded. It was an amazing session and we are grateful to Kerry for coming into school and providing the children with this experience.

In week 6, they went on a walking tour of St Pauls after learning about the 7 saints who set up St.Pauls carnival.



Staff Announcements

Congratulations to **Mr Hodgkins** who has been accepted onto the NPQ Leading Teacher Development course. Congratulations also go to **Mrs Noble** who has been accepted onto the NPQ Senior Leadership course.

Miss Kenyon has been working hard to bring Music back onto the curriculum and has been successful in securing a £750 grant for some new instruments. A huge well done to her! We're really excited to hear some wonderful music from the children!

Miss Knowles has been accepted onto a university course so that she can become a specialist dyslexia assessor. Huge congratulations to her! Miss Knowles will continue to work for Fishponds Academy and will bring her new knowledge to the job.

Congratulations to **Miss Curtis** who has been accepted onto a teacher training course. Miss Curtis will continue working for Fishponds Academy and will attend university 1 day a week.

Final congratulations go to **Miss Harrison** and **Mr Price** who both recently got engaged - not to each other!



What's on in Term 2

Week 1	Monday 30th October - Inset Day
Week 2	
Week 3	Wednesday 15th November - Anti-bullying Day Friday 17th November - Children in Need
Week 4	Tuesday 21st November - Parents' Evening (early) Thursday 23rd November - Parents' Evening (late)
Week 5	
Week 6	Thursday 7th December - Christmas Jumper Day Friday 8th December - Enterprise Day
Week 7	Tuesday 12th December - Reception & Y1 Nativity (afternoon) Wednesday 13th November - Reception & Y1 Nativity (morning) Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Dinner Thursday 14th December - Y3 & Y4 Carol Concert Friday 15th December - Non-uniform Day

MENU

From the start of Term 2 we have a new, exciting winter menu. We hope the children will be inspired to try something new!

The menu can be found on our [website](#).

2023 - 2024 Term Dates

Term 1	Friday 1st September 2023 - Friday 20th October 2023 Inset Days - Friday 1st September and Monday 4th September
Term 2	Monday 30th October 2023 - Friday 15th December 2023 Inset Day - Monday 30th October
Term 3	Tuesday 2nd January 2024 - Friday 9th February 2024 Inset Day - Tuesday 2nd January
Term 4	Monday 19th February 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024
Term 5	Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024
Term 6	Monday 3rd June 2024 - Tuesday 23rd July 2024 Inset Days - Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July