



Fishponds

Church of England Academy



# Newsletter

2023 - 2024 : Term 2

Well, what a fruitful and exciting term we have had. It has definitely felt non-stop with so many things to celebrate. Our classes have enjoyed theatre visits, Forest School, field-research and communication with the Mayor of Bristol before we even got to the furious flurry of Christmas events! This week we've been lucky enough to watch a passionately performed Nativity by our very youngest pupils. Stars of the future shone and we were so impressed with children from The Reef who performed with such confidence alongside Reception and Year 1 pupils. Everyone who attended the Christmas carol concert led by Years 3 and 4 at St. Mary's Church last night I'm sure will agree that it was an absolute success. Children read confidently and the singing was amazing - at points angelic! Well done to all of the children who did so well.

As we close our term, I would like to thank parents who have ensured that our attendance has improved this year. The most important thing you can do for your child's education is get them into school and we are pleased there are improvements in this area. Next term we will be having a school New Year's resolution - **ON TIME, EVERY TIME**. This means we'll be focusing on lateness so that children's learning is not interrupted in class. We are sure you'll rise to the occasion and continue to support us this way. We will also be really tightening up on uniform. It has slipped very quickly for some, despite us making it as affordable and easy as possible. Children not in correct uniform will receive a note home in Term 3 to serve as a reminder. In Term 3 we also welcome back Mr. Smith who will support Ms. Knowles whilst Mr. Price has a short training period in our sister school, Easton CE Academy and we also welcome Ms. Bartley who will be working in Manta-Ray alongside Mr. Jones.

There is no reason why Fishponds CE Academy shouldn't be seen as the best school in Bristol and we know you will help us get there. Until then, all the staff at the school wish you and the children a very restful and happy break.

*Michelle Onobeni*

Headteacher

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## Basketball Tournament

Some of our Year 5 and 6 boys and girls participated in a fantastic basketball competition organised by City Academy. There were 5 teams involved from all over Bristol. Everyone played brilliantly ensuring **we placed 2nd** overall. Mr Simons is incredibly proud of how well-behaved the children were and how well they represent the school. **Mr Simons said Williams played exceptionally and was a real asset to the team!** Well done Williams!



## Global Scholars



As part of our Global Scholars programme some of our Year 6 children visited Oldbury Court and Snuff Mills to conduct field research on our local green space. They counted the number of animals they saw and recorded where they saw them. The results of their research will be shared internationally!

The children then put their creative skills to the test and created a wonderful digital book to teach other people about our local wildlife. You can download the book by scanning the QR code!

## Fundraising

On Christmas Jumper Day we raised **£150.60** for **Save the Children**.

We also raised a fantastic **£264.28** for **Children in Need!**

A HUGE thank you to all those that donated!





## A Christmas Carol Trip

Ms Ray's daughter recently performed in A Christmas Carol at Bristol Hippodrome. Ms Ray managed to secure some discounted tickets for **Year 5**. Everyone was so well-behaved and engaged with the performance that we received a lovely compliment email from someone not known to our school! The letter reads:

*Yesterday I attended the afternoon performance of The Christmas Carol at Bristol Hippodrome and my friend and I sat opposite a group of children from your school. I must say what a pleasure it was for me to be there. Their behaviour was excellent and their enthusiasm engulfed us all.*

*I must thank the staff who controlled and supported the children so well and gave of their time well after the end of the school day.*

*It is so pleasing to see that as a school you are enriching the curriculum and developing the arts.*

*Many thanks and well done from an ex music lead teacher and governor.*

The children represented the school brilliantly! Thank you to Ms Ray for organising the tickets. We loved seeing your daughter perform!



## Year 3

Year 3 have had a really busy term. Alongside practising for the Carol Concert, they have learnt lots of new maths skills. They used their new found knowledge to help build some brilliant bridges in Design Technology. Our wonderful volunteer (Mrs Christensen) helped with the bridge building and commented on how well the children worked together to problem solve any issues they found. We're so proud of them!



## Nativity

The children in Reception, Year 1 and The Reef performed 'Follow the Star' a Christmas Nativity. They were all such fantastic actors and singers and really gave the performance their all.

The effort put in to creating costumes for the children was really appreciated. The children loved putting on their outfits and getting to character.

Thank you to all of the parents, carers and staff that came to watch, it was brilliant to see such a full audience.

## Year 6 - Ready to take on the world!

Year 6 are taking the job of 'Custodians of the Future' very seriously with their charitable endeavours. Ruby, Sylvie & Olivia have spent their own time and money creating 'Blind Bags' (like a Lucky Dip) with treats and crafts for children to buy at their 'Mini Christmas Market' during our last week of term. The idea was completely theirs and they will be raising funds to buy new games for lunchtime play.

They are not the only Year 6 children being ambassadors for positive change; Mateen and Sidra have asked to create a new 'Positive Play' certificate to give to children helping others with positive play and Jeanne, Elif-Su, Ayse and Aisha have requested an opportunity to raise funds for children affected by the bombing in Gaza. With these young people already on the job, the world couldn't be in better hands!





## Music

This year music has started with a bang!

The Young Voices choir has been practicing hard in preparation for our upcoming concert in January. We will be singing hits from Matilda, Disney and even a song in Korean with thousands of other children from across the UK.

The Christmas choir has performed at the Christmas Market raising funds for music at Fishponds and then gone on to sing at the Carol service with the rest of Year 3 and 4. There were some brilliant solos from Joshua, Michelle, Gigi, Molly, Luan and Eliza. The whole choir should be very proud of themselves for all the progress they have made this term in their singing.

Everyone has been very enthusiastic in singing assemblies which is great. You may remember that we learnt Dancing Queen by Abba in Term 1 as many parents said their children would not stop singing it at home, much to their chagrin! We moved on to carols and Christmas songs this term which has been very festive and merry.

We have started a new music curriculum which has inspired our children to get creative as well as musical. Year 5 created beautiful images of the Alps whilst listening to the sound track of the Sound of Music; Year 4 made Truly Scrumptious' Peppermint Creams from the musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Year 6 has taken Glockenspiel playing to a whole other level! Miss Kenyon was lucky enough to get to witness Mrs Gio-Batta's class perform a piece with a lot of flourish.

Fishponds was awarded a grant from Universal Music UK Sound Foundation so we have new musical instruments this term. This is very exciting news as we now have complete sets of instruments for our in-class music lessons. We also have individual music lessons available for those that wish to sign up. Currently, we have weekly guitar lessons and starting in January there will be piano lessons as well. If you are interested please speak to the office.





## Reception

At the end of term two, Minnows invited in their parents / careers to come and celebrate their learning. Minnows enjoyed showing all the adults their favourite topics they have learnt about over their first two terms at school; Diwali, Harvest, Guy Fawkes Bonfire night, changing Seasons and Christmas. It was also great to see all the adults enjoying the activities too!

Thank you to all the adults who came to celebrate our learning with us.

The children in Reception really embraced Children in Need and the theme of 'show your spots'!

## Karate

Y4 Karate has been a huge success! The children have been working with Sensei David, from Karate Bristol, on a number of self defence and self-discipline skills.

Children have learnt techniques for kicking, hand movements, safe falling and have really developed as a team. The children have really enjoyed their special PE lessons. Leo said 'I love learning self-defence and how to protect myself'.

HUGE thanks to Sensei David for all of his support and knowledge during the special term of PE. We're already looking forward to working with Sensei David next term!



## Year 5

Year 5 have worked hard on some science projects and English writing this week. They have then used their oracy skills to present their work to their peers. We had some great projection, tonal variation and posture from our presenters. Our audience were also very respectful and gave us some great feedback. Year 5 have also really enjoyed their music lessons!



## Staff Announcements

**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS** to Jess, our wonderful Office Administrator and Lettings Manager, who is getting married on 17th December 2023. She will be returning in the new year as Mrs Harrison Davie!

Another engagement at Fishponds, there must be something in the water! **CONGRATULATIONS** to Miss Russ, one of our brilliant Reception teachers!

**THANK YOU** to Ms Gomes who secured a donation of 30 sapling trees which have now all been planted. We're sure they will grown big and tall and will make our grounds look beautiful for years to come!

Miss Davies has returned from her sabbatical. We're thrilled to have her back, she has really enjoyed getting to know her class and is looking forward to taking them through to the end of the year.





# AFTER SCHOOL FAMILY CAFE

Starts  
11th  
January

Free

Thursdays 3.15pm - 4.30pm  
(term time only)

A space for families to come together after school, enjoy  
a free cafe with hot drinks and snacks,  
A child friendly space to play.

Free drinks and toast



Games, puzzles,  
Lego available



Make new friends or  
bring friends with you



Space for  
craft or  
homework

Children must come with  
an adult. Aimed at  
primary school children.

For more info what's  
app/message/call Amy  
07749 812131

  [allsaintsfamilycafe](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsfamilycafe)

Old Library, Fishponds Road  
BS16 3UH  
(next to Fishponds Academy)



## Premier Education Holiday Camps

Premier Education Holiday Camps provide an affordable and convenient childcare option whilst offering a vast variety of fun-filled, multi-activity sport sessions, guaranteed to keep your kids entertained over the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Holiday Camps at Premier Education are a safe place for children to have fun. As the UK's leading provider of multi-activity and primary school sports, Premier Education ensure that all our venues are well-adapted to current guidelines.

All coaches have undertaken specialist training and are prepared to deliver a whole host of industry-leading activities your kids will love right through the school holidays. Activities run by our expert coaches are scientifically proven to aid child development, encouraging an active lifestyle during the chilly winter season.

### Holiday Activities and Food Programme - often referred to as 'HAF'!

The HAF programme offers **free school holiday sessions**, healthy food, and enriching activities **for children in receipt of free school meals**. Funding for HAF comes from Bristol City Council so won't cost parents a penny.

Premier Education have been delivering action-packed holiday camps for over 20 years, during which we've formed strong relationships with Local Authorities and venues across the country. Through these relationships and their experience, they have been able to deliver HAF courses every Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays since 2021 – helping thousands of children to experience the fun they deserve.

For further information please [contact](#) Premier Sports directly.

Please [book a place](#) for your child online.



**Fun-filled Winter holiday camps**

Time	Activity
9am - 9:45am	<b>Ice Breaker Games</b> Selection Box, Advent Calendar
9:45am - 10:45am	<b>Basketball</b> Let It Snow! Snowballing, Build a Snowman
11am - 12pm	<b>Hockey</b> Driving home for Christmas, Christmas Crackers
1pm - 2pm	<b>Athletics</b> Christmas Reindeer, Rudolph Run, Donna & Blitzen
2:15pm - 3:15pm	<b>Cricket</b> Winter Wonderland! Snowball Tag, Keep the Cold Out

## What's on in Term 3

<b>Week 1</b>	Tuesday 2nd January - Inset Day Wednesday 3rd January - Children return to school Thursday 4th January - Rearranged Y1 trip to Bristol Old Vic
<b>Week 2</b>	Wednesday 10th January - Y1 and Y2 Calculation Workshop Thursday 11th January - Y3 and Y4 Calculation Workshop
<b>Week 3</b>	Monday 15th January - Y5 and Y6 Calculation Workshop
<b>Week 4</b>	
<b>Week 5</b>	Wednesday 31st January - 'Headteacher for the Day' (more information to follow)
<b>Week 6</b>	Monday 5th February - Y6 SATs Meeting Tuesday 6th February - Online Safety Day Thursday 8th February - Y1 Reading Meeting Friday 9th February - Non-uniform Day (FoFA)



Our lunch menu can be found on our [website](#).  
We will be starting term 3 on Week 1.



# 2023 - 2024 Term Dates

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

*Wishing you all a wonderful  
Christmas and winter break*

