

# Newsletter

2023 - 2024 : Term 3

Welcome to our termly newsletter and what a lot we've managed to fit in to a rather short term!

Fishponds CE Academy are really getting noticed in all the right ways: our athletes won a group competition that enabled them to attend a huge Bristol-wide schools athletics meet. The children did brilliantly well given that this was the first competition of this kind that they had attended. A great big thanks to Mr. Simons and Sylvie's nan for helping the children. In addition to this, we were beautifully represented at Young Voices where the children performed in front of an enormous audience; an experience they will never forget. We can't thank Ms. Kenyon and Ms. Ray (along with Ms. Kenyon's mum and Mr. Price) enough for taking the children all the way to Birmingham. Singing and music is becoming such a strength at the school as anyone who listened to the amazing singing at the Year 3 & 4 Carol Service can testify to! We also held great pride about our Year 6 pupils getting in the press - they were featured in the Fishponds Voice for their Global Scholars learning. We thank Ms. Gomes for leading this so passionately (picture below).

There is a really positive vibe around the school and I'm certain this will continue to grow as we gain even more to celebrate. Our attendance is up - so we thank you all for that - and lateness is also improving. Uniform is still, however, a really weak area with lots of work to do; more information about raised expectations and uniform slips to come next term. That only leaves me to thank all of the staff, volunteers, parents and children for their endless energy and wish everybody a restful break.



*Michelle Omoboni*

Headteacher



## Year 1

This term Year One visited the Bristol Old Vic to watch their play Four Seasons. We really enjoyed going on the coach, especially when we sat upstairs! We spotted lots of Bristol landmarks (and lots of our own houses!) on the way. We really enjoyed watching the play which taught us about each season. This links to our Science topic this term "Weather and Seasons". The Bristol Old Vic very kindly gave us some seed paper to plant at home so we can grow our own plants and watch them grow over the seasons! We have made our own windsocks to help us answer our investigation question: does wind change direction?

## Blenny Class

Blenny class have loved learning about the Ancient Egyptians this term!

They really enjoyed their talk from Avah's Nan, Linda, who came to talk to them about teaching in Egypt. We also really enjoyed reading Deryn's Egyptology book and exploring the artefacts. They are really excited for their Egyptian themed trip next term too!



## Global Citizenship



On the 22nd of February we have WaterAid coming in to do an interactive presentation with Year 3, this is all part of our topic this term for Global Citizenship - water and pollution.

## Music



Since our last newsletter, the Young Voices choir went to Birmingham for the amazing Young Voices concert. The children had an incredible time singing all the songs we had practiced. There were over 6,000 children in attendance and several star-studded performances. The best way of describing the event is a rave with thousands of children, each with a torch to wave in the air as they jump around singing having a whale of a time. Well done to all the children and staff who were involved with the event.

Our Year 3 and 4 Choir has been hard at work learning songs from the different genres we have been learning about as part of our music curriculum. We are preparing for a Celebration of Music at Fishponds Concert on Monday 25th March 2024. This concert will involve performances from both the Year 3 and 4 Choir as well as the Young Voices Choir and some special performances from our music students. Everyone is welcome so please come along.

You can still sign up for individual music lessons. These individual music lessons are taught by teachers from Bristol Beacon. The instruments you can learn are: guitar, piano, voice, ukulele and recorder. We have a piano, ukuleles and recorders which can be used for these lessons on site. If you wish to learn the guitar, you will need to provide that yourself. Bristol Beacon deals with the finances directly. They offer bursaries so if you are Pupil Premium, a child in care, have an EHCP or are a refugee you may be eligible for free or discounted musical experiences.

### Events for Children and Families at St George's Bristol!

There are some brilliant, reasonably priced family events happening at St. George's during February. To find out more or to book, please visit their [website](#).



### Free Ticket Offers for Young People & Students over 8 years old

St George's are working with the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust, to offer young people and students (over 8-year olds) **FREE tickets** to a selection of concerts across their programme. The list of concerts with free Cavatina tickets can be viewed [online](#).



## Enterprise

Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 all really enjoyed Enterprise Day and Maths day this term. We all applied lots of skills including Maths, oracy and our learning to learn animals too!

Some of our Year 6 girls have been very enterprising and have been selling stationary and 'lucky-dip' bags to raise money to improve our school playground. We're really proud of their initiative and passion, especially for something that will come to fruition when they're in secondary school!



## Year 4

This term in year 4, the children have been learning all about Angry Earth. The children have found out why and how volcanos erupt, why earthquakes occur and the impact that Angry Earth has on us and the planet. In Firefish, they even practiced an earthquake drill!!! In science, we have been looking at our digestive system and the function of our teeth. The children loved (but were also disgusted!) by the digestive system demonstration - we started by mashing the bread with water, put it down a pipe, into a hot bag water, through the wiggly balloon and then out of the balloon and into the tray.

In English, the children wrote their own descriptive stories, inspired by 'The Secret of Black Rock' and also created a non-chronological report on their very own Flanimal which they made out of clay! We have filled our classrooms with the joyous sound of glockenspiels, continued our fabulous karate skills with Sensei David and successfully completed a human pyramid in gymnastics! Well done Year 4 for all your hard work, keep it up!



## Year 6

In science Year 6 worked on the classification of plants. They also explored the school grounds for moss and liverworts. If you are out about on the weekend see if you can find any!

Year 6 PE this term has focused on running. We have been impressed with how our fitness has improved!

We're been discussing how if we start practising for our SATs in term 4 by the time they come around in term 5 we'll be feeling much more confident and ready - the more we practise the more we improve!

The Daffodil bulbs our 'Staycationers' planted in Term 6 are now flowering right now - it is wonderful and very exciting to see them growing after all the effort they put in working together as a team!



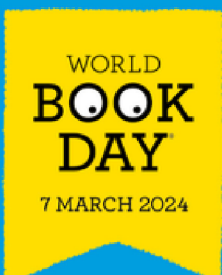
## World Book Day

World Book Day will be taking place on **Thursday 7 March 2024**.

This annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading is one of the highlights of our school year! World Book Day provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits.

To celebrate World Book Day children (and staff!) are welcome to dress up as a character from a book! We're hugely excited to see which characters the children choose!

As part of our World Book Day celebration the **Scholastic Book Fair** will be at school from Thursday 7th to Wednesday 13th March. Children will be able to use their book voucher at the fair, providing every child the opportunity to have a book of their own.



**Save the date!**  
**World Book Day**  
**7 March 2024**



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 ILLUSTRATED BY VIVIAN TRUONG



## Year 3

Year 3 have engaged in lots of great learning this term. They have enjoyed using their oracy skills in Maths; using their drama skills in R.E and applying their sketching skills in Art. They are all really looking forward to making their designs into a real stained glass window inside our school!

## Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard to design stain-glass windows for our new prayer room. They have based their designs around their learning this year and the results are wonderful. Next time we will be copying their artwork onto clear plastic, drawing around their lines and painting in the gaps to create a whole class stained-glass window.



## School Council

This term Student Council had their first meeting of the school year. We discussed the purpose of a Student Council and the important role of being a member of the Student Council. We have agreed to meet fortnightly and will be starting with planning fundraising ideas to raise money for new play equipment. We are also going to be looking at ways we could improve our school curriculum. Student Council are looking forward to making positive change within the school.



## Playground Revamp

We are so incredibly excited to be able to show you the final design chosen for the grassy space at the top of the Key Stage 2 playground!



After working with some Year 6 pupils and in discussions with Mr. Densley, we have selected the best value for money design and hope to have it built over the summer holidays ready for September. It is a BIG ask as there is a lot of money needed for the project but, luckily, FOFA have agreed to help fundraise for the project.

**Until we've reached our target all school fundraising will be in aid of our new playground.**

This means we will not be fundraising for Children in Need, Red Nose Day etc. In conjunction with FoFA, we will be organising our own exciting fundraising events! You will be able to keep an eye on how we're doing once our totalizer is in place by the main gates.

## Home-based Reading

Are you aware of the multitude of benefits associated with children engaging in home-based reading? Recent research suggests that this practice extends beyond growing academic test scores: it significantly enriches their educational journey. Notably, it develops a child's level of vocabulary, problem-solving capabilities and general knowledge. Additionally, there is compelling evidence to show that reading at home profoundly contributes to child's personal development, social emotional mental health and understanding of social consequences.

Devoting 20 minutes each day to reading can show substantial improvements in your child's progress, academic attainment and holistic development.

Should you need assistance in selecting suitable texts or support with phonics, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, Mr. Jones (our English Leader), or Miss Burgess (our Phonics Leader).



## The Reef

This term The Reef have been learning about Space! They have enjoyed using the stomp rocket to support our science lessons. They have also made lots of space-themed art and listening to songs about planets.



## Modern Foreign Languages

In Spanish: this term Y2 & Y3 have been learning all about the four seasons! “En invierno hace frío y nieva”, “En primavera las flores crecen y los pájaros cantan”, “En verano hace sol y hace calor”, “En otoño los árboles pierden sus hojas”.

# ¡HOLA!

Years 4, 5 & 6 have been learning all about telling the date in Spanish - ¿Qué fecha es hoy? – including the days of the week, the months, seasons and reviewing our number from 1 to 31. We also learned to ask when your birthday is and answer the question. – Ask the children to tell you today’s date!

## Reception



In Reception, we have loved exploring our Story of the Week: The Everywhere Bear! The children have loved taking it in turns to take Everywhere Bear home and we have loved hearing all about the adventures they have been on with him. Reception have also enjoyed immersing themselves in an Everywhere Bear-themed Forest School- including Everywhere Bear Hide and Seek, building bear dens, creating spelling sticks and cooking hot dogs on the firepit!



# After School Clubs

## Premier Sports Clubs - Term 4

- Monday 19th February - 25th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm GIRLS FOOTBALL (Y1-6)
- Tuesday 20th February - 26th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm GYMNASTICS (Y3-6)
- Wednesday 21st February - 27th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm FOOTBALL (YR - Y2)
- Thursday 22nd February - 28th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm FOOTBALL (Y3 & 4)
- Thursday 22nd February - 28th March 3:30pm - 4:30pm MULTI-SPORTS (Y1-6)
- Friday 23rd February - 22nd March 3:30pm - 4:30pm FOOTBALL (Y5 & 6)
- Friday 23rd February - 22nd March 3:30pm - 4:30pm GYMNASTICS (Y1 & 2)

All clubs will cost £27.00 per term, except Friday clubs which are £22.50 per term.

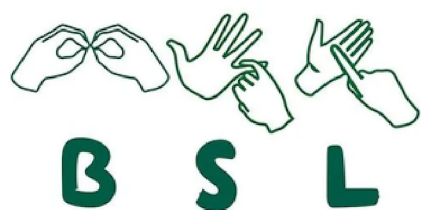
Clubs must be booked [online](#). Bookings must be made in advance.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact Jon from Premier Sports by email - [jbroadbear@premier-education.com](mailto:jbroadbear@premier-education.com)



## BSL Club

Miss Curtis will continue to run the current BSL club.



Once the current 10 week course has ended Miss Curtis will be running the course again for a new group of children. The next course will be open to children in years 5 and 6.

We will send the sign-up form out as soon towards the end of Term 4. To secure a place for your child please complete the sign up form as soon as possible. Places will be offered on a first come first serve basis and this club has been INCREDIBLY popular!

## Y3 and Y4 Choir

Miss Kenyon will continue running the Year 3 and 4 choir club.

Children in the club will be performing as part of our Music Celebration Concert on Monday 25th March 2024!





# Karate Kids Class

Karate Bristol and Fishponds CE Academy Karate for Kids class promotes physical fitness, self-defense, discipline, focus, respect, and confidence.

## When

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN TERM 4  
FROM 3.30PM - 4.30PM

## Where

FISHPONDS OLD LIBRARY

FREE FIRST  
GRADING!

DISCOUNTED  
GI!

TERMLY  
COST

**£60**

FOR  
AGES

**6-11**

# What's on Next Term

<b>Week 1</b>	Thursday 22nd February - WaterAid Workshop (Y3)
<b>Week 2</b>	Thursday 29th February - FoFA Leap Year Disco Thursday 29th February February - Artist, Sue Lipscombe, visiting Y3
<b>Week 3</b>	Thursday 7th March - World Book Day Thursday 7th - Wednesday 13th March - Scholastic Book Fair Thursday 7th March - Ramadan Arts and Crafts Workshop
<b>Week 4</b> <b>SCIENCE WEEK!</b>	Monday 11th March - Y3 trip to Slimbridge Friday 15th March - Y4 trip to St George's
<b>Week 5</b>	Tuesday 19th March - Parents' Evening (early) Thursday 21st March - Parents' Evening (late) Friday 22nd March - Y4 trip to Bristol Aerospace
<b>Week 6</b>	Monday 25th March - Music Celebration Concert Monday 25th March - 'Headteacher for a Day' Tuesday 26th March - Year 5 Easter Service Wednesday 27th March - EYFS Learning Share Thursday 28th March - Y3 Art Exhibition (Fishponds Old Library) Thursday 28th March - Non-uniform Day

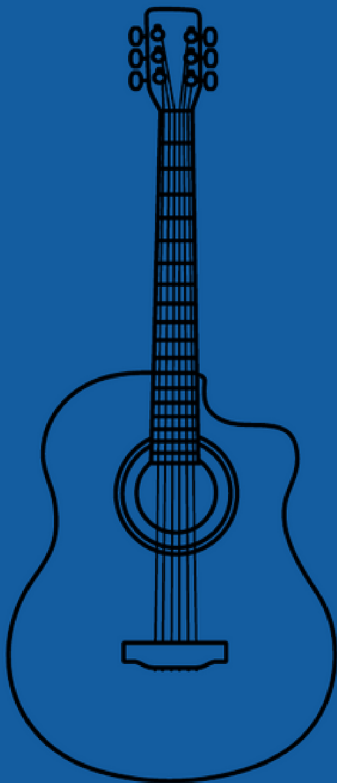
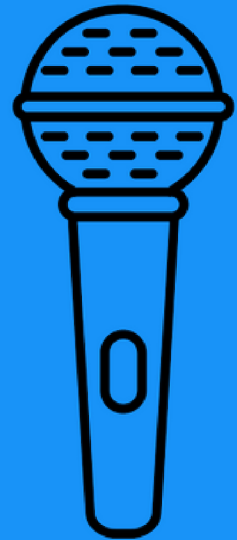
## MENU

Our school lunch menu can be found on our [website](#). We will be starting term 4 on week 1.



# Fishponds

Church of England Academy



# MUSIC CELEBRATION CONCERT

WHEN: 25TH MARCH 2024  
3.30PM - 4.30PM

WHERE: SCHOOL HALL



# **Art Exhibition**

**THURSDAY 28TH OF  
MARCH 3.30-4PM**

**AT THE OLD  
FISHPONDS LIBRARY**

**Come and support our Year  
3 artists as they showcase  
their plastic art.**

**COME AND LEARN THE  
EFFECTS OF PLASTIC ON  
OUR WORLD**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# 2023 - 2024 Term Dates

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<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

