

Newsletter

2023 - 2024 : Term 4

Welcome to our newsletter for Term 4 and what an incredible term it has been.

The whole school has been a wonderful buzz of activity with all of the usual learning fun and special events and celebrations adding to the mix. We have been lucky enough to have had both World Book Week and Science Week; proving that eggs can fly, custard won't splash if you hit it hard enough and that Mr. Jones makes a very cute (but sweaty) koala bear! It was lovely to see so many parents in to see the children's learning on the Friday of Science Week and to hear the amazing poetry slam based on the works of Benjamin Zephaniah on the Friday of World Book Week.

One thing that has really shone this term is seeing the parental engagement in the children's learning. As you know, the best support for the children is a tight relationship between school and home and you have impressed me so much with your commitment. In addition to the Science Fair, there have been a number of parents in for school trips, Year 2 DT day making cars, parent readers, FOFA events, class talks, the multi-faith Flourishing School group and the wonderful music celebration concert audience who danced, clapped, joined in and most of whom shed a tear listening to the beautiful solo of Amazing Grace from Michelle in Year 4. Parents of Year 5 pupils and I were also treated to more beautiful singing at the Easter service. Pupils created moving tableaus to represent the Easter story and read with great diction too.

This term we were also reviewed by the Blue Kite Trust as part of the DfE process for transferring trusts. They were so impressed with how beautiful the school looks and said they could feel 'love oozing through the school'. They stated in their report that they were impressed by "the desire to strengthen pupil's ideas around global citizenship, understanding their place in the world with good communication skills and the skills and attitudes to ensure they are ready for the next stage of their education. This is evidenced by Fishponds being the first Bristol school to take part in the Global Scholars programme, engaging with schools as far reaching as Mumbai, Toronto and Taiwan. " and recognised the hard work put in by all when the report stated, "Leaders possess a comprehensive understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement and have been on a journey of rapid improvement over the last 18 months." We know we have the best community in the country and it's wonderful that it's now truly visible to all.

That only leads me to wish you all a good break, a Happy Easter and, for our Muslim families, a happy Eid Mubarak.

Michelle Omoboni

Headteacher

Butterfish

This term Butterfish Class have been learning all about our new topic - Castles! We have really enjoyed learning about the different features of castles and the jobs that people had in medieval times. We considered which jobs we would like to apply for. Butterfish Class members said "I want to be a knight because I want to ride a horse" and "I want to be a jester to make people laugh at my funny jokes". Unsurprisingly, nobody wanted to be a gong farmer as we discovered that their job was to clean the toilets!

Butterfish Class had loads of fun during Science week with our theme of Dinosaurs! We made pasta pictures of dinosaurs, dinosaur skeleton crafts and experimented with what the quickest way to save a frozen dinosaur was (we tested putting them in the windowsill, on the radiator or in the cupboard. Our experiment was making fizzy eggs! We hid dinosaurs inside eggs made out of bicarbonate of soda and used white vinegar to watch the fizzy reaction to reveal our dinosaurs!



Year 3



This term, Year 3 really enjoyed Science week. We had a great time on our trip to Slimbridge Wetlands where we explored the animals and their habitats; took on challenges in the great outdoors; fed the birds and became guardians of the wild! Back at school we designed and made microhabitats for small animals. We also created posters to showcase what we had learnt about flamingos, otters and swans. We shared all of our amazing Science learning with our families.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

It's been two weeks since our vibrant World Book Week celebration and we are still buzzing with excitement! Our exploration of Benjamin Zephaniah's poetry was inspiring, with students diving into discussions about different social themes and writing innovative reinterpretations of his works.

On Thursday 7th March, our school transformed into a literary wonderland as students and staff arrived as their favourite book characters. The energy was palpable as they shared their love for reading.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. Your involvement, including helping with costumes, is invaluable.

The recipe for a Fishponds Empanada

Cautiously crumble in some British with Somalians
and place it in a bowl meticulously.

Then drizzle in some Turkish, Nigerians, Bangladeshi and Pakistani
With some zesty Cypriots, adding love and unity.

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius to get the best flavours
Out of the hot Argentinian's, Zimabweans and Jamaicans.

Finally, add a dash of Philipino, Romanian and Italian
before mixing it all together in one bowl

Serve with crisps of understanding, peace and tolerance.

Note: Remember to treat all with equity.

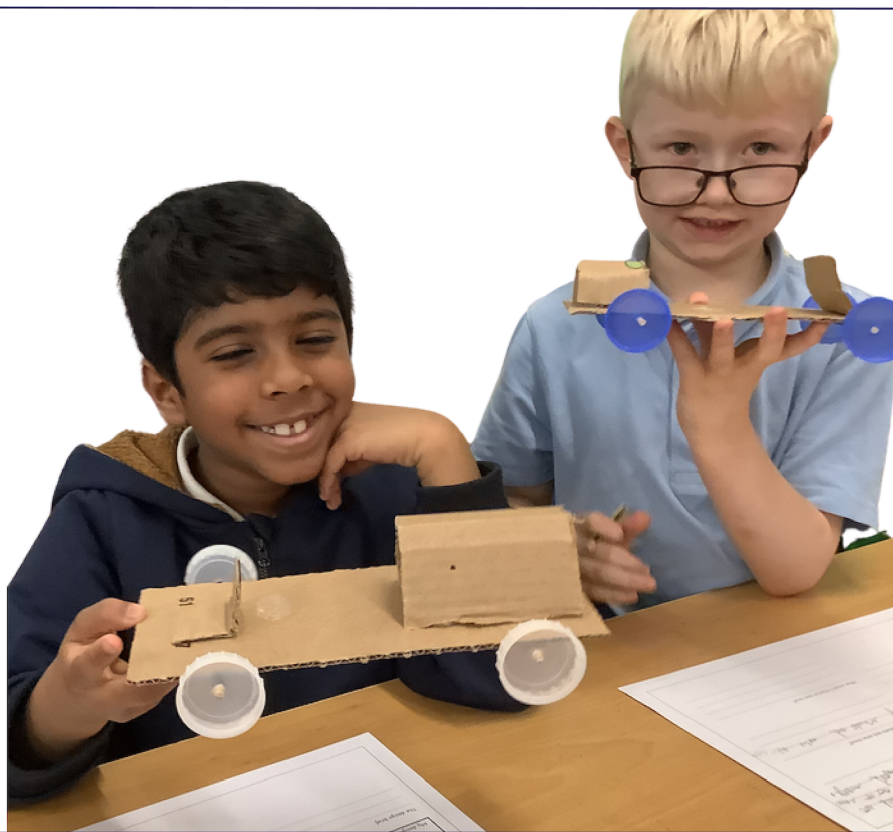
Jason (Year 5)



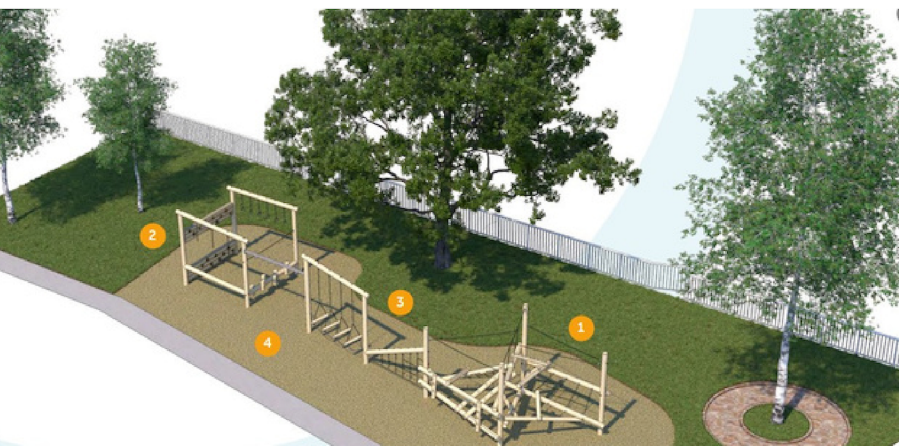
**NEVER
STOP
READING**

Year 2

Year two's Design and Technology day themed around explorer vehicles proved to be a remarkable success, sparking our minds with creativity and innovation. We designed and built exploration vehicles equipped to travel the most challenging terrains. We thought about how to securely attach axles and wheels and made space for a propeller engine. Each creation allowed the children to foster teamwork and problem-solving skills. Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who came to support on the day and make it such a success!



Playground Redevelopment



Our plans for our playground development are coming to fruition! We're looking to raise some of the funds through sponsorship and crowdfunding. We'll be circulating some additional information soon so please keep an eye out!

Reception

With the arrival of Spring, Reception have loved exploring all about the new season! We have enjoyed gardening, planting seeds and exploring different plant and animal life cycles. We have particularly enjoyed exploring The Very Hungry Caterpillar!- one of our favourite things to do was designing and creating our own pattern with fruit and then recreating them as fruit kebabs! They were delicious! We have also welcomed our very own class caterpillars and we are so excited to watch them transform into butterflies!



Year 5

Year 5 had a Victorian day in school this term. The theme was Victorian toys and the children were able to play with different artefacts from the museum. Afterwards, the children designed and made their own version - we had a lot of cup and ball toys made! The children dressed up really well and enjoyed the day.

Year 5 went to the SS Great Britain this term which linked to their Victorian topic as well as their future topic of Migration. They had a great day wandering round the ship, the museum and taking part in a workshop.

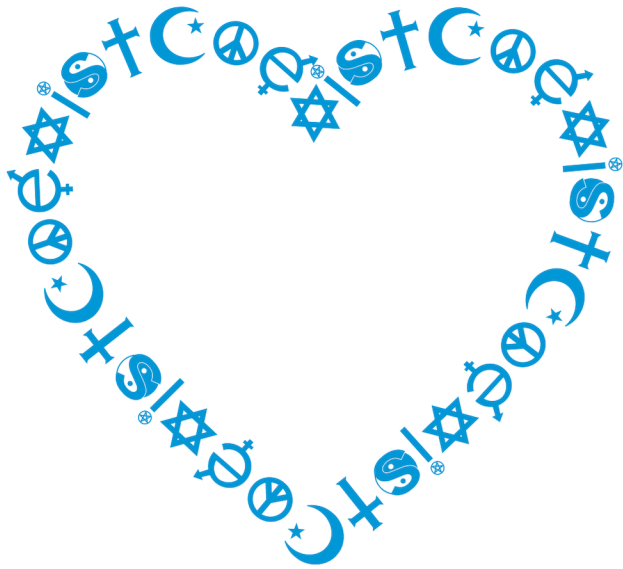


Science week was great fun! The year 5 children did a few activities but they loved mixing cornflour and water which protected an egg when they dropped it from a height.

Congratulations to year 5 for their Easter service. They have worked hard to learn songs, lines, and freeze-frames. They sang beautifully and spoke with such good clarity and confidence. We thank the parents for being a wonderful audience.



Introducing Our Prayer Space



Children and young people are innately curious about life. Growing up raises lots of questions, some to do with their experience, both the good and the bad, and some to do with their sense of wonder at the universe we live in and whether there's more to life than meets the eye. Many have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help them to develop their own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Prayer spaces in schools enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore these life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way.

Our prayer space is being run by the children from our Worship Council and is available to use during playtimes and lunchtimes. It contains a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness. The activities are being chosen by the Worship Council and will be changed during the different terms.

We want to thank our two partner churches, St Mary's and All Saints, that have supported the transformation of the prayer space and for providing the materials the children will use for the activities.

Science Week

The theme of Science week this year was Time. The week started off with a fun filled assembly including glasses of water above Mrs Omoboni, Mr Jones on a pogo stick and Mrs Gio-batta demonstrated the Oobleck using custard. Year 3 started Science week at Slimbridge Wildfowl and wetlands trust - the swans were a great hit!

All year groups explored exciting experiments, enjoying the wonders of time. The week finished with many parents joining us to share in our learning from the week. The year 6 parents were shocked to make their own ice-cream that tasted so good! Congratulations to our first Science Photography competition winner Niranjana Rajeneesh Krishna (Year 3 Mandarin fish) Mrs Gio-Batta is looking forward to her first meeting next term with the newly elected Science Ambassadors.





Modern Foreign Languages

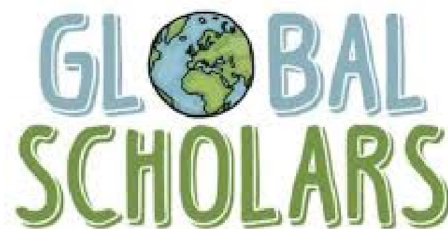
This term Y2 have been learning all about fruit - La fruta - : una manzana, una pera, una naranja, etc; how to say "I like...." and "I don't like....": Me gustan las fresas; No me gustan los melocotones.

Y3 have been learning to say "I know how to...." - Sé... - : I know how to dance - Sé bailar; I know how to swim but I do not know how to skate - Sé nadar pero no sé patinar.

Years 4, 5 & 6 have been learning all about family members in Spanish - Mi familia – how to introduce yourself and your family members, including their names and age.

Global Scholars

This term, Year 6 were tasked with creating an infographic based on a survey they completed on our local biodiversity. The Year did their own research and came up with their own opinions and possible solutions. This is all shown in the [infographic](#) they created.



Staff News

Our lovely Year 5 Teach Miss Knowles is having a very busy few weeks! Over the Easter break, she'll be getting married and returning to school as Mrs Hickmans, she will also be becoming our new Assistant SENDco! HUGE congratulations to her!

We're really sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Malone who is leaving the school at the end of this term. We wish her all the best in her next endeavour!



Miss Uddin has shared some exciting news... she is having a baby in July! Reception class are excellent helpers and are looking after Miss Uddin and Bump very well!

Mrs Hart will be returning from her maternity leave on a phased, part-time basis. We look forward to welcoming her back!



Year 4

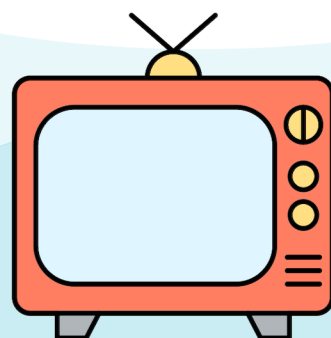
Year 4 has had a busy term full of learning and trips. This term, our topic was 'Come Fly with Me' which took us back in time to the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart and Concorde. We also explored the globe looking at the geography of airports, particularly focusing on the local history of Bristol Airport. We went to Aerospace Bristol where we got to go on the last Concorde in service which was made in Filton. We also enjoyed a workshop engineering our own planes, focusing on aerodynamics. Our science week learning linked to flight, where we tried lots of different flying machines and Tilapia class got to explore the science of an egg drop. Our other trip was to St George's Bristol to explore the science of sound linked to instruments - it was a brilliant trip!

Year 6 Top Secret Collaboration with Drummer TV!

During Term 4, Year 6 were immersed in a secret project alongside Drummer TV, delving into the realm of television production. While details remain top secret, Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on experience of creating a television show: working with cameras, taking direction and playing with sound.

Stay tuned for more information as Year 6's journey with Drummer Tv will be revealed in Term 5.

drummertv



Music

This term has been jam-packed, full of music. Our crowning achievement this term was our Celebration of Music Concert which took place earlier this week. Both the Year 3 and 4 choir and the Young Voices choir sang beautifully. We even had some wonderful guitar soloists - Hugo (Y5) and Titus (Y6) and a singing solo by Michelle (Y4). It was great to see the hall so full and to have such a supportive audience for the children; we even had dancing during Mamma Mia! A massive thank you to the staff and volunteers who made the whole thing possible. We look forward to the many concerts we plan to do in the future.

Our friends at St George's Bristol invited our Year 4 children to a Brass Quintet concert where we learnt about how sound works with the different instruments. They even played the hose pipe; what more could you possibly want? It was an amazing concert and we will definitely be going back the next time they hold a concert.

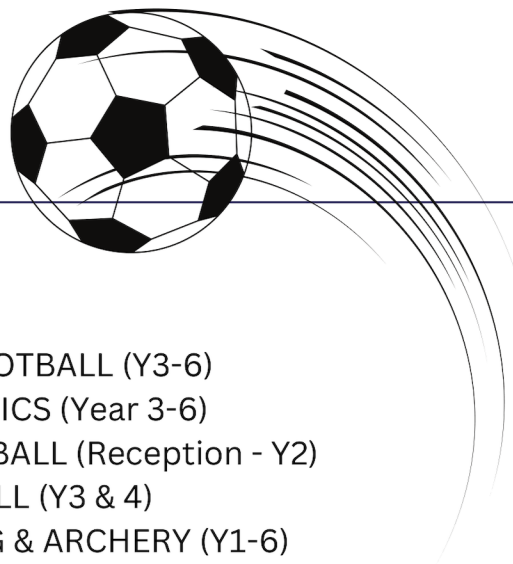
Our individual music lessons run by Bristol Beacon have really started to take off, with weekly guitar and piano lessons taking place. We are also hoping to have singing lessons soon too. If your child is interested in signing up for music lessons please sign them up online.



Whilst our Year 3 and 4 choir have been hard at work this term preparing for the concert, they managed to fit in a trip to Quarry Court to sing to the residents there. It was a wonderful afternoon and I know the residents thoroughly enjoyed hearing the children sing. So much so, that we have been invited back as often as we would like!



After School Clubs

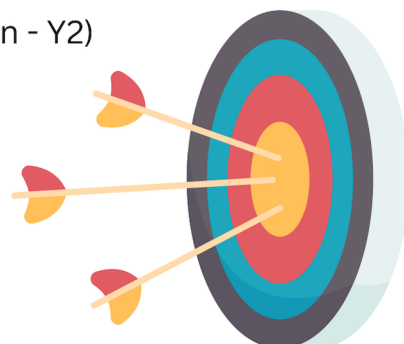


Premier Sports

- Monday 15th April - 20th May 3:30pm - 4:30pm GIRLS FOOTBALL (Y3-6)
- Tuesday 16th April - 21st May 3:30pm - 4:30pm GYMNASTICS (Year 3-6)
- Wednesday 17th April - 22nd May 3:30pm - 4:30pm FOOTBALL (Reception - Y2)
- Thursday 18th April - 23rd May 3:30pm - 4:30pm FOOTBALL (Y3 & 4)
- Thursday 18th April - 23rd May 3:30pm - 4:30pm FENCING & ARCHERY (Y1-6)
- Friday 19th April - 24th May 3:30pm - 4:30pm FOOTBALL (Y5 & 6)
- Friday 19th April - 24th May 3:30pm - 4:30pm GYMNASTICS (Reception - Y2)

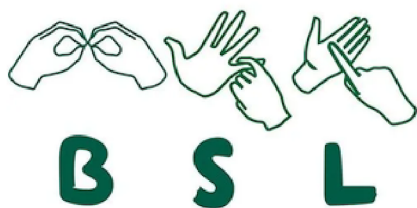
Price: £29.70 Per club, except Monday Girls Football which is £24.75.

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



BSL Club

We are excited that Miss Curtis is able to offer another British Sign Language Course.



The club will be an opportunity for your child to be introduced to British Sign Language and will teach pupils how to sign simple phrases in BSL.

To apply for a place for your child please complete the BSL application form by Monday 22nd April 2024. Please note, if your child has previously attended BSL club they will not be able to attend again.

Y3 and Y4 Choir

Our Year 3 and 4 choir will be continuing next term so if your child would like to attend, please sign them up [online](#).





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 5
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

Week 1	Wednesday 17th April - Safety Day
Week 2	Monday 22nd April - St George's Day Special Menu Wednesday 24th April - Class Photos
Week 3	Monday 29th April - Big Foot Workshop (Knife Crime) - Years 5 & 6
Week 4	Monday 6th May - School closed for bank holiday Wednesday 8th May - RSE Drop-in
Week 5	All Week - SATs (Year 6)
Week 6	Friday 24th May - Non-uniform Day & FOFA fundraiser

MENU

Our school lunch menu can be found on our [website](#). We will be starting term 5 on week 1.

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

2024 - 2025 Term Dates

Due to our pending move to another Trust we are not yet in a position to confirm our 2024 - 2025 terms dates or Inset days. As soon as we are able to confirm these we will let you know. In the meantime, for a point of reference, the standard Bristol City Council term dates can be found on their [website](#).

