

Newsletter

2023 - 2024 : Term 6

Wow, what a fantastic year we've had at Fishponds CE Academy! It seems as though we have managed to fit several years worth of progress, activities and fun into 12 months.

Music has well and truly landed to become a real strength and those parents who watched the choir perform at Party in the Ponds and at the Bristol Beacon will know how well represented we were.

Karate Club and sports have made a great impact and the final session of Karate Club was filled with belt and certificate achievements and awards.

Culture Week was a huge success. It was truly heart-warming to see our pupils, families and staff come together to celebrate our wonderfully diverse community.

We're thrilled that we have been asked to continue as a Global Scholars school for next academic year!

Our community continues to flourish with so much to celebrate including Zak & Hannah Baig who received a personalised video from Joe Wicks stating that he was amazed and proud that the siblings have completed a Joe Wicks workout EVERY day before school since the Covid Lockdown! We've featured on television and in the local press - putting our brilliant school firmly on the map!

Of course we are sad to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils and Mr. Gibbons but we know they are well prepared for the future and will stay part of the Fishponds Family in our hearts.

I remain an incredibly proud and thankful headteacher and wish all of our families and staff a restful break.

Michelle Omoboni
Headteacher

CULTURE WEEK



We had some great parents who came in to teach us about their culture, their language and year 3 even heard a Nigerian story written by one of our parents. We are very grateful to these parents for sharing.

Bhangra music and dancing was an incredible experience! It was something very different which each year group got involved in.



We were able to provide our top artists from across the school an experience in Batik art. The KS2 chosen artists worked with hot wax on silk, creating different patterns while the KS1 children painted the colour on.



Louis was back again this year with African dancing and of course it was made even better by a fantastic performance from some staff members and the whole school dancing together at the end of the day!

We had such a fantastic week that we're already planning Culture Week for 2025! Please let us know if you would like to be involved. We're hoping to keep building on the event year on year so Culture Week 2025 should be the best yet!





Salmon Class

This term, Salmon class went on a trip to Clifton Suspension Bridge where they got an immersive tour of the bridge (including its mythical history). The children acted out the life and dramatic death of Brunel while surrounded by views of Bristol. They also took part in a bridge building workshop where one of the teams managed to build a bridge that could support a 10kg weight! All of this alongside a hill rolling competition, badge making and a spot of lunch on the lawn.

Earth Protection Force

Miss Gomes has recently been doing the 'Transform our World' educator program. This program is offered by Transform our world in conjunction with the Dirt is Good Project.

The programme enables young people to take action on the environmental and social causes they care about. The Dirt is Good programme is based on four principles these are; being united in compassion, getting stuck in (actions can be louder than words), everyone has a role to play and it's a journey (not everything happens straight away). The programme is a wonderful way to help teach and grow kindness and empathy.

Miss Gomes is really excited to start the journey in September with the Earth Protection Force members. Having completed the training we are now eligible for £250 bursary which will cover the costs of the issues the Earth Protection Force choose to address.





Year One

Year One had some very special visitors for their PSHE lessons all about life cycles and change! Mrs Traume brought in a big and little tortoise from home along with a tortoise egg with lots of photos about how the tortoise life cycle develops. She gave us lots of facts and the children were lucky enough to hold each tortoise if they felt they wanted to. Some of us even got to feed them as well!

Butterfish Class

Butterfish Class loved their classroom turning into a cookery show for DT! We learnt how to use knives safely to spread, cut and chop to make sandwiches. Their favourite part was definitely the end when they got to relax and eat their sandwiches together.

Year 3 - Greek Day

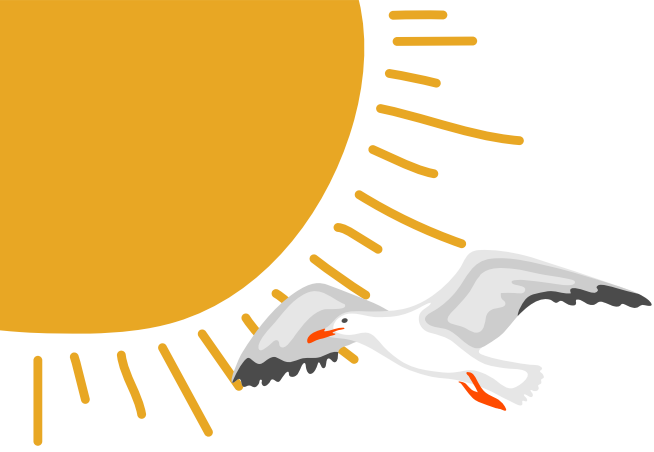
To celebrate the end of our topic about Ancient Greece, Year 3 immersed themselves in a carousel of learning activities including making humous, making and cooking flatbreads on an open fire, making mosaics and creating garlands. The children were amazed that making flatbreads and humous needed so few ingredients.

In the afternoon, the children enjoyed a feast tasting traditionally Greek food such as olives, dates, grapes and the home-made flatbread and humous. Thank you to Mrs. Seddon for spending the morning with us and all the Year 3 team and parents for going above and beyond to make the day memorable for everyone.



Year 5

Year 5 had a local business (NG Bailey Construction) visit them and they got the chance to construct a huge tetrahedron out of wooden poles and elastic bands! They really enjoyed the task and were so proud of the size of the tetrahedron they built!



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day 2024 did not disappoint! The entire school community came together to create an event filled with excitement, competition, and camaraderie. Each class exploded onto the field, accompanied by their chosen theme music. Mrs. Gio-Batta's class drew a few tears from Mrs. Cadell with their emotive choice of Queen's "We Are The Champions".

Mr. Gibbons delivered an amazing sophomore performance as the Sports Day Master of Ceremonies, guiding the day's events with enthusiasm and humour.

Most importantly, all our children competed to the best of their abilities in multiple disciplines. Throughout the events, the children supported one another with cheers and encouragement that rivalled the atmosphere of an ancient Greek stadium.

The events ended with year group races, followed by the much-loved teacher races, which always provide a good laugh! The parent races added an extra layer of fun and competitiveness, with many parents giving it their all to secure a win. Well done to all the children (and adults!) who took part. Your efforts, sportsmanship, and team spirit were commendable.

A special congratulations to the Green team, who were the victors on the day. Your hard work and determination paid off, and you should be very proud of your achievement.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Sports Day 2024 a spectacular event. We look forward to many more days like this, where we can come together to celebrate our school's spirit and community.



Cultural Capital

This year children from Year 5 have been to Bristol Hippodrome to see Bloch Productions A Christmas Carol, our Year 6 children featured in CBBC's My Life: Can BSL Change the World and all of KS2 took part in Mohammed Saddiq, Lord Lieutenant of Somerset's motivational collective worship which concluded a successful Culture Week 2024.



In the pipelines for next year include more theatre, speakers and a collaboration with Bristol Old Vic for KS1 on a speech and drama project Speech Bubbles. Please do get in touch if you have ideas and connections to broaden our cultural capital for all children.



Year 2

Year 2 went to the seaside!

We've been learning about the seaside in our Topic lessons. We've covered human and physical features at the beach. We've compared different beaches in different parts of the world. We've compared beaches now and beaches in the late 1800s/early 1900s.

We got on the coach in the morning and set off on our journey to Weston Super Mare. When we got off the coach we went to our own area of the beach. Some children immediately took off their shoes and socks and stuck in. For most of the day the children played in the sand and with the sand. Some children played some sport games like cricket, football and throwing/catching. It was amazing to have so many parents join us on the beach as well. Some seagulls tried to take our lunch too and a certain Mr Gibbons was running for his life. We took a little while getting home but the day was wonderful. A child in year 2 said it was the best day of his life.

We even got a picture with Richard Hammond from Top Gear. The year 2 team have been trying to come up with a Top Gear pun to use as a caption. We've had no luck but we'll STIG with it!

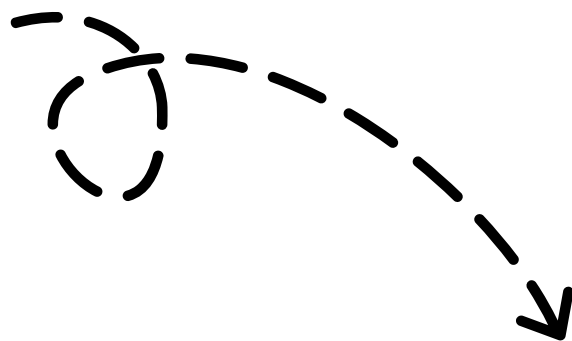


A HUGE thank you to the wonderful committee of the Friends of Fishponds Academy and their volunteers for their commitment to the school and fantastic fundraising ideas! We look forward to seeing what next year brings!

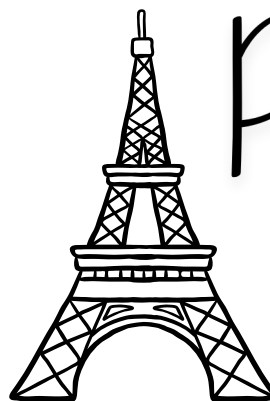
The Summer Festival has been rearranged for Friday 20th September. We're excited to let you know that Every £ raised at the Festival will be match-funded by the Benefact Group. We look forward to seeing you all there!



Fishponds



Paris



The Fishponds to Paris event was a brilliant success that was embraced whole heartedly by pupils across the school! Everyone enjoyed the challenge so much that we got to Paris and beyond!

An extra special shout out to Archie in Y2 who had the best time running with every class! We reckon he must have run the distance all by himself!

THANK
YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered and supported their children with raising funds for the school this year. We have raised a record amount of over £8000!

This has been used to build our wonderful new play equipment which, by now, you will have all seen. And perhaps had a go on!

Our grand opening was such fun! Mr Jones and Mrs Seddon embraced their gunging with such good spirit! Mr Price won't get away with missing out on it too easily!

A reminder that the play equipment in school is for children to use during school hours. It should not be used by children or their families before or after school. Thank you for your understanding.

Global Scholars

Year 6 have finished their Global scholars journey with their end project. They have worked incredibly hard and I am so proud of everything they have achieved. Well done Global Scholars!



Year 4

This term Year 4 have been doing a lot of practical maths. A particular favourite was when they made smoothies using their measuring and money skills. They have also worked out the perimeter and area of our school playground so if you ever need that information just as one of our wonderful year 4 mathematicians.

We have explored lots of different cultures through art. We started the term by creating a piece of group art inspired by Aboriginal dot painting, drew Japanese manga comic strips and finished with Venetian masks.



Music

The Choir has been extremely busy this term performing at multiple events. We started the term off with a whole school collective worship to showcase the progress we have made over the year. This was swiftly followed by our outstanding performance at Party in the Ponds. Our children were model representatives for our school and have been asked back for next year! Thank you to everyone who came to support us - it was great to have such an enthusiastic audience.

More recently, we took part in Bristol Beacon's Big Summer Sing which was a spectacular opportunity for our children. Over the last couple of terms, we have learnt a repertoire of songs to sing with lots of other schools from across Bristol. This culminated in a performance at Bristol Beacon in which our children shone. During the practice we had three of our children individually recognised for their focus and dedication! Our lovely pianist, John Waldren, was even honoured with a special certificate to recognise his contributions to music in the Bristol community.

To finish the year on a high, we sang at Quarry Court. This is the second time we have performed for the residents and definitely something we will be continuing next year.



Reception

What an amazing year Reception have had! To toast the incredible journey and all the progress they have made, Reception held a Graduation Tea Party! They loved celebrating by singing an end of year song to the parents and carers and wearing a mortarboard cap that they had made. They then collected their certificate and a celebratory gift before enjoying some cakes and biscuits in the Reception garden! Congratulations to Minnows Class and their families for an amazing first year at Fishponds, keep up the great work. The EYFS Team are very proud of you!



BSL Club

Well done to those children from Year 5 and 6 who came to our British Sign Language Club over the last two terms.

Miss. Curtis and Mr. Wright have been very impressed at how well you all did. Congratulations to you all

The Reef

This term, The Reef went on a trip to Imperial Sports Ground's sensory room! They had an amazing time looking at the funky lights, playing on the swings and making different noises with the interactive activities!



Citizens UK

Earlier this month, Miss Gomes and Mrs Noble attended the Citizens UK National Assembly in London. Citizens UK is a national group made up of chapters (groups) from around the UK. Through community organising Citizens UK work together to bring about change in their local areas and nationally. Citizens UK say, "We were founded on the principle that everyday people have power. And that by bringing people together across their differences, we can find common ground and make change."

Citizens UK are setting up a Bristol Chapter and Fishponds Academy are one of the first groups to be part of this. Next year we will be involving the Fishponds Academy community in working with Citizens UK on things that are important in our area. We will keep you up to date with the progress of the Bristol Chapter. Here is a link to their website if you want to find out more - www.citizensuk.org



Staff News

We're really sad to be saying goodbye to our wonderful Mr Gibbons! He will be hugely missed by staff, parents and families. He has promised to keep us updated with his news and to come and visit us when he can, we look forward to seeing him again!

Miss Uddin has started her maternity leave. She will be missed by us all but we wish her a wonderful maternity leave!

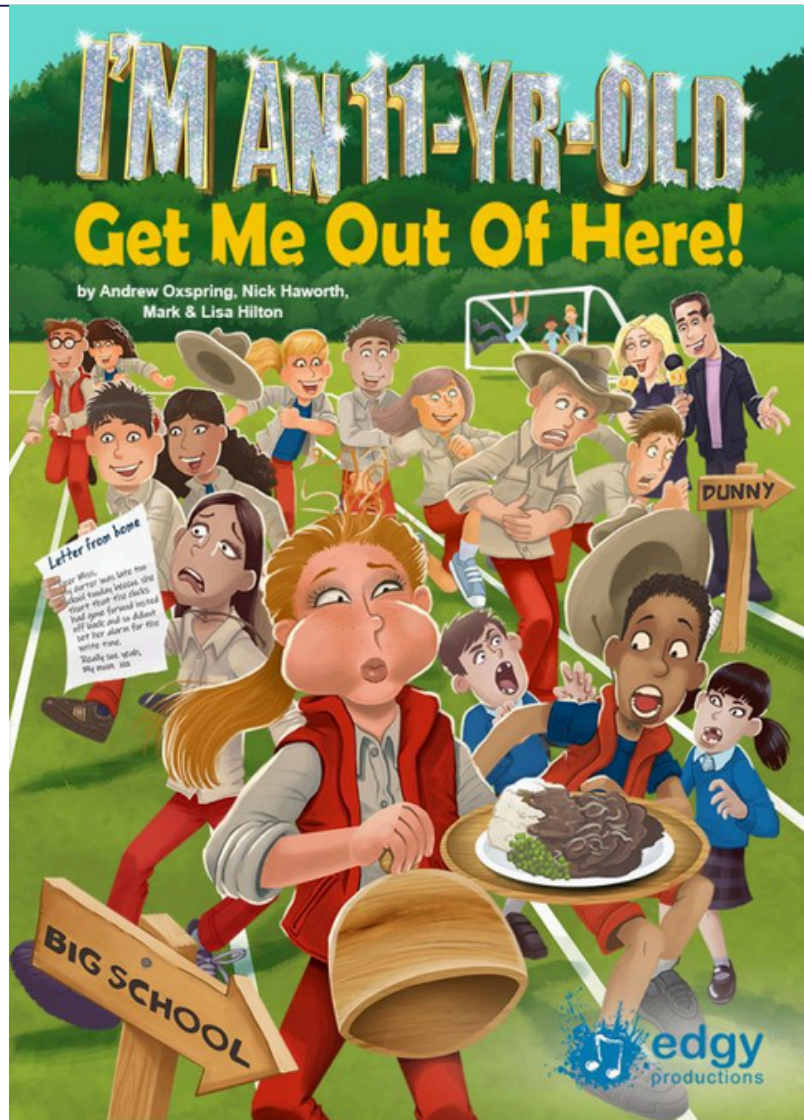
Year 6

On Tuesday 9th July, our Year 6 students gave an incredible performance of 'I'm an 11-Year-Old... GET ME OUT OF HERE!!'. Their singing was nothing short of extraordinary, captivating their audiences with their harmonies and emotive voices. The talent and dedication displayed by our Year 6s made for an unforgettable evening, showcasing their bright futures as exceptional performers. A heartfelt thanks to the Year 6 staff (Mrs Gio-Batta, Mrs Seretny, Miss Maddocks and Mr Jones) for their dedication in putting it all together. What a show!

As we say goodbye to our Year 6 students and their families, we look back on the incredible journey we've shared. We thank them for their trust and support over the years. We wish them all every success in secondary school and a future filled with limitless possibilities.

We hope to see lots of our Year 6 pupils and their families at our postponed FOFA Summer Festival on Friday 20th September 2024 - you are all invited!

Best wishes to our Year 6s and their families for a bright future.



Goodbye &
good luck!



Attendance



School Attendance: The law is changing

From 19th August 2024

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

The government is introducing a new National Framework for Penalty Notices

5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notice fines will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks

A school day has 2 sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day

A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 6 sessions of holiday plus 4 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second Penalty Notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences may result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold met – in each individual case, the school must consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the same parent for the same child the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount.

Third Offence or Any Further Offences (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the same parent for the same child (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for Prosecution which may result in fines of upto £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Bristol City Council have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Unchanged

Penalty Notice fines are issued Per Parent, Per child. This means that fines are issued to each parent, for each child who is absent. For example: If 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday this will result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.



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 1
FROM WEDNESDAY 11TH
SEPTEMBER
3.30PM - 4.30PM

Where

FISHPONDS OLD LIBRARY

FREE FIRST GRADING!
DISCOUNTED GI!

TERMLY COST
£60

FOR AGES
6-11

All Saints After School Family Cafe

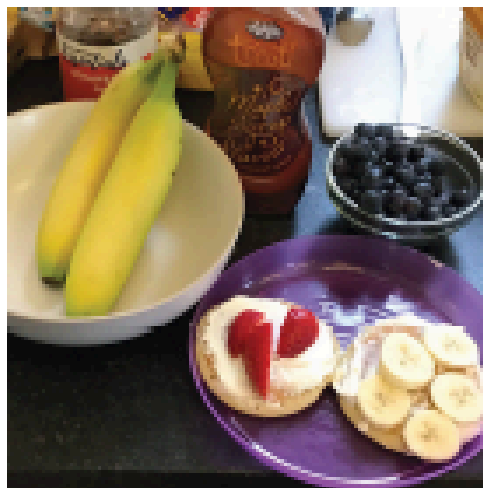
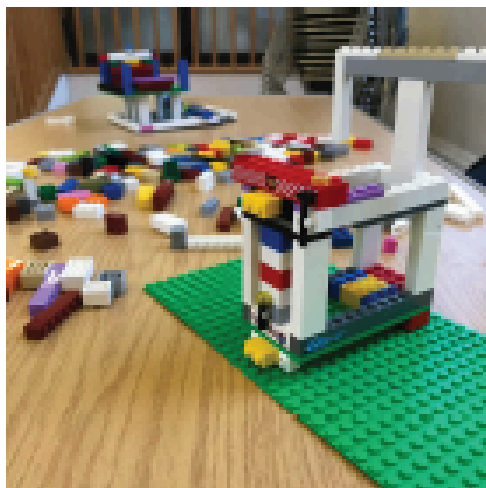
From 12th
September

Thursdays 3.15pm - 4.30pm
(term time only)
Fishponds Old Library
(next to Fishponds Academy) BS16 3UH

After school space for families.

Free hot drinks and snacks.

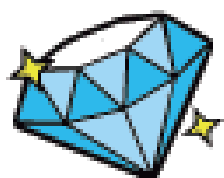
A child friendly space to play.



FAMILIES ONLY

All children must be with an adult.

All adults must be with a child/ren.



allsaintsfamilycafe



What's on Next Term

Week 1	Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September - Inset Days Wednesday 4th September - BACK TO SCHOOL!
Week 2	Wednesday 4th September - Y1, Y2 and Y3 Meet the Teacher Thursday 5th September - Y4, Y5 and Y6 Meet the Teacher
Week 3	Monday 16th September - Halo Day Monday 16th September - Reef, Reception and Y1 Reading Meeting Wednesday 18th September - 'Child Mental Health: Smart Phones' Parent Meeting at 2.30pm (info. to be sent out in September) Thursday 19th September - Y2-Y6 Reading Meeting Friday 20th September - FoFA Festival
Week 4	Monday 23rd September at 3.30pm - Year 6 Camp Meeting Friday 27th September - Y2 Trip to Bristol Museum (info. to be sent out in September)
Week 5	Monday 30th September - KS1 Phonics Meeting Tuesday 1st October - Individual Photos Thursday 3rd October - Year 2 Harvest Service
Week 6	Year 6 Camp
Week 7	
Week 8	Thursday 24th October - Fishponds Museum (info. to be sent out in September) Friday 25th October - Non-uniform Day Friday 25th October at 2.15pm - Music of Black and Brown Origin Concert (info. to be sent out in September)



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

2024 - 2025 Term Dates

Term 1	Monday 2nd September - Friday 25th October 2024 Inset Days - Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Term 2	Monday 4th November 2024 - Friday 20th December 2024 Inset Day - Monday 4th November 2025
Term 3	Monday 6th January 2025 - Friday 14th February 2025 Inset Day - Monday 6th January 2025
Term 4	Monday 24th February 2025 - Friday 4th April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - Friday 23rd May 2025 Bank Holidays - Monday 21st April 2025 and Monday 5th May 2025
Term 6	Monday 2nd June 2025 - Friday 18th July 2025 Inset Days - Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025

