

# Newsletter

2024 - 2025 : Term 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year and what a fantastic start to the year we've had!

The staff and children have returned with a bang and this has been seen in the brilliant learning. The Fishponds Museum - where children spoke through their history learning for the term - demonstrated so many skills and might just have been the most interesting museum in Bristol! A thank you to Mrs. Noble and all of the staff for organising.

As you will see, we have also been awarded the Music Mark for the dedication of the school towards music provision. The success of the MOBBO concert as well as the beautiful singing around the school (including from the staff) demonstrates this and we are extremely grateful to Miss Kenyon's dedicated leadership in this subject!

As we move into our last term as a DBAT school (our current Trust), we look forward to moving to Lighthouse Schools Partnership Trust (LSP). The success of LSP will only serve the school and community well and we have already been impressed with their generosity. As a LSP school, I'm certain we will continue to go from strength to strength. Today you will receive a welcome letter from our new Trust which includes details of an additional INSET day we will be taking to ensure that our move to LSP is as smooth as possible.

Of course, we remain fully appreciative of our community; our dedicated staff and governors, FOFA, our wonderful pupils and parents. The success (and attendance numbers) of our first Parent Forum proved that together working together is what makes our community so special and will make sure we're the very best school we can be!

I wish you all a restful half term break.

*Michelle Omoboni*

Headteacher



## Year 2 visit the museum!

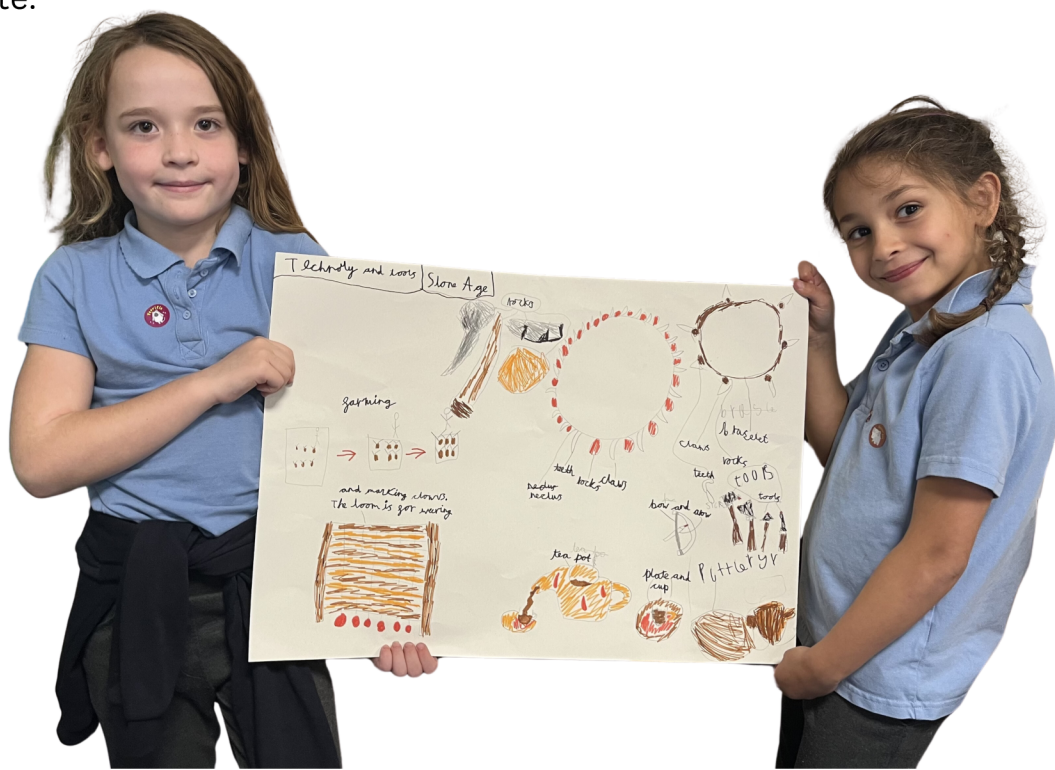
Year 2 had an exciting trip to the museum to learn more about Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter! The children explored fascinating exhibits, including fossils of ancient creatures and the Bristol dinosaur. They even had a talk about Mary Anning the tools she used when making her discoveries. They learned how she found important fossils along the Jurassic Coast and how her work helped scientists understand the history of life on Earth. It was a fun, educational experience that brought their classroom learning to life!

## Year 3

Year 3 have loved learning about The Stone Age this term. After learning about the three time periods the children had a debate about which period they would rather live in. Overwhelmingly Mandarinfish class chose the Neolithic time period (New Stone Age) because it was an easier life with the development of farming, weaving and pottery. The children were excited to share all of their learning at our Fishponds Museum.

Next term, Year 3 are continuing their homelessness topic. Before we break for Christmas we will be making 'kindness bags'. These will go to a local homeless charity and handed out to those that need them. We would be really grateful for any donations. 'Kindness bags' contain everyday essentials, things such as; toothpaste, toothbrush, warm hat, warm clean socks, breakfast bar, deodorant, mini handy wipes.

If you would like to find out more information please have a look at the [Helping Homeless Believe](#) website.



# INCLUSION

Jacob Kelly, a previous student, visited Fishponds CE Academy as he is an advocate for ADHD. He has kindly donated fidget toys to support our pupils. Jacob is keen to work further with the school through charities he has previously worked with as well as organising a surprise visitor who will discuss their own experiences of living with ADHD. See Dojo for a video Jacob has posted on his social media or visit his page @adhdfatheruk

The Inclusion team:

- Mrs Caddell - SENDCO
- Mrs Hickmans - Assistant SENDCO
- Ms Omoboni - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Ms Cahill - Family Link and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Noble - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss Smith - Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)
- Mr McLeod - Mentor



## Year 5

This term, Year 5 have been learning all about the ancient Greeks!

We have been studying one of the greatest tales ever told in Homer's "Odyssey" and even writing our own epic adventure!

Not only did we learn about some of the mythological aspects of the ancient Greeks but we learnt about the significant impacts they made on society including democracy and theatre.

We have had some fantastic music lessons blasting out Bon Jovi's "Living on a prayer" and some intriguing science lessons studying the effects of forces.

All in all we are so proud of how the children are working this term, long may it continue!



# MUSIC

We have hit the ground running in music this year!

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the Music Mark Award. This is in recognition of the commitment we have to providing a high-quality music education for all children.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who helped their year groups prepare for our Music of Black and Brown Origin (MOBBO) Concert which was a great success. It was lovely to see all the year groups perform so confidently with a special shout out to Michelle and Joshua for their fabulous duet!

As always, if your child is interested in having individual music lessons, please book through Bristol beacon. You can also find out more about bursaries and discounts on their website.

## Upcoming opportunities:

**Reception, Year 1 and The Reef** will be performing the Nativity (16/12/24 and 17/12/24).

**Year 2** will be attending Bristol Beacon's KS1 Winter Sing (10/12/24).

**Year 3** will be attending St George's Recorder Concert (15/11/24).

**Year 3 and 4** will be performing the Carol Service (18/12/24).

**Year 5** will be attending the dress rehearsal for the Nativity, providing developmental feedback to help them improve their performance.

**Year 6** will be taking part in Bristol Beacon's KS2 Winter Sing (2/12/24).

The **Fishponds Choir** will be joining Clifton College for their Advent Service (29/11/24).



## Year 1

Year 1 have had an amazing time learning about our traditional tale The Gingerbread Man! We have been doing lots of class story telling and really impressed some visitors to our school with their enthusiastic and clear retelling of the story. We then worked hard to write each part of the story chunking it up into the beginning, middle and end. A few children went to show Ms Omoboni because they were so brilliant! We then learnt about instructions and orally rehearsed these too so we could follow the instructions to make our very own Gingerbread Men. The children said "These are even better than the ones from Morrisons!"



## The Reef

The Reef have had a wonderful term! The children have designed some woolly mammoths in DT using different materials and using lots of skills! They have also been learning to sign lots of words including 'Good morning', 'Thank you' and 'Please'. We're so proud of their learning!

## Student Council

On 7th October Fishponds held their KS2 Student Council Election for 2024/2025. Each candidate had written a manifesto which they shared with their class before the Polling Station opened on Election Day . We were really impressed by the number of children who put themselves forward as a candidate and the quality of the manifesto writing. The children who stood for Election did a wonderful job of presenting their manifesto to the class. Some Y6 children helped to run the Polling Station and all children from KS2 were able to vote for someone in their class..

After a very close vote our Student Council was announced on 11th October and held our first meeting this week. As a Student Council we are going to be working on making playtimes better



## Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy term learning about the states of matter - solids, liquids and gases. We've loved investigating the different properties and have even taken on the role of the particles in each state. We've also been discussing why some materials and substances are challenging to classify as a solid, liquid or gas because of the way they behave. We've investigated changing states solid - liquid by changing the rate of melting and freezing different liquids. We love science!



# PARENT FORUM

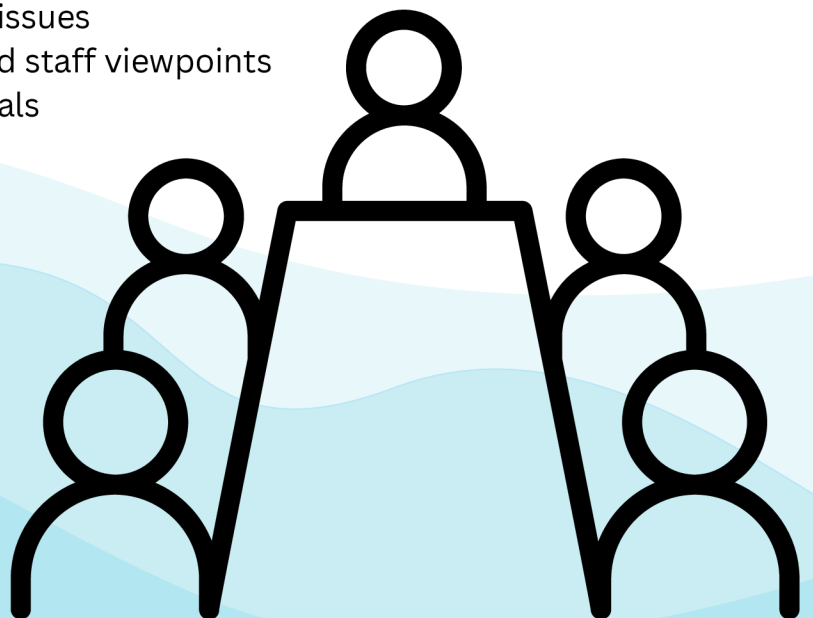
Our brand new parent forum, lead by Mrs Seddon, started this term! A huge thank you for all the parents that attended and a special thank you to Katie and Hannah that lead on the use of mobile phones and devices for children in primary school.

The aims of the parent forum are to:

- To learn about the school community and parental perspectives, context and history
- Raise awareness of the views of our parent community
- Consult on changes, such as projects, policy proposals and local issues in the school community
- Explore views on specific concerns or issues
- Triangulate school trustees, parent and staff viewpoints
- Gain support for school projects or goals

**Our next parent forum meeting is on Friday 22nd November at 2.30pm**

We will be working on our plan for the subjects parents want addressed across the year. Please put it in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there!



## Year 6 - Staycationers

The Staycationers had so much fun! The first day we were being TA's and we repeated this on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, we had an art morning where we made a silhouette of World War 2. Then in the afternoon we had forest school where we erected a tent, lit a campfire, cooked pizza and s'mores (my favourite). Then on Friday we went to M-Shed and completed a quiz. In the afternoon, we had a pyjama party and ate cupcakes that we had made.

*Ema*



## Reception

With the arrival of Autumn, Reception have loved exploring all about the new season! We have enjoyed being creative using natural objects to create wonderful artwork. We have particularly enjoyed our first forest school exploring shapes, patterns and changing colours of leaves, creating leaf wands, making bird feeders out of apples and seeds, and celebrating Guy Fawkes by making sparkler bread sticks by the fire. Well done for a great first term at school Reception!

## The Bishop of Swindon

We had a wonderful visit from the Right Reverend Neil Warwick, Bishop of Swindon. He was so impressed by the school, pupils and staff team that he sent us a card to let us know. In it, he wrote 'Thanks to all the team for a great visit. The commitment and creativity of the team was inspiring. And the children - fantastic!'



## Year 6 - Camp

Camp was so fun! Although we were away from home there were so many activities we got through.

**Monday:** We finally got to camp! First we got our rooms and put out our bedding (super annoying!) We then went out for our first activity - Outdoor Business! Our groups would start with £50 and we'd pay to get a go at mini-games which would get us money rewards. Group 3 won with a total of £130!

**Tuesday:** We had an amazing breakfast of eggs, bacon, beans, toast and sausages. After a break my group went on a hill walk with litter pickers, hot squash and muffins! Near the end, Tommy fell in the bush! We then headed back to Rock UK and had some lunch. We then set out for canoeing. After a short tutorial, we did some games such as Kiss The Wall - we had to hit the wall as lightly as possible. We also played canoe ball where we had to throw a ball at our instructor and try to hit them! When we got back we had a roast dinner and did orienteering in the dark! Wooooo....! 🐻



**Wednesday:** We had a hearty breakfast and then got in to a harness and helmet. First we did rope climbing and crate stack where two people give another two people crates that they stack up beneath them (don't worry, there are ropes connected to their harnesses!) My record was 11 crates! After lunch we did rock climbing indoors, I got to the top! We then did caving (super cool!) and we had to turn our headlamps off! It was terrifying! In the evening we had lasagne for dinner and played Bingo.

**Thursday:** On Thursday we hopped on the coach to go on a waterfall adventure. We walked through a pitch black tunnel! It was so scary! When we got out we ate lunch and then began to walk up a tiny group of waterfalls. When we got to the massive waterfall we walked through it and got absolutely soaked! When we got back to Rock UK we we had sweet n' sour chicken and sat around the campfire.

**Friday:** After having sweet waffles for breakfast we went outside to light fires, build dens and do archery! Finally, we got on the coach and came home.

**Camp = ★★★★★ 5 STARS!**

Rowan





## Premier Sports

For term 2, Premier Sports will be running the following clubs:

Wednesday After School Football Year 1 - Year 2 Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday After School Football Year 3&4 Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Thursday After School Gymnastics Year 3-6 Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Friday After School Football Year 5&6 Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Please book online. Please note, going forwards **we will only be able to offer two pupil premium places per club. These will be allocated fairly and not on a first come first served basis.**

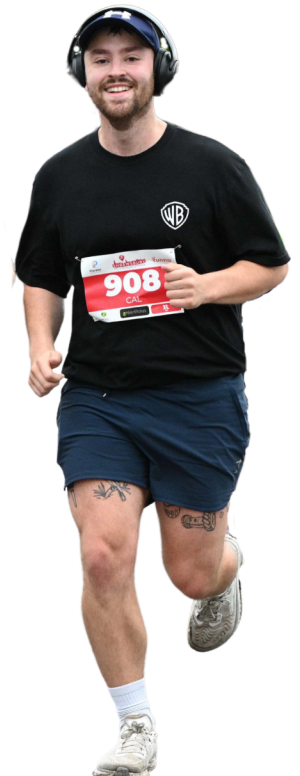


## Staff News



Congratulations to Ms. Uddin and her partner on the birth of their second son, Rafi. The family are doing well and Ms. Uddin is staying in touch and can't wait to see everybody again!

A big congratulations to Mr. Smith who managed to run a half marathon and still get into school the next day - we are proud of you!



A huge congratulations to Mr. P who is fast becoming a name to watch out for in boxing. Mr. P is now in the top 8 in the UK for his weight and even got to train with Anthony Joshua! Mr. P. is aiming to be a future Olympian and we couldn't be prouder.

A huge well done to Mrs. Hickmans who is now a qualified dyslexia specialist teacher for the school. Her hard work has paid off and our pupils are already benefitting!





LEARN



PLAY

## WRAPAROUND CARE PROGRAM

We have been incredibly fortunate to secure a grant to extend our Breakfast Club provision and create a brand new After School Care provision! Over the next term we will be working hard, putting plans together and creating something brilliant! More information to come soon!

COMING  
JANUARY  
2025

We're really excited to announce that we have been given a grant by Bristol City Council to create an after school care provision!

Starting in January 2025, the provision will run from 3:15pm to 6:00pm in the Old Library.

We are currently putting plans into action and would really value your input. Please take a minute to complete our [interest form](#) to let us know if you would be interested in your child attending and what you would like to see on offer.

Further information to follow!

# 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.

# What's on Next Term

<b>Week 1</b>	Monday 4th November - Inset Day (school closed to pupils) Wednesday 6th November at 9.30am - Reception 'Stay & Play' for prospective Reception 2025 families Wednesday 6th November at 5.30pm - Tour for prospective Reception 2025 families
<b>Week 2</b>	Tuesday 12th November at 9.30am - Tour for prospective Reception 2025 families Wednesday 13th November - Anti-bullying Day Friday 15th October - Children in Need
<b>Week 3</b>	Tuesday 19th November - Parents' Evening (early) Thursday 21st November - Parents' Evening (late)
<b>Week 4</b>	Friday 29th November - Fishponds Choir attend Clifton College Advent Service
<b>Week 5</b>	Monday 2nd December - Year 6 attend 'Winter Sing' at Bristol Beacon Tuesday 3rd December at 9.30am - Reception 'Stay & Play' for prospective Reception 2025 families Wednesday 4th December - Reception Learning Share
<b>Week 6</b>	Tuesday 10th December - Year 2 attend 'Winter Sing' at Bristol Beacon Thursday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Week 7</b>	Monday 16th December - Reception, Reef and Year 1 Nativity at 9.30am Tuesday 17th December - Reception, Reef and Year 1 Nativity at 5.30pm Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Dinner Day Wednesday 18th December - Year3 and Year 4 Carol Service at 6.00pm Friday 20th December - Non-uniform Day



**MENU**

Our school lunch menu can be found on our [website](#). We will be starting term 2 on week 1.

# 2024 – 2025 Term Dates

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