



Newsletter

2024 - 2025 : Term 3

Welcome to our first newsletter as Fishponds CE Primary School. Our move to our new school Trust has been incredibly smooth with lots of support from the team at Lighthouse Schools Partnership.

Of course, the term has not been without its difficulties and particularly for the last 2 weeks of term when our technology has failed us and we have spent a few days without any internet or printing. I would like to thank the staff for bearing with it all in usual great spirits and with a renewed effort to keep the learning happening at all costs. Luckily, Lighthouse had already reviewed our main equipment and ordered a replacement to be installed over the half term break. Once we're all set up, this should only improve our service at the school.

Technology difficulties or not, this term the school has continued to thrive and develop. Our sports teams have really taken on some great challenges and shown renewed commitment to working together. We qualified for the wider Bristol athletics showcase by winning our heat and have beaten two local school football teams in friendly matches. Mr. Smith has lots more planned for school sports for the rest of the year too. This is in addition to our Karate Club students earning belts and badges and Mr. P's box-fit club constantly expanding. Some of the club will be attending a boxing gym with Mr. P and Mr. Wright next term for further inspiration.

Learning has been improving all of the time and we are working in close partnership with Lighthouse on furthering the curriculum. All staff have received training in a number of areas to really pull things together and ensure every child receives the best education offer at Fishponds. In fact, this year we have had more applications for next year's Reception classes than for many years due to the wonderful job the staff, pupils and you - the parents - have been doing. It really does feel as though we are becoming a tighter community all supported by the Parent Forum, FOFS and community partners. We have been pleased to increase our EAL offer by employing Ms. Tan to work alongside Ms. Salmon and give bespoke support to pupils with early English. We one day hope to also offer lessons to parents new to English and other community workshops too.

All of this is, of course, boosted by the setting up of our Wraparound Care. Mrs. Harrison Davie has worked tirelessly on the project with truly positive feedback from children and parents alike. This could not happen at all without your support and, without the wonderful children that you trust to us. So, on that note, I thank you fully as we continue to go from strength to strength. Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to you returning for the rest of the spring term when the sunshine, warmth and daylight bring even more warmth to our loving school.

Michelle Omoboni

Headteacher

Maths

There has been lots of great Maths happening across the school this term.

Year 3 really enjoyed multiplying 2 digit by 1 digit numbers practically (including writing on the tables!)

Year One showed that they can independently apply their Maths to addition problems. The children found the key information in the word problems and solved the calculations using tens frames. Well done Year 1!



Year 2

This term, we have been engineers! We enjoyed learning about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his inventions, such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge, the S.S. Great Britain, and the Great Western Railway. These innovations helped transform Bristol into a well-connected trade city in England. We started the term by building our own bridges, ensuring they were stable and could withstand the weight of a car. We also enjoyed writing about our own inventions, such as the money multiplier and the cleaning robot. I wonder how many of us will become engineers in the future.

Karate

On Thursday 13th February we had a special Collective Worship and celebrated the children who have been attending Karate Club after school. We were lucky enough to have a Kata demonstration by the children and Sensei David presented them with their certificates and belts. We are very proud of the children for not only achieving their gradings but showing the dedication and commitment to train every week and the courage to demonstrate the Kata in front of the whole school.



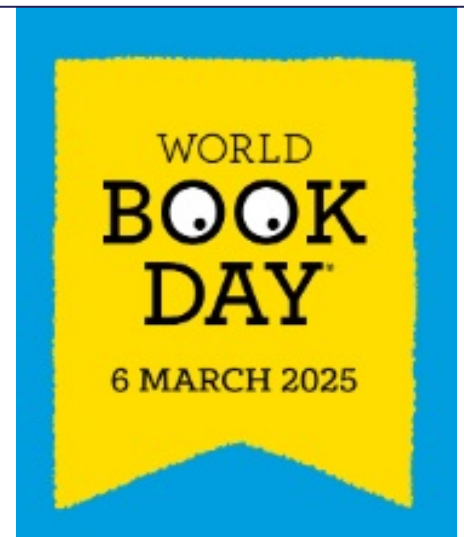
The Reef

Year 2 have had a busy term! They have been learning lots of new 'Words of the Week' including eat, sleep, shower and brush teeth. In topic they have been doing 'All About Me'. The children watched a video about bodies and then made a face using eyes, mouths and noses.

Everyone really enjoyed our music lessons! The children tried different instruments and even made instruments out of different objects in the classroom!

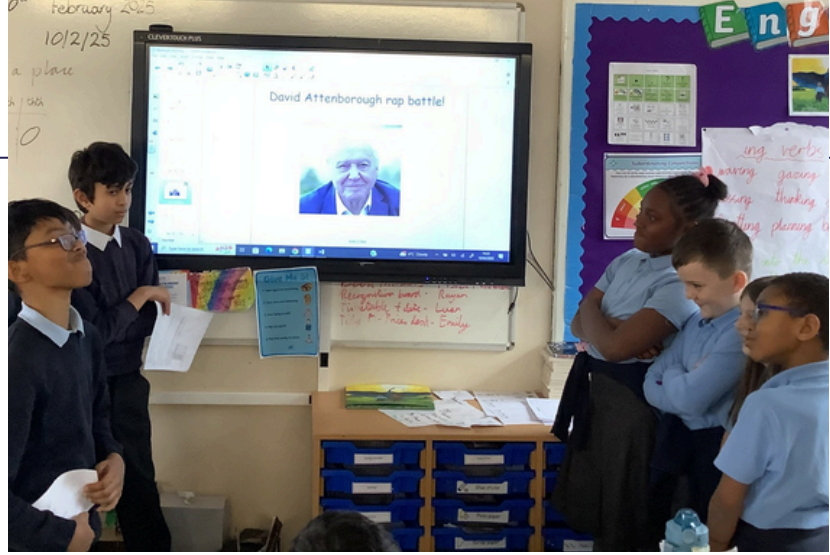
World Book Day

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day. Fishponds will be celebrating in the usual way with all classes using the same story for the week and of course we will be having fancy dress and a special lunch menu on Thursday 6th March. We encourage all children (and adults!) to come to school dressed as a character from a book. There is no expectation that you go and buy a costume - be creative and use the clothes and props you have or can make at home.



Year 5

The past month, Year 5 have been working on some fantastic projects. We learnt about trade in Bristol through the ages covering the Tudors, slavery and the industrial revolution.



We also demonstrated our learning from our "living things" science work in a selection of ways. Some children did a puppet show on mammals whilst others did a rap battle in the style of David Attenborough! The children have also been focussing intensely on their art. We have been experimenting using water colours, pencils, and ball point pens to draw cityscapes and see the difference between the tools. In English, we have been learning about the book "Freedom bird" and have written a letter to Aberham Lincoln using some incredible personification to convey our message. Well done for some brilliant work year 5!

Sports

Another fantastic term of sport at Fishponds CE Primary. Our Year 6 football team took on Avanti Gardens, winning 4-1. They then continued their unbeaten run, securing a 5-2 victory of St Joseph's Catholic School.

Our Year 5 and 6 mixed athletics team competed in the West England regional finals. They faced some tough competition but took a couple of top 3 finishes in a variety of events.

Well done to everyone involved in sports across the school this term!





Music

This term the whole school was treated to our very own rock concert brought to us by Rocksteady. In the assembly, the children learnt about the different instruments they could learn to play and the staff put on an impromptu performance of We Will Rock You! In the KS2 workshop, the 'Sparkling Blue Titanoboas' did their debut performance, getting the audience stamping their feet and clapping along. If your child would like to take part in the Rocksteady lessons starting next term, please visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and find your school on the sign up page or call 0330 113 0330.

The choir has been busy rehearsing for its two upcoming performances. The choir will be returning to Clifton College for their Joint Choirs Concert on Tuesday 18th March 2025. This is a very exciting opportunity as we will be singing with children from the preparatory school as well as the upper school and we are the only external choir to be invited to join.

John, our lovely accompanist, has arranged for our choir to sing with the Avon & Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir on Saturday 29th March 2025 at All Saints Church. Tickets are £10 (under 12s go free) and can be bought at the school office. Please come along if you can as we would love the support.





The Corals

The opening of The Corals in January has been an exciting and enriching experience for some of our children with SEND. The small hall has been transformed into a bright and welcoming space for the children to explore, giving them the opportunity to engage with a variety of sensory based learning and hands-on discovery areas when they are not in their usual classrooms. They have been enjoying new and fun ways to learn and develop their key skills through sensory stories, circuits and trays. The new classroom promotes both individual and group learning as the children engage in activities that support them to build confidence and independence with their communication, joint attention and engagement as well as social and emotional skills whilst exploring their creativity in an exciting new space.

Reception

This term in Reception, we have loved exploring winter. We have enjoyed discovering signs of winter, what we wear in winter, winter activities and experiencing sledging!

We also loved celebrating Lunar New Year. We enjoyed writing Chinese numbers, learning to use chopsticks, making paper lanterns, writing a wish and putting it on our class wishing tree, but most of all we loved making a dragon head to create a class dragon. To end our wonderful week of celebrations we travelled around the school as a Lunar dragon to spread good luck to all.



Year 4

This term, Year 4 students have been learning about the Jewish faith, with a particular focus on how Jewish people follow God's rules. In their studies, they have explored various customs, traditions, and symbols that are central to Jewish life. One of the key areas of learning was the significance of the Seder plate and the Mezuzah.

The Seder plate is a special part of the Jewish celebration of Passover. It holds symbolic foods that remind Jewish people of their journey out of Egypt, each item representing an aspect of their history and God's commandments. Year 4 students had the opportunity to learn about the different foods on the Seder plate, such as bitter herbs, which symbolize the bitterness of slavery, and charoset, a sweet mixture representing the mortar used by the Jewish people during their time in Egypt.

Another important symbol in Jewish homes is the Mezuzah. This small scroll, encased in a decorative case, is placed on the doorposts of Jewish homes. It contains the Shema, a prayer that expresses the Jewish belief in one God. Year 4 discussed the meaning behind this practice and how it serves as a reminder to follow God's rules and live a life of faith and integrity.

Through these lessons, Year 4 students have gained a deeper understanding of how Jewish people keep God's commandments and traditions alive in their daily lives. The exploration of these symbols has been a valuable part of their religious studies, and they have enjoyed learning about the importance of tradition, faith, and respect in Jewish culture.



Year 1

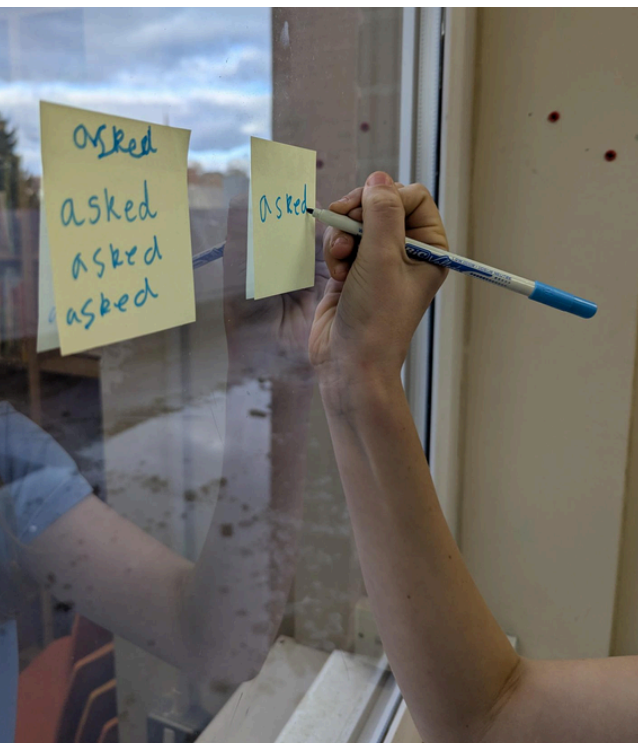
Year 1 have been loving learning about the Great Fire of London this term! We have been fascinated to find out how the fire started and what the consequences were. We have really enjoyed exploring the fire through art and have used lots of different strategies to do this. We have been using blending skills to create flames as a background and have used accurate cutting skills to create silhouettes of buildings. We are currently using our DT skills to create buildings that we will burn early next term to create our own fire!



INCLUSION

Some of the children in the Reef have attended maths, music, art and PE lessons with their corresponding year groups. Lessons have been widely enjoyed, and it is a great experience for children to integrate from the Resource Base into mainstream classrooms.

We have had a lot of new children join us recently who have English as an additional language (EAL). Teachers have been creating supportive and safe environments for them as well as creating specific, individualised resources to support their learning. Teachers have also been supported by our EAL team; Mrs Salmon and Mrs Tan. Welcome to Fishponds Primary!



Mrs Hickmans graduated from Bath Spa University this month with a Postgraduate Degree in Dyslexia, meaning she is now a Specialist Dyslexia Teacher. She is implementing her knowledge in some groups and 1:1 interventions already, as well as providing training for other schools. By the end of this year, she will also be able to assess and diagnose children with dyslexia. We are excited to add this to our SEND offer.



The SEND Team

Mrs Caddell
SENDCo



Mrs Hickmans
Assistant SENCo
Dyslexia Specialist



SEND Working Group

Thank you to those parent/carers who have offered, earlier this year, to be part of the SEND Working Group. If your child is on the SEND register, come and join our SEND working group where we will gather your feedback on different areas of SEND. If you'd like to be part of this group, please complete the sign-up form or scan the QR code.

Year 6

This term, year 6 have been learning all about the Windrush Generation and the scandal that came to light in April of 2018. While working on this unit, they have been reading *The Windrush Child* which they have all been genuinely enjoying as the story is one of great injustice.

In their science lessons, they have learnt about different micro-organisms: fungi, bacteria and viruses. This week, the children finished off their science work with an experiment to find out what conditions yeast needs in order to grow. Some groups changed the amount of sugar given to different cups of yeast and water while others tested whether the temperature of the water had an effect. They did a wonderful job.

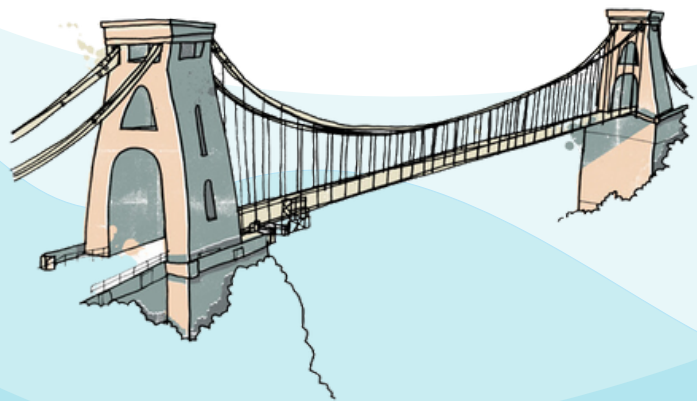
Our art lessons this term have been around the theme of surrealism. We have been looking specifically at an artist called Jean Miro, who uses bright colours and shapes in his work. Attached are some gorgeous examples.



History

This term we have been historians. In *The Reef* the children have been learning about the “history of me” and have been learning about their lives so far. In Year 1 the children have been learning about The Great Fire of London. They have learnt what caused The Great Fire of London, why it spread so quickly, and they have built their own model of London at the time. Year 2 have been learning about the amazing engineering projects of Brunel. They have learnt about how the SS Great Britain, Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Great Western Railway changed life in Bristol and beyond.

Year 3 have built on their previous learning about the Stone Age and have been learning about The Bronze and The Iron Age. Year 4 are now experts in life during Anglo Saxon times and have been comparing life in Anglo Saxon times with Roman Times. Year 5 have been learning about Trade in Bristol over the years and the impact this has had on the city, they have engaged in some great discussions. Year 6 have been learning about The Windrush Generation, their experiences in Bristol and the Windrush Scandal. We are so proud of the History learning our children have done this term.



Español

Year 3

In Term 3 we focused on the unit "Los instrumentos" [Instruments], learning how to:

- Recognise, recall and spell up to 10 instruments in Spanish with their definite articles/determiners.
- Understand articles/determiners better and that the definite article/determiner 'the' has a plural form in Spanish.
- Learn to say and write 'I play' + an instrument in Spanish using the high-frequency 1st person regular verb 'toco' (I play) with up to 10 different instruments.

Year 4

In Term 3 we focused on the unit "Mi familia" [My family], learning how to:

- Use the nouns and articles/determiners for family members in Spanish.
- Move from using the article/determiner 'a/an' with a family member to using the possessive adjective 'my' in Spanish.
- Answer the question '¿Tienes hermanos?' (Do you have any brothers or sisters?) in Spanish.
- Introduce family members in Spanish, using 'se llama' (he/she is called).
- Use their knowledge of larger numbers in Spanish to be able to describe the age of family members.

Year 5

In Term 3 we focused on the unit "En la cafetería" [At the cafe], learning how to:

- Remember and recall a wide variety of foods, snacks, and drinks (with their indefinite article/determiner) typically served in a Spanish cafetería.
- To understand better how to change a singular noun to plural form.
- Ask for items they would like to eat and items they would like to drink in a cafetería with high accuracy and confidence in Spanish.

Year 6

We focused on the unit "La ropa" [Cloths], learning how to:

- Repeat and recognise the vocabulary for a variety of clothes in Spanish.
- Use the appropriate genders and articles for these clothes.
- Use the verb LLEVAR in Spanish with increasing confidence.
- Say what they wear in different weather/situations.
- Describe clothes in terms of their colour and apply adjectival agreement.
- Use the possessives with increased accuracy.



Free Flow Friday

This term we have introduced Free Flow Friday at break and lunchtime and everyone loves it! Free Flow Friday is when children from across the school are able to play in any of the playground spaces. When I asked in Collective Worship if they enjoyed it every hand went up! "I like being able to go on the big playground because there is a lot of space!" Year 1 child. It is great to see our children enjoying playing across the classes. We are particularly proud of how our older children have been supporting our younger children during this time and teaching them new games to play.

Year 3

Year 3 have really enjoyed Plant Art this term. Each lesson has focused on a different skill, these include admiring artists and developing opinions on personal preference for art styles. We have used different modes of learning on how to sketch, these include observational drawing and using Art Hub tutorials on how to draw step by step. The children have also learnt how to sketch, shade and create tone. We especially enjoyed our daffodil artwork which we have displayed around our classroom. Our realistic flower Art gallery made us all excited for Spring!



WRAP AROUND CARE

After School Club has been a HUGE success. So successful that children don't want to leave at the end of the session and have been asking their parents to work more!

We asked the children for feedback. Here's what some of them said...



I love it because we get to do lots of different things. I really love cooking and having paper airplane races.
Y4 Child

The food is really amazing! Especially the quesadilla!
Y4 Child

It's so fun! I love that I can do sports and play with my friends.
Y5 Child

Making popcorn and watching movies is the best!
Y1 Child

There are lots of different games!
Y1 Child



We have lots of exciting activities and events coming up including learning calligraphy, baking cookies, gardening, football and flower pressing!

If your child would like to join our Breakfast and / or After School Club, please **register and book online**. They can attend for ad-hoc sessions or for the same days each week.

Tax-Free Childcare

We accept Tax-Free Childcare Vouchers.

Tax-Free Childcare is a government scheme that helps working parents with childcare costs up to a maximum of £2,000 for each eligible child each year. Check your eligibility or find out more information via [Childcare Choices](#).

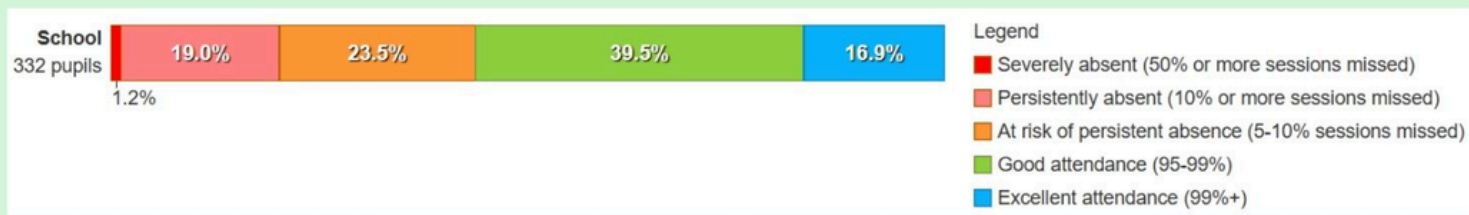
Our school attendance:

Being in school is important to your child's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes.

We understand children get unwell at times, however most minor illness do not require a child being kept home.

If in doubt visit  for guidance.

Fishponds CE Primary school attendance:



Our class percentages so far this year:

What is a session?

A session is a morning or afternoon of learning.

| Class | Attendance percentage |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| REEF | 90.3% |
| Y1B | 93.5% |
| Y2H | 95.3% |
| Y2JH | 95.5% |
| Y3F | 92.0% |
| Y3R | 96.8% |
| Y4S | 94.6% |
| Y5K | 91.3% |
| Y5P | 93.6% |
| Y6D | 94.4% |
| Y6G | 95.4% |
| YRAS | 93.8% |
| YRR | 91.2% |
| National | 94.8% |
| Local Authority | 94.4% |

ATTENDANCE


WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

How do YOU measure up?

| Attendance | Days Absent | Weeks Absent | Lessons Missed |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 95% | 9 Days | 2 Weeks | 50 Lessons |
| 90% | 19 Days | 4 Weeks | 100 Lessons |
| 85% | 29 Days | 6 Weeks | 150 Lessons |
| 80% | 38 Days | 8 Weeks | 200 Lessons |
| 75% | 48 Days | 10 Weeks | 250 Lessons |
| 70% | 57 Days | 11.5 Weeks | 290 Lessons |
| 65% | 67 Days | 13.5 Weeks | 340 Lessons |

89% & Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement



95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent



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.



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

| | |
|--|--|
| Chickenpox | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over |
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting | 48 hours after their last episode |
| Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19. |
| Impetigo | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics |
| Measles | 4 days after the rash first appeared |
| Mumps | 5 days after the swelling started |
| Scabies | they've had their first treatment |
| Scarlet Fever | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics |
| Whooping Cough | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics |

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice | Tonsillitis |
| Threadworms | Slapped cheek |



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Friends of Fishponds School (FOFS) Childrens' Disco 2025



FOFS are holding a Disco for the children on **Friday 28th February**:

Session 1 (for years Reception, 1 and 2) 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Session 2 (for years 3, 4, 5 and 6) 4:45pm to 5:45pm

Tickets are £4.00 per child including a bag of (vegan) sweets and unlimited squash.

Tickets can be purchased online in advance or on Thursday 27th February from the school playground at 3.15pm

Please make sure you complete the “message to the merchant” section details when purchasing online with the emergency contact details including:

- child name
- year and class
- emergency contact number
- who will be collecting your child

Admittance will not be allowed without these details

Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis as we are limited on numbers. If there are tickets left, these will be sold on the day, but please expect some queuing.

On the day, children **MUST** be collected from their class as usual and then dropped off as directed at the side of the main hall. For the 1st session only, children are allowed to get changed in class at the end of the day after they have been collected, if they would like to. We encourage your child not to bring bags/coats due to lack of storage. Collection after the disco will be from the same place.

For KS2 only, we will also be running a tuck shop on the night; please send change with your children. All mobile phones will need to be handed in at the entrance and only collected on leaving. If you are able to help out with the disco, then please join our Disco WhatsApp group.

Many thanks!

Friends of Fishponds School (FOFS)



What's on Next Term

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Week 1 | Tuesday 25th February - Meet the Athlete Thursday 27th February - Waterways in Year 3 Friday 28th February - FOFS Disco |
| Week 2 | Thursday 6th March - World Book Day Thursday 6th March - Special Lunch Menu |
| Week 3 | Tuesday 11th March - NSPCC workshops Thursday 13th March - Wednesday 19th March - Book Fair |
| Week 4 | Science Week! Thursday 13th March - Wednesday 19th March - Book Fair Tuesday 18th March - Clifton College choir event |
| Week 5 | Tuesday 25th March - Parents' Evening (early) Thursday 27th March - Parents' Evening (late) Saturday 29th March - Choir sing with Avon & Somerset Police Male Voices Choir |
| Week 6 | Monday 31st March - Music Celebration Wednesday 2nd April - EYFS Learning Share Thursday 3rd April - Year 3 Art Exhibition Thursday 3rd April - Non-uniform Day |



MENU

Our school lunch menu can be found on our [website](#). We will be starting Term 4 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 Inset Day - Friday 14th February 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 |

