



# Newsletter

2024 - 2025 : Term 4

What a brilliant term it has been! Our school community has been buzzing with energy, enthusiasm, and fantastic achievements across all areas of learning.

We celebrated our Geography Learning Celebration, where pupils showcased their knowledge and creativity with incredible work and projects. It was wonderful to see their passion for the subject shine through and how many parents attended the event.

A huge congratulations to our football team for their outstanding performance in their match against St Joseph's – a well-deserved victory! The teamwork and determination displayed were truly commendable.

Music has also played a key role this term, with our choir having the incredible opportunity to perform at Clifton College and alongside the Avon and Somerset Police Choir at All Saints Church. Their hard work and dedication were evident in their performances, and we couldn't be prouder.

Science came to life during our Amazing Science Week, with pupils engaging in hands-on experiments and exciting discoveries. Likewise, our Brilliant Book Week inspired a love of reading, with fantastic activities and celebrations of literature throughout the school.

We also recognise that while overall behaviour across the school is good, as has been recognised by outside visitors and organisations, there are times when some children may struggle. Please be assured that our staff are continually working behind the scenes to support children in developing positive behaviours. This work is often discreet, especially when supporting those with SEND needs or other extenuating circumstances, but rest assured that every effort is being made to help all children thrive socially and emotionally.

Additionally, we are aware of some ongoing issues with behaviour in our school toilets, when children are less closely monitored by adults. We take this matter seriously and will be implementing active steps to address these concerns. Further details on our approach and any necessary changes will be shared with you soon. Your support in reinforcing respectful behaviour in all areas of school life is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our incredible staff, pupils, and families for making this term such a success. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break!

*Michelle Omoboni*

Headteacher



## Year 5

This term Year 5 has been busy preparing for the Easter Service which took place at All Saints Church. It was wonderful to see the children communicate their learning so clearly and confidently. During science week, the favourite experiment was learning what could be flushed down a toilet, with children learning that only the 3 Ps should be flushed down the toilet - poo, pee and (toilet) paper!

## Year 1

Year 1 finished off the topic with an exciting recreation of the Great Fire of London! We spent our creative time making houses to replicate those that were built at the time. We then took the houses outside with Mr Densley and Mrs Southard on hand with fire extinguishers to set them alight. It was a very windy day which helped to recreate the conditions of the Great Fire and why it spread so quickly. The children were very excited to see the flames get bigger and spread. We talked a lot about how we are very lucky to have lots of modern inventions (e.g. fire engines, extinguishers and fire buckets) to keep us safe which were not available in 1666. Mrs Southard then expertly put the fire out with the extinguisher!



## Year 3

Mandarinfish class have worked really hard at being active listeners during Reading lessons. This means being supportive with facial expressions and giving non verbal cues, asking questions and being curious. We are loving Roald Dahl's made up words and Mrs and Mrs Twit's cruel tricks.





## Music

The choir has been busy this term, performing at two concerts. Fishponds Choir was invited back to Clifton College for their Joint Choirs Concert in which our children performed with two other choirs and a brass quartet. Thank you to everyone who came to support our choir. It was a wonderful event and Clifton College has said that we must do something similar again!

The choir also performed with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Choir at All Saints Church. Our children shone and received many compliments on the night; particularly Michelle, Joshua and Eliza who all did stand-out performances with their solos. This event was arranged by our wonderful accompanist, John Waldren, who volunteers a lot of his time and experience to our wonderful choir so a massive thank you to him.

We look forward to many more performance opportunities over the final two terms of the year for the choir, Rocksteady bands and Year 6.

## Year 2 Science Week

Year 2 had a fantastic time exploring science through a range of exciting, hands-on experiments. From fizzing lemon volcanoes to vibrant Skittles rainbows, fascinating dancing raisins, and dripping cloud jars, the children were fully engaged in predicting, observing, and discussing their discoveries. It was a week filled with curiosity, creativity, and a lot of mess!

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us to celebrate the children's learning. Your support made the experience even more special, and we loved sharing our scientific discoveries with you!



## Year 4 RE

Answering the question of the term: Why do Christians call the day that Jesus died 'Good Friday'?



This is one of the images we used as a stimulus!

### Good Friday Haiku

*By Ava*

Jesus died for love  
All sins are forgiven now  
Christians learn to love

Jesus on a cross  
Crucifixion to give life  
New life for all man

Buried in a tomb  
Resurrection, come to life  
Love like daffodils

He died to forgive  
Pray and worship disciples  
Sacrificial lamb

### Love

*by Abigail*

Gets larger  
Helps us be stronger  
Sometimes it gets harder  
Sometimes it brings laughter  
It brings forgiveness  
It brings light  
It helps through the pain of life  
Don't forget what helps you  
Love can get you through

## Doing us Proud!

We're so proud of Channing and Sammy, two of our current Year 6 pupils, as well as one of our former pupils, who received some incredible feedback from a member of the public who even felt it necessary to write to their local newspaper to say what fabulous and loving boys they were!

We agree with the person who shared the feedback...



I just wanted to share something positive in the hope it gets back to these young boys parents.

Last night in Oldbury Court playground there was 4 boys playing tag, they must have been around year 7/ year 8. There was a black boy with glasses and cane row, a white boy called Channing and 2 Indian boys. These boys were so lovely and wholesome, they invited our 2 younger boys to play tag with them and really made our boys evening. Our youngest who is 7 said Channing was encouraging him as my youngest didn't feel fast enough to catch anyone as he was so much smaller, Channing told him he could do anything he put his mind to 🥹 when our eldest fell over there was no laughing at him, they checked he was okay before laughing with him.

At the end when we said we had to go home, the black boy called over to say that he thought our sons hair was really cool (he's got long curly hair) and this made my son feel amazing!

What lovely kids these boys are, we always hear how kids hanging around are intimidating etc, so I just wanted to share this in the hope these awesome kids parents hear this. Your children are wonderful and you should be mega proud of them 🤗

EDIT: if anyone is in the Fishponds groups, I'd love it if you could share this post in the hope the parents see this 🙏



# WRAP AROUND CARE

We continue to have a fantastic time in Wraparound Care!

This term has been really busy! We've been celebrating St. Patrick's Day by making 'pots of gold' and baking whoopie pies. We learnt how to DJ and partied and Club Fishponds. We made pancakes and pressed flower sun catchers and also made our own baskets for Easter Treats. We finished the term with an exciting Easter Egg Hunt!

We have lots of exciting activities and events coming up next term, including learning how to make paper flower bouquets, rain gauges and bird feeders. On top of this, we will be cooking up a storm by making our own jam and scones to have at our VE Day Tea Party!

In Terms 5 and 6 we will be starting to do some gardening, we will be planting wild flowers and sunflowers and hoping we get lots of butterflies! We'll also be planting some vegetables and herbs which we will be using in our cooking! Our very own kitchen garden!

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.

## 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](#).





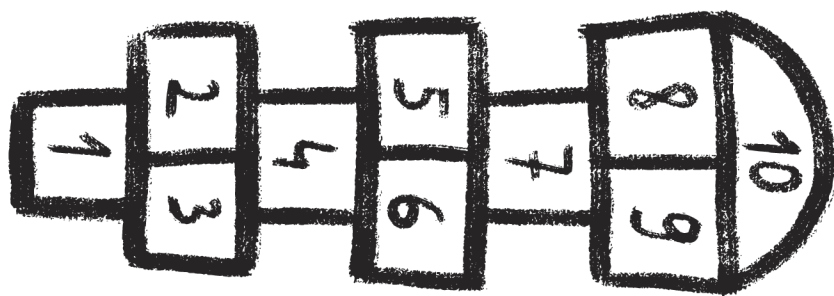


## The Corals and The Reef

The Corals welcomed The Reef in joining them on an Easter egg hunt. The children worked together to search for hidden eggs in the Quiet Area. The highlight was the discovery of two golden eggs, each filled with delicious chocolate treats. The joy and delight on all the children's faces were priceless, making this event a memorable experience for everyone involved as we celebrated Easter together.

## School Council

This term School Council have been busy interviewing play leaders to support with play at break and lunch time. We were so impressed with how many children wanted to be a play leader and the skills they showed at interview. The play leaders will be announced at the beginning of Term 5. Well done to everyone who took part in the interviews.



## Football

This term, Fishponds have teamed up with Old Sodbury Primary School to compete in the Bristol Together Championship! Year 5 children from each school have joined to form a 10-person football team and they will compete against other schools later on in the year.





# INCLUSION



## Parents' Evening

We had our SEND table at parents evening this term. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and take resources to take home. We will continue to be available on parents evenings so you can drop in and speak to us about your child's SEND needs or any concerns you have. For now, feel free to contact your class teacher or the inclusion team via email or Class Dojo.

## Pupil Voice from our SEND Review

We had a SEND review from our new Trust this term and part of this was talking to some of the children about help they get at school. Here are some things that were shared:

In tests, I either have a scribe or my teacher transcribes parts of my test answers so it is clearer  
(Year 6 child)

The Nest is a place that helps me get calm  
(Year 2 child)

I have my writing slope, ear defenders, a coloured overlay and my teacher changes the screen background colour so I can read it better  
(Year 4 child)

I get to use a laptop for long pieces of writing  
(Year 6 child)

My wobble cushion helps me sit better and learn  
(Year 2 child)

## Neurodiversity Week 2025

We celebrated Neurodiversity Week by exploring how all our brains are different as well as how it can feel to have a neurodiversity like dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD or ASD. You can watch the '[Brainbow](#)' video we saw in school on YouTube.

SCAN



## 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 sign up online by scanning the QR code

## The SEND Team

Mrs Caddell  
SENDCo

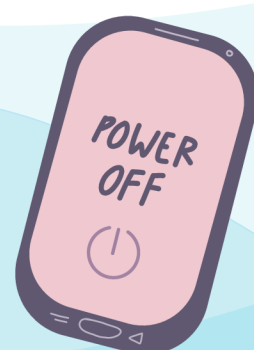


Mrs Hickmans  
Assistant SENCo  
Dyslexia Specialist



## SEND TOP TIP

The NHS recommends avoiding screen time (TV, phones, tablets, computers) for at least an hour before bedtime for children, as the blue light from screens can interfere with sleep.



# EAL



For families who speak a different language (EAL), here are some links to help you with your child's learning.



These links from the Bell Foundation have information in 22 languages. Please choose your language from the list on the website and read the information.

**How to help your child learn:** Guidance from the Bell Foundation for parents of students who use EAL.

The Bell Foundation also provide useful information on the English **education system**. Please look at the Primary School section. If your child is 10-11 (year 6), it may be helpful to look at the Secondary School section to prepare your child.

You can also help your child with their listening and reading skills. Ask your children questions in your language about the stories.



**Storynory** is a website with many stories. It has stories from around the world, classic stories, fairytales, and myths. You and your child can listen to the story and practice listening skills. Your child can also read along to understand how to read sentences and words. They can also read the story without audio to practice reading aloud.

**CBeebies** has many short videos of famous actors reading bedtime stories. You and your child can watch/listen to them. You can turn on subtitles to read along.



## Boxfit

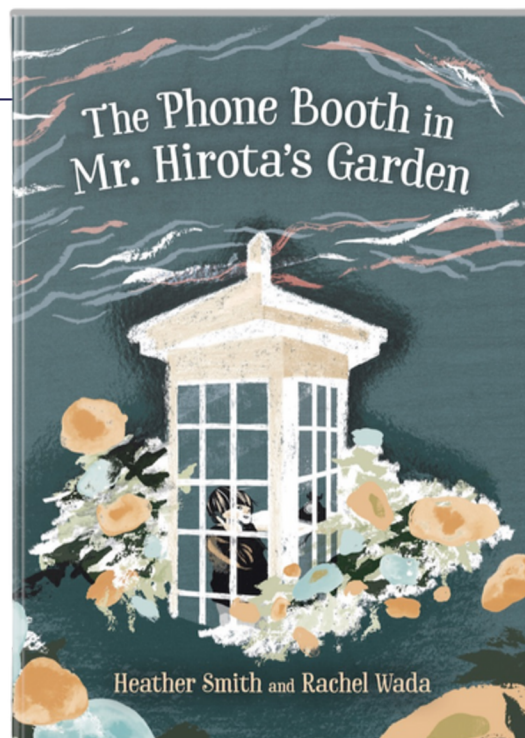
Our school Boxfit club has been a huge success, boosting fitness, confidence, and teamwork. A highlight was our brilliant trip to Empire, a world renowned boxing gym. Pupils trained with former Super Lightweight British Champion, Derren Hamilton and Giedale Stewart, Amateur Western County Heavyweight Belt Holder. It was an inspiring experience, and we look forward to more sessions ahead!





## Year 6

This term, year 6 have been learning about the geographical features of Europe, Africa and Canada and how those features can be both a blessing and a curse for those that live there. We also looked at the impact that the colonisation of Africa has had on the continent and its people. For instance, did you know that Africa holds 30% of the world's remaining natural minerals?



In our English lessons, we have been reading 'The Phonebooth in Mr. Hirota's Garden' which is a real tear-jerker (Miss Maddocks had to carry on reading for me while I gathered myself). It takes place during the earthquake and resulting tsunami in Japan in 2011 and tells the story of how one man's idea gave hope to many.

## Geography

This term we have been Geographers. Year 1 have been finding landmarks on Fishponds Road and used this home learning to create their own maps of the area. Year 2 have been learning about life in Hong Kong and the similarities and differences between Hong Kong and Bristol. Year 3 have been comparing Porto (a city twinned with Bristol) and Bristol with a focus on the human and physical features of both cities. Year 4 have been learning about settlements with a focus on Fishponds and how it has changed over time - they have become experts in using OS maps to look for features and changes over time. Year 5 have been learning about South Africa and become experts in using 6 figure grid references to find human and physical features in South Africa. Year 6 have been learning how countries are 'prisoners of their Geography' which has included learning about Europe, Africa and Canada. It has been great to see the enthusiasm for Geography in all the classes and to see children engaging with maps, atlases, videos and books to learn more about the world we live in.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Geography celebration event, it was great to see you there.



# SPANISH

# Hola

## Year 3

In Term 4 we focused on the unit "Sé" [I know how...], learning how to:

- Recognise, recall and spell 10 action verbs in Spanish.
- Use these verbs in the infinitive to form positive and negative sentence structures with 'sé' (I know how to...) / 'no sé' (I do not know how to ..).
- Attempt to combine positive and negative sentence structures to form longer and more complex sentences using the conjunctions 'y' (and) & 'pero' (but).

## Years 4 and 5

In Term 4 we focused on the unit "¿Tienes una mascota? [Do you have a pet?], learning how to:

- Repeat, recognise and attempt to spell the 8 nouns (including the correct article for each) for pets in Spanish.
- Tell somebody in Spanish if they have or do not have a pet.
- Ask somebody else in Spanish if they have a pet.
- Tell somebody in Spanish the name of their pet.
- Attempt to create a longer phrase using the conjunctions y ("and") or pero ("but").



lunes  
martes  
miércoles  
jueves  
viernes  
sábado  
domingo

## Year 6

We focused on verbs, numbers, days of the week and months learning how to:

- Repeat and recognise Spanish pronouns.
- Recognise the three different types of regular verbs, understanding the verb's stem and ending.
- All about regular Spanish -AR verbs and how to conjugate them.
- All about regular Spanish -ER verbs and how to conjugate them.
- All about regular Spanish -IR verbs and how to conjugate them.
- Review numbers 1-100.
- Review days, months, including practicing telling the date.

# Adiós





## New School Meals Provider

Our new school menu starts on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Aspens Services provide the catering services to all schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP). Aspens is dedicated to creating menus which are nutritional, varied and are representative of our pupil population; the menus feature a broad selection of meal options, including halal, vegetarian and vegan choices, school meal favourites as well as meals inspired by different cultures.

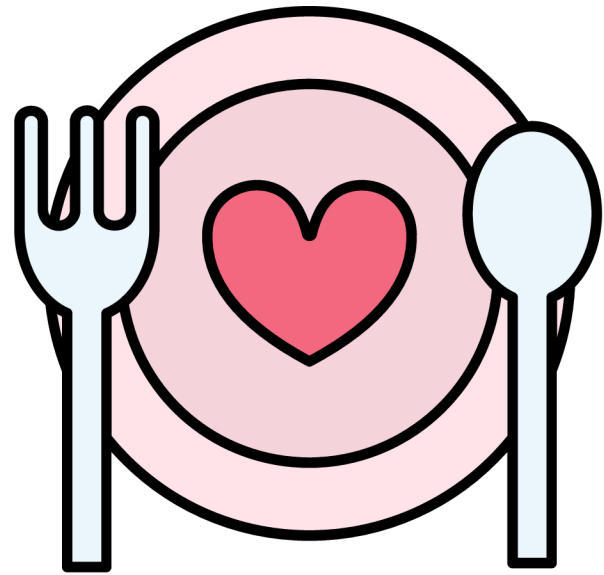
**Aspens Services school meals cost £2.75 per day.**

We understand that any increase in expenses can be a concern for families. The decision to increase the cost of school meals has not been taken lightly and has been made by our Trust, Lighthouse Schools Partnership, after careful consideration.

If your child is currently entitled to Free School Meals, their entitlement will not change.



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



## Science Week 2025 CHANGE and ADAPT

Science week kicked off with an exciting assembly. Ms Omoboni managed to spear a balloon without popping it under Mr Jones' chin (eventually). Mrs Noble created a fabulous eruption and Miss Burgess made a jar suck in an egg that was too big to fit!

All children were so engaged throughout the week in the many practical exciting activities that were taking place. Year 3 particularly enjoyed making wormeries!

The week ended with many parents joining us for our Science show case.



# Reading Revolution

Reading at Fishponds CE Primary School has been propelled to the future with a Reading Revolution!

Children from Year 2 upwards take part in our new Reading Revolution programme to learn to read fluently and to understand and analyse what they have read. Each week the children read with a partner before answering a 'Snapshot' question about what they have read. The skills practiced include clarifying what has been read (particularly if a word isn't understood), summarising, predicting, asking questions and inferring. All of these skills are completed whilst focusing on active listening and taking responsibility for everyone's learning.

The main positive of our new approach is that the children no longer only read short snippets of text in school but chapter books instead. These have gone down a storm and the children are truly engaged. Gio, in Year 6, enjoyed reading Benjamin Zephaniah's story 'Windrush Child' so much that he has placed it as his favourite book! The Year 3 children are really enjoying their reading (especially Roald Dahl's 'The Twits') saying how much they are enjoying reading each text in detail.

Mrs. Noble will be supporting Reading Revolution through Key Stage 2 and leading on Reading as part of the English team with Miss Burgess (our Early Reading & phonics Lead) under the English Lead, Mr Jones. Please do ask your child what they are reading at school!



## Class Photos

Class photos will be taken on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.

Please ensure your child comes to school in full school uniform.

The photographer will start at 9.00am so please also ensure your child arrives to school on time.



# World Book Week

Earlier this term, our school was filled with excitement as we celebrated World Book Week! It was a fantastic opportunity for students and staff to come together and share their love of reading.

Throughout the week, we explored *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt, sparking lively discussions about why our own stationery might want to quit! Pupils shared creative and humorous ideas, bringing the story to life in their own way.

On Thursday, the entire school joined in the fun by dressing up as their favourite book characters, showcasing some truly imaginative costumes. Another highlight was our Story Swap, where teachers visited different classes to share their favourite stories, introducing students to new books and perspectives.

Last week, we also hosted the Scholastic Book Fair, and thanks to the incredible support of our students, families, and staff, we raised over £800! This success helps bring even more fantastic books into our school.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this World Book Week one to remember. Keep reading and discovering new adventures in books!



## Avon Fire and Rescue

This term, we had a visit from the Avon Fire and Rescue who gave an assembly on the role of firefighters and tips on how to stay safe at home.

We really enjoyed dressing up and pretending to fight fires!



# 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.

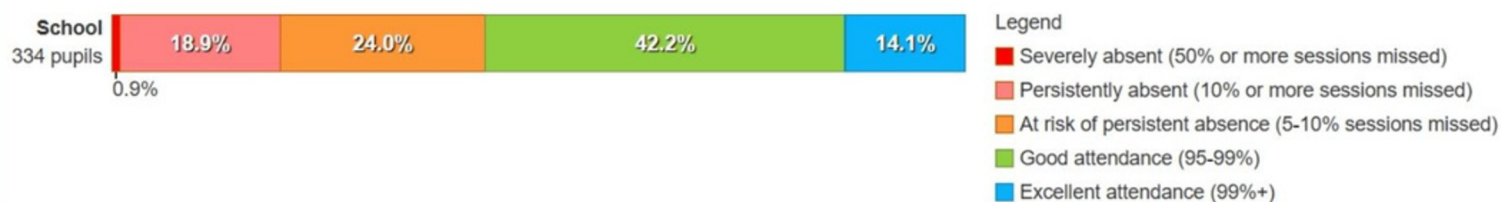
We understand children get unwell at times, however most minor illness do not require a child being kept home.

If in doubt visit



for guidance.

## Fishponds CE Primary school attendance:

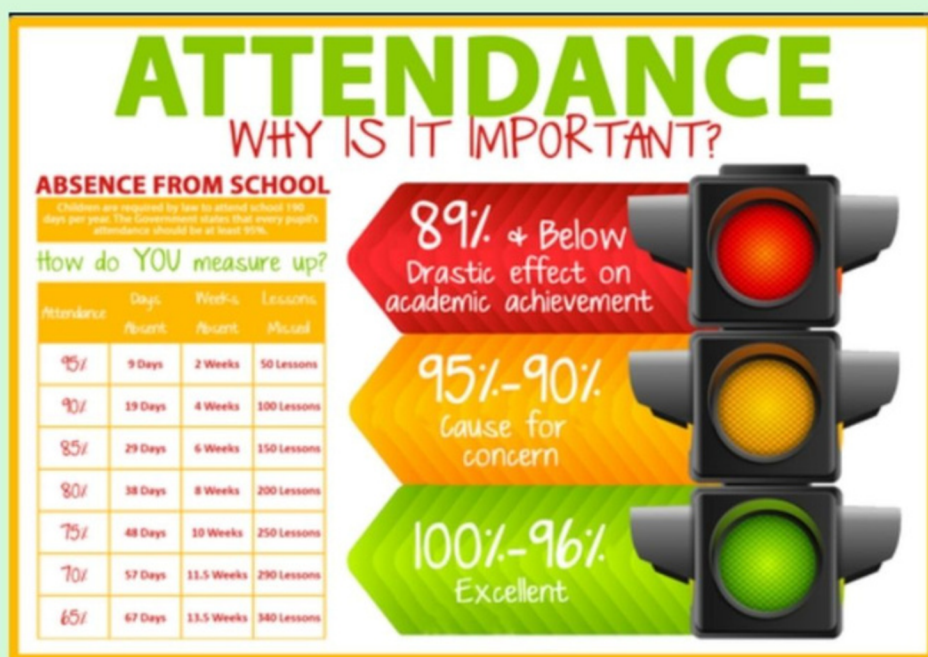


Our class percentages so far this year:

Attendance percentage	
REEF	91.7%
Y1B	93.4%
Y2H	95.4%
Y2JH	95.4%
Y3F	91.6%
Y3R	96.1%
Y4S	93.7%
Y5K	90.5%
Y5P	92.6%
Y6D	94.2%
Y6G	95.0%
YRAS	92.1%
YRR	91.2%
National	94.8%
Local Authority	94.3%

## What is a session?

A session is a morning or afternoon of learning.







# FAMILY WELLBEING ROADSHOW

**WEDNESDAY  
21ST MAY 2025  
2.00PM - 4.00PM**

**Connect with other parents and learn how to support your child's growth and development.**

## TOPICS

- Looking after your child's eye health - professional advice and support
- Effective teeth brushing
- Behaviour - Zones of Regulation
- SEND Support
- Specialist dyslexia advice
- Parent wellbeing
- Advice from the School Nurse - toileting and good sleep
- Wraparound Care
- Respite Care
- Immunisation advice

# What's on Next Term

<b>Week 1</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April - Bank Holiday (school closed) Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April - Back to school Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April - Class photo day Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April - Bristol Together football match (Year 5) - Sodbury School
<b>Week 2</b>	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April - After School Club Open Evening (3.30pm - 5.30pm)
<b>Week 3</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday (School Closed) Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May - RSE Drop In
<b>Week 4</b>	Year 6 SATs testing Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May - Special Menu Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May - Cricket trip
<b>Week 5</b>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May - Family Wellbeing Roadshow Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May - Non-uniform Day Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May - FoFS Summer Festival





# 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 Inset Day - Friday 14th February 2025
<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

