



School-Wide News

Warm Clothes

The weather has certainly turned more autumnal over the past week. Although it is not yet as cold as it will be in the winter, we are keeping windows and some doors open in school at the moment to increase ventilation and therefore it is a bit chilly in the classrooms, particularly at Merrywood. Please dress your children appropriately for this, e.g. skirts, trousers and jumpers or cardigans rather than summer dresses please. We will review how much we keep the windows open as the temperature drops in the coming weeks and months. It's a tricky balance trying to keep air flowing whilst making sure we don't all freeze!

Secondary School Applications

It was great to see so many of our year 6 parents on our Zoom call on Monday. We hope you found it useful and it has helped you with your decision-making. All applications for state-funded schools go via the local authority in which you live, so that will be Bristol City Council unless you live outside the city boundaries, e.g. in North Somerset. The deadline for applications is 31st October 2020. We're here to help you if you need us, either by talking through the application process or helping you fill in the forms online. We're unable to advise you on which schools to choose as that is a very personal decision for you and your child, but we can support you with understanding the admissions criteria for different schools. If you need any help, please email Paula Mathias on paula.mathias@bristol-schools.uk and one of us will get back to you.

Year 1 Pick-up Times

From Monday the 5th of October, we will be changing the order in which the year 1 classes are dismissed. The new order will be Badgers first at 2.55pm, Butterflies second at 2.58pm and Bears third at 3.01pm.

Safety at Merrywood

We have noticed that some children have been climbing on the wall on Stackpool Road whilst queuing to come into school in the morning. Please ask your children not to do this as the posts are at chin height for many children – if they slip, there could be a nasty injury. Thank you.

Supporting Local Businesses

One of our parents Emma Haverson has put together this directory of businesses that are owned and run by parents in our school community. As you will be aware, many businesses have found it difficult to sustain themselves over the past six months, so Emma wanted to celebrate local talent and encourage people to buy locally wherever possible. Please take a look at the range of businesses detailed. If you run a local business and would like to add your details, please get in touch with Emma (email address on the Welcome Page).

<https://onedrive.live.com/view.aspx?resid=75718B115C8C4FE4!3487&ithint=file%2cxlsx&authkey=!AN04XIAnngUSvSC>

Reception News

We are pleased to say the children have continued to settle in well and enjoy all of the Reception learning experiences this week! We are impressed with their confidence to walk in on their own and it is great to see they are getting used to our everyday routines. Thank you for your support in helping us to achieve a smooth transition.



In these weekly emails, we aim to give you information about what your child will get up to in the following week in school. Next week, our focus is family. Everybody will get a chance to share their special photo from home and the children will create a booklet about their family. Thank you for bringing in a special photo this week – if you are yet to bring a photo in, please send one in on Monday. As with every week in Reception, the children will continue learning through play, exploring the outdoors and indoors, listening to stories and following their own interests. Here is a rough outline of some of the activities that we will be covering but please note they may be completed on different days in each class.

<u>Monday</u>	Phonics – Phase 1, Aspect 4, Rhythm and Rhyme Maths – careful counting with objects
<u>Tuesday</u>	Jellyfish PE (parachute and ring games) Phonics – Phase 1, Aspect 4, Rhythm and Rhyme Maths – careful counting with objects Listening and attention session Circle Time - Sharing special photos from home
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sending home reading books and reading records Phonics – Phase 1, Aspect 4, Rhythm and Rhyme Maths – careful counting with objects Writing – My Family Book Octopus PE (parachute and ring games)
<u>Thursday</u>	Phonics – Phase 1, Aspect 4, Rhythm and Rhyme Maths – careful counting with objects Listening and attention session Circle time/ philosophy question – ‘Is family special?’
<u>Friday</u>	Phonics - Phase 1, Aspect 4, Rhythm and Rhyme Maths – careful counting with objects Starfish PE (parachute and ring games) Listening and attention session

Reading books

Next week we will send home a book and a reading record. The first book may have no or very few words; we ask that you encourage your child to tell you the story by exploring the pictures. In the reading record you can make a note of when your child has read and how they got on. If you wish to simply leave a tick to let us know they have read that is fine too. **Please make sure your child brings their book and reading record to school every day so that adults can read with them.** Every Monday we will collect all of the books in, safely quarantine them and then we will send home new books on a Wednesday. Happy reading everyone!

Book bags

We recommend that your child brings a book bag into school every day, which is to be kept in their drawer. The book bags are very useful to keep the book, reading record, any pieces of artwork and letters we send home in an easy to access place. A separate P.E. bag with a change of clothes can be kept on your child’s peg and we will only send it home if the clothes need changing. We provide boxes in the classroom for water bottles and snack pots.

PE

The Reception children do not need to come in their PE kit on their PE day. Please ensure your child is wearing school uniform every day. For now, we will only use PE kits as a spare change of clothes that will stay on their peg.



Coats

As the weather turns more unpredictable, please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat every day. Unless it is heavy rain, the children will go outside in all weather.

Ms Sheehan

During teachers' out-of-class planning and preparation time, the lovely Ms Sheehan will be teaching in each class. On Monday afternoons, she will teach in Jellyfish Class. On Tuesdays, she will teach in Starfish Class all day. On Wednesday afternoon, she will teach in Octopus Class.