



NEWSLETTER

Happy Friday!

Southville May Fair

If you were lucky enough to attend last weekend's May Fair you will know what a fantastic event it was. The weather was glorious and it set the scene for an afternoon full of laughter, refreshments and lots of things to do and buy.

As a community event alone it was a huge success, however it also raised a huge amount of money for school - a total of £6,753.87! This is an amazing amount and I am so grateful to everyone who came along and supported the event.

I am sorry that I cannot mention everyone involved by name, but I would particularly like to thank Liz Newton for organising the floats for the stalls (and counting all of the £6753.87!); Kari Halford (Mum to a child in Badgers) who works for Bristol Beer Factory and chose us as a Brewed2Give partner (we made nearly £1000 profit on the bar as almost all of the alcohol was donated to us under this scheme!); Fionna, Dani, Ladies and Steve who baked over 300 biscuits for the Octopus decorate a biscuit stall; Nat Sanfilippo for collecting and folding over 2500 raffle tickets, and of course to Helen Beach whose energy and leadership to plan, prepare, organise and clear away was incredible.

It was a phenomenal effort and we are all so grateful.

We will now work closely with the PTA to ensure the money raised has the maximum impact upon our children. Once again - thank you!



Whole School Assembly Theme

On Monday Mr Potter officially opened the Myrtle orchard and it has already established itself as a favourite addition to our playtime experience. It is a dedicated 'quiet' space where children can go to sit or walk and chat surrounded by nature.

I know there are further plans in the pipeline to further evolve this space but it is so lovely to see it being used and enjoyed and i am really grateful to Mr Potter of course, and to the parent volunteers who have made it possible.

Bristol Eat Better GOLD Award!



I am delighted to share the news that we have been awarded the Bristol Eat Better Gold Award. The award is given by Bristol city council to schools and businesses who provide healthier food options and promote food and environmental sustainability.

As you are aware, unlike many schools we don't outsource our catering service, meaning we can maintain a bespoke menu that works for our families, locally source products and ensure the best quality and value. It also means that we have our own wonderful catering team, led brilliantly by Kerri Stenner who works closely with Savi Flaecher to ensure the many nutritional, sourcing and hygiene legal standards are met and exceeded.

This award is such a well-deserved reflection on the hard work that the kitchen team put in day after day and I would like to thank the whole team for their ongoing commitment to healthy eating and sustainability.

Next Term's School Dinners

Just a reminder that next term's menu is live on Parentmail for you to book. It is really helpful if you can discuss the meal choices with your child when you book, and if possible that they come into school knowing what they are having. Of course we have all of that information in school, but it avoids surprise (and occasional disappointment) if they know what to expect at lunchtime. Thank you.

Starting Today - Whole School Reading Competition - Get Caught Reading!

We would love to see where your child enjoys reading in the school holidays. This may be somewhere weird, wonderful, adventurous or really cosy!

The competition will be running from now until Monday 5th June. To enter, simply take a photo of your child enjoying reading in their favourite spot (or an imaginative alternative!) and upload to their Google Classroom by Monday 5th June. If your child is in EYFS or Year 1, this will need to be emailed in FAO the class teacher. Please only enter 1 photo per child.

The year 6 house captains will help choose an EYFS/KS1 winner and a KS2 winner. The winners will receive a £10 book voucher to spend at Bookhaus, a local bookshop in Wapping Wharf. A big thank you to them for kindly donating the vouchers to the school! We will also display some of the photos on both sites for the children to see.

We look forward to seeing your entries and hearing about where the children enjoy reading in the holidays.

The winners will be announced in celebration assemblies on Thursday 8th June (KS2) and Friday 9th June (EYFS/KS1).

Iris' Dressage Success

Iris C-S in Year 5 took part in a regional dressage competition last Wednesday and did fantastically well. She scored really highly in all areas, showing great focus, control, position and skill, which was recognised when she was awarded a 3rd place rosette! Her ability was so good that had she was one point off qualifying for the national competition. What an achievement!



Relationships and Health Education

In our PSHE and Science over the next term we will be covering our 'Changing Me' objectives. It covers statutory Relationships and Health Education work around the changes that happen to our bodies as we grow and feelings that surround these changes.

To see what each year group will be covering in these sessions, please [follow this link](#) to the appendix document of our school's PSHE policy which shows the specific statutory objectives in purple that the year groups will be covering. We feel it will be helpful for you to know this so that you can support your child in their learning as they may have questions that they would like to raise with you. Attached are some top some tips, should you require them, for talking to your child about the changes that happen to their bodies inside and out.

The green objectives are often taught through PSHE and are the non-statutory objectives. If you wish your child to be withdrawn from the non-statutory parts of the lesson then please talk with your class teacher in the first instance so they can share with you the resources. If you still would like your child to be withdrawn then please write to me and make it clear which aspects of the non-statutory programme you do not wish your child to participate in.

Should you wish to see a selection of the resources that we are likely to use, there will be an opportunity to drop into your child's class after school before the sessions are taught.

The teachers will be communicating this with you soon, so keep checking the year group section of the newsletter.

SEND Parent/ Carer Forums

There are some excellent in person training and online webinars coming up, organised through Bristol, N Somerset and S Glos Parent Carer Forums. Upcoming topics include an introduction to demand avoidance, understanding and supporting sensory differences, autism v ADHD and understanding and supporting anxiety. All are free and for more information and to book a place, follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bristol-n-somerset-and-s-glos-parent-carer-forums-41027867683>

Lost School Uniform

We continue to collect a large amount of lost property. Please help us to reduce this by following these simple steps:

- Ensure your child's name is on each item
- Double check your child is leaving school with everything they came in (discarded jumpers are common at this time of year)
- Check the lost property box regularly

New Nurture Space at Myrtle

This week, work has begun in the small hall at Myrtle (where the PTA sold refreshments at the May Fair) to create two additional rooms within the space. This will provide us with a nurture room which will be used for timetabled ELSA (Emotional Literacy) sessions as well as being available for sensory support and providing a quiet space for children to go to with an adult. It will be equipped with adjustable lighting, soft furnishings and a range of books and resources and will mirror the nurture space that we have already established in the house at Merrywood.

The second room created within this space will be used primarily for speech and language interventions and even with these changes we will still retain a sizeable portion of the original room to be used for large group activities and interventions (and PTA refreshment selling!).

A further knock-on effect of this is that an existing room upstairs will be freed up to become a dedicated music room so that peripatetic lessons have a consistent base with instruments easily accessible.

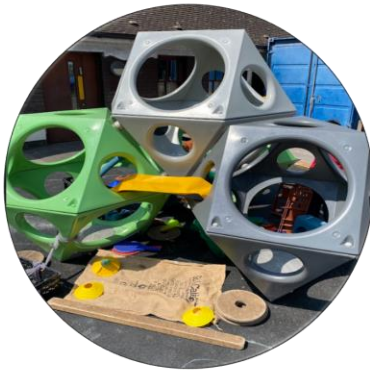
All being well, the work will be completed over the holiday and we will be able to start developing and using the new rooms next term.

Have a lovely half term holiday, Andy Bowman

OPAL play - update from Mr Potter

Well, what a term it has been in developing our play across our sites. The following just shows a snapshot of what our super star children have been up to during their lunchtimes.

The sun coming out has made everyone very happy!



Play spaces across the sites

Loose parts play continues to develop across the sites with regular visits to scrapstore to top things up. The site team have done an amazing job in sectioning the OPAL storage sheds making it easier for the children to put equipment away at the end of each lunchtime.

We continue to love all donations from our parent community. Wood / planks, fabric, dressing up, old tents, wheeled large suitcases, small toys all of these objects provide the children with the opportunities to enhance their play.

We are also looking to construct some pallet bay playspaces throughout the playgrounds to support quick den construction. We are always in need to handy-folk who can give a little time to a mini-build.

Playground structure and Merrywood

We need a name!!!! The actual name is 'Playcube 4.0 but this does not reflect the fun and the engagement the children have whilst on the structure. I will leave a suggestion box outside my office for all reception, year 1 and Year 2 suggestions.

The structure is amazing and the children love it!

Future developments

We still have several projects across both sites to start and complete.

Orchard: We need to plant this space to enrich the area even more. We are looking to soften the fence line, plant vegetables, flowers, herbs and develop areas for wild flowers encouraging wildlife back in to the space.

Garden at Merrywood: Mrs French and other members of staff have been very busy tidying and planting this space for our children to access. We are now looking at making seating spaces in this area so children can again get away from the busy playground space.

Dancing: We want the children on both sites to be able to show the staff their groovy moves!! On both sites we going to purchase a sound system that the children can use that has disco lights. At Myrtle this will be a new area near the library space and we are just securing sponsorship and funding at the moment. At Merrywood we will use the gazebo at the end of the playground. On both sites we will need to monitor Mr 'John Travolta' Bowman's user of the spaces to ensure the children get their turn!!!

Skipping: We are looking to purchase skipping ropes for both sites.

MUGA space: We have been looking at this space for a while to re-imagine how it will look moving forward. Currently the space is dominated by football. It is important that we continue to provide football to the children but we will be introducing different activities in to the space. We are looking at a scooting trick zone with small ramps.

Come and Play!

To further include our parent community in developing our play we will be inviting you in for a 'play session' within lunchtimes during term 6. Keep an eye on the newsletter for further information and dates.

Thank you for your ongoing support, Gareth Potter