



NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

I hope you had a lovely summer holiday. It was great to see the children on Tuesday and we have had a really happy and calm week. We have of course welcomed lots of new children and families to our school, with children joining classes throughout the school as well as our new arrivals in Reception. It is lovely to have you here with us and I am really looking forward to our journey together.

I hope your child has had a lovely week and if there was any initial uncertainty or nerves these have faded away, however please do speak to their child's teacher as soon as possible if there is anything that hasn't quite clicked yet and we will work together to resolve it.

Meet the Teacher

We would like to give you the opportunity to visit your child's classroom to meet the teacher and find out a little more about the year ahead. These sessions will be immediately after school on:

Tuesday 19th September (Merrywood)

Wednesday 20th September (Myrtle)

If you are unable to attend we will share the slides on the school website from Thursday 21st.

September Inset Days

The Inset days in September are always really valuable staff development time and this year was no different,

On Friday 1st September we started by going through our main school development priorities for this year, particularly to do with Inclusion and Curriculum. More on both of these areas soon. We also set aside time to complete important annual safeguarding training.

The highlight of the day was welcoming Aisha Thomas, founder of [Representation Matters](#), for a session exploring the impact of individual and societal conscious and unconscious racial bias and we began to think about how we as professionals can work to ensure our responses, processes, environment and curriculum are truly inclusive, representative and supportive of everyone within our community. This is part of a long-term commitment to this work and I will share more, and invite your input, as we go forward.

On Monday 2nd, Mr Commander launched our new approach to feedback. This replaces the old marking policy and represents a significant shift in practice. In short, it places greater importance on a face to face conversation between the teacher and child (it's all about connection!) which enables the child to make progress there and then. Again, we will share more information in due course, but

are already really positive about the impact the new approach will have upon the children's learning.

Myrtle Nurture Rooms

In the summer term we had some building work carried out at Myrtle to turn the large classroom (formally known at different times as the Shine Room, Blue Room and Small Hall) into three rooms to increase our inclusive provision.

As a result we now have nurture room, with attached multi-sensory space, and a separate therapy room. We have retained a large portion of the original space to continue to use for small and large group teaching.

Many thanks to Mrs Fisher, Mrs Wharton and a selection of helpers who have worked hard to get these rooms ready. We are really proud of our beautiful nurture spaces and know they will be loved and valued for many years to come.





Whole School Assembly Theme

We have kicked off the year with the launch of the final phase of our new Relationships and Behaviour Policy and have shared the new reward system with the children in assemblies this week. This will further raise the profile of our values in day to day school life and give children that positive reinforcement and collective reward that, let's be honest, we all need but that for children is essential to reinforce good habits and kind behaviours.

In each classroom there is a metallic board, on which the class will be able to collect magnetic 'coins'. A coin will be given to the class by the teacher to times the children demonstrate one of our school values to a particularly high or consistent standard. When the board is full with twenty coins (there are five spaces for each of the four values) a mystery box will be delivered to the class for the following day. There are four boxes and each contains a slightly different combination of objects carefully curated for their decorative/ fun/ quirky qualities to make the day feel a little more special and to celebrate the class's success. The board will then be cleared and the process will start again!



From next week, staff will also be giving out stickers with each of the values on. These could be for behaviour, learning, or anything else that is recognised and is very much intended to be an individual reward to complement the whole class reward chart above. This will be up and running from Monday.

Donation Request

One of the mystery boxes will contain, among other things, a selection of table games. If you have any small boxed games (eg Uno, Pass the Pig, Dobble etc) that are spare or no longer needed, I would be really grateful for any donations. Please just drop them into the school office on either site for the attention of Mr Potter, Mr Commander or myself! Thank you in advance.

Merrywood Drop Off

Just a plea for Merrywood Parents/Carers. Once you have dropped off in the morning, if you are pausing to chat please could you move away from the gate to do so, so other families can easily get past? The pavement is narrow and it can become congested and dangerous during school 'rush hours'. Thank you for your help with this.

South Bristol Arts Trail

The Arts Trail is nearly upon us and as last year, we are preparing to turn the front fence at Merrywood into a colourful wall of artistic child-led beauty. Watch this space (or more specifically the front fence at Merrywood!).

Below is a flyer about the Arts Trail which will take place on the 23rd and 24th September.

And with that we're up and running! Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman



The flyer features a red background with the title 'South Bristol Arts Trail' in large white serif font. Below the title, the dates '11am - 5pm, 23 & 24 September 2023' are written in a smaller white sans-serif font. A central grid of 16 small images shows various art projects, including a green octopus sculpture, a blue and red abstract painting, a landscape painting, a photograph of a bridge, a hand holding a yellow flower, a hand holding a blue flower, a hand holding a yellow flower, a hand holding a blue flower, a hand holding a yellow flower, a hand holding a blue flower, a hand holding a yellow flower, a hand holding a blue flower, a hand holding a yellow flower, a hand holding a blue flower, a hand holding a yellow flower, and a hand holding a blue flower. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the grid. Below the grid, the text 'Pick up your Arts Trail Map from The Southville Centre or Glass Designs on North Street. You can also download a copy online.' is written in white. At the bottom, the website 'southbristolarts.co.uk' is displayed in white.

South Bristol Arts Trail

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southbristolarts.co.uk